

Social Current 2024 Policy Priorities

Introduction

As we enter 2024, Social Current recognizes the evolving challenges and opportunities within the social sector. In response, we are focusing our policy efforts on addressing key areas that are critical for the growth and effectiveness of human and social service organizations. These priorities, identified from our comprehensive [2022-2024 Federal Public Policy Agenda](#), are:

- Government contracting reform
- Government grantmaking reform
- Policy change that supports the overall health of the social sector

Our aim is to create an ecosystem where human and social service organizations can thrive, contribute significantly to societal progress, and effectively respond to the dynamic needs of the communities they serve.

Priority Area 1: Federal and State Government Contracting Reform

Advocate for and influence the reform of government contracting processes at both federal and state levels to better serve the specific needs of human and social service organizations. This reform aims to enhance operational effectiveness, ensure equitable treatment, foster stronger partnerships between these organizations and government agencies, and increase flexibility in delivery approaches. A key focus will be identifying resources and approaches to support human and social service organizations with effective engagement with state and local government contractors.

Advocate for Specialized Application Processes

Promote the creation of application procedures that are specifically streamlined for human and social service organizations, reducing administrative complexities, and enhancing focus on meeting community needs at both the federal and state levels.

Standardization of Human and Social Services-Oriented Contracts with Flexible Delivery Approaches

Work with policymakers to develop standardized contracts that reflect the specific realities and requirements of human and social services, including adaptable service outcomes, delivery metrics, and flexibility in service delivery approaches at the federal and state levels.

Ensure Timely and Predictable Funding with Flexible Utilization

Advocate for consistent and timely funding to human and social service organizations, along with increased flexibility in how these funds can be utilized to meet diverse community needs.

Enhance Government-Social Sector Communication

Foster better transparency and open dialogue with government agencies at all levels, encouraging regular interactions and collaborative policymaking that includes input from social sector organizations, particularly regarding flexible and innovative approaches to addressing community needs.

Feedback-Driven Policy Adaptation

Establish feedback channels for human and social service organizations to inform ongoing adjustments and enhancements to contracting policies at federal, state, and local levels, ensuring they stay relevant, supportive, and adaptable.

Promote Equitable Contracting Opportunities

Address and reduce systemic barriers to ensure fair and equal access to contracting opportunities for all human and social service organizations, encouraging diverse and innovative approaches to address community needs.

Support Engagement Strategies with State and Local Government

Support the identification and development, when possible, of resources, tools, and approaches that empower human and social service organizations to effectively engage with state and local government entities.

Priority Area 2: Government Grantmaking Reform

Advocate for the passage of the Streamlining Federal Grants Act to significantly enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness of the federal grantmaking process for human and social service organizations.

Legislative Support and Passage

Secure widespread support from key legislators across both parties and achieve the successful passage of the Streamlining Federal Grants Act in Congress.

Comprehensive Coalition Engagement

Build a robust coalition of social sector organizations, philanthropic groups, and other stakeholders who will collectively advocate for the Streamlining Federal Grants Act, demonstrating united and diverse support for the reform.

Increase Public Awareness and Support

Raise public awareness about the challenges in the current federal grantmaking system and how the Streamlining Federal Grants Act will address these issues, thereby garnering public support.

Effective Congressional Advocacy

Provide compelling testimonies and engage in key congressional hearings and meetings to advocate for the Streamlining Federal Grants Act, emphasizing its importance for the social sector.

Priority Area 3: Advancing Organizational Resilience Through Regulatory Reform

Ensure that the social sector is robust and well-resourced to address societal challenges effectively.

Provide Workforce Support

Advocate for tax incentives or credits for nonprofits that invest in employee health and wellness programs.

Advocate for Reduced Administrative Burdens

Advocate for modifications to the Internal Revenue Code, specifically regarding 501(c)(3) compliance requirements, to simplify reporting obligations for nonprofits.

Work towards streamlining the auditing processes under the Single Audit Act, making the process more tailored and less burdensome for smaller nonprofit organizations.

Seek Reliable, Flexible, Direct, and Sustainable Financing

Propose changes to the federal tax code to incentivize private donations and investments in nonprofit organizations, including adjustments to the charitable deduction limits.

Advocate for the creation or expansion of federal grant programs that cover the full cost of program delivery, including indirect costs, under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines.

Conclusion

This year stands as a pivotal moment for Social Current as we intensify our advocacy and strategic efforts in alignment with our updated priorities. By championing significant legislative reforms such as The Streamlining Government Grants Act and advocating for systemic improvements in government contracting and the overall health of the social sector, we are committed to fostering a more supportive, innovative, and resilient environment for human and social service organizations. Our collective endeavors will not only strengthen the operational capacities of these organizations but also magnify their impact on communities nationwide, ensuring that they continue to be powerful forces for positive change in society.