

Maine Philanthropy Center's Philanthropy Partners Conference 2014

Impact Through Advocacy: Public Policy to Make Change

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Agenda:

- Welcome + Introductions
- Audience Questions
 - *For Nonprofits*: what is your experience with funding advocacy efforts?
 - *For Foundations*: what are your fears about or other barriers to funding advocacy?
 - *For All*: What keeps you from engaging more in the formation of public policy at any level of government?
- Legal Advocacy – Brief Overview
- Case Studies – Panel Presentations
 - The Affordable Care Act – Funding Advocates
 - Nonprofits & Individual Philanthropists working together on LD 1664
- Q + A

Legal Advocacy Basics:

Two Prohibitions for 501c3 Nonprofits (Public Charities Only):

- Electioneering (Candidate Elections Only)
- Excessive Lobbying (More than a substantial part)

Private Foundations vs Public Charities

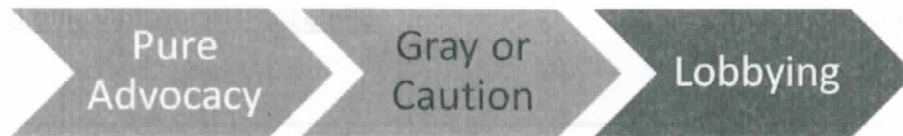
- Private Foundations may not fund or engage in lobbying
- Public Charitable Foundations may do both
- Private Foundations may fund organizations that engage in lobbying as long as the amount funded does not exceed the non-lobbying portion of the funded activities

Other Funding Prohibitions:

- Federal funds, including any matching funds, cannot be spent on State or Federal Legislative or Executive Branch lobbying.
- State contracts may have prohibitions on the use of funds, but there is no general prohibition.

Know When Advocacy Becomes Lobbying:

- Advocacy becomes direct lobbying when:
 - Communication or action is aimed at a covered individual; and
 - It references a particular legislative action; and
 - It expresses a view on the action.
- Advocacy becomes grassroots lobbying when:
 - Communication or action references a particular legislative action; and
 - It expresses a view on the action; and
 - It includes a call to action.



Resources:

Inspiring Video:

- **Maine Equal Justice on the Power of Citizen Advocacy**
<http://www.mejp.org/content/advocacy-makes-difference>

Legal Advocacy Resources:

- **MANP's Raise Your Voice Toolkit:**
www.nonprofitmaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/03/RaiseYourVoiceLobbyingToolkit.pdf
- **Alliance for Justice's Bolder Advocacy Web Resources:**
bolderadvocacy.org/
- **Nonprofit Vote's "501c3 Permissible Activities Checklist"**
www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2010/09/501c3-activities-en.pdf

Reports on Effective Philanthropic Support of Advocacy:

- **Funding and Engaging in Advocacy: Opportunities for Small Foundations**
tegac.org/uploads/Funding_and_Engaging_in_Advocacy_-_ASF_Primer.pdf
- **National Center for Responsive Philanthropy's "Leveraging Limited Dollars: How Grantmakers Achieve Tangible Results By Funding Policy & Community Engagement"**
www.ncrp.org/files/publications/LeveragingLimitedDollars.pdf