

2025 Advocacy Agenda

- **Advancing Grant & Contract Reform:**

Vermont nonprofits serve our state on behalf of the government through grant and contract agreements. Funding for these services has not kept pace with the economic realities in which we all live, and system processes create additional challenges for organizations whose administrative capacity is already stretched thin. Common Good Vermont is working collaboratively at both the state and federal level to advance reforms that create efficiencies and streamline processes, ensure fair and timely payment, and strengthen government-nonprofit partnerships.

- **Technical Assistance:**

Nonprofits leading Vermont forward by providing a range of essential and beneficial services on behalf of the State are doing so without sector specific technical assistance and training. Common Good Vermont is seeking \$200,000 in state funding to fill a gap in grant and contract support for the sector and create efficiencies for both nonprofits and the State.

- **Nonprofit Workforce:**

Common Good Vermont will work collaboratively with partners on issues impacting Vermont's workforce including containing health insurance costs and affordable housing shortages. Additionally, Common Good Vermont will seek to maintain and enhance public funding and grant programs for nonprofits through the State of Vermont.

Common Good Vermont will continue to monitor and respond to other issues that arise impacting our sector through the lens of our policy platform.

Policy Platform

Common Good Vermont focuses on policy issues affecting all nonprofits with attention to operations, equity, development and employment. Common Good uses this lens to consider and weigh in on pressing issues in our state impacting nonprofits including housing, healthcare and disaster response, serving as a partner and voice for the sector. Generally speaking, Common Good will not take a position on issues impacting only one mission area, unless the issue sets a precedent that could affect all nonprofits.

In pursuit of a thriving nonprofit sector able to contribute to the wellbeing of Vermont, our advocacy is guided by the core principals and policy positions outlined as follows:

Supporting Nonprofits' Ability to Serve People & Communities

- **Workforce Development:** Common Good Vermont supports policies that encourage workforce participation and nonprofit employment including increasing funding to support jobs in the nonprofit sector; workforce development and recruitment programs targeting nonprofit employment; and promoting retention through expanding employee and public benefit programs.
- **Nonprofit Operations:** Common Good supports policies that reduce or eliminate administrative burdens and expenses for nonprofits and policies that benefit nonprofit employers and employees. Common Good will provide feedback on existing and proposed regulatory and legislative policies impacting the nonprofit sector.
- **Tax Policy & Charitable Giving:** Common Good supports policies that encourage charitable giving and volunteerism. Common Good opposes policies that weaken the tax-exempt status of nonprofits or create new taxes, fees, or payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) on tax-exempt nonprofits.

Strengthening Community Impact Through Partnerships and Building Trust

- **Government Grant & Contract Reforms:** Common Good supports policies that strengthen government-nonprofit partnerships by making government grants and contracts financially viable, equitable and accessible for Vermont nonprofits. Common Good supports state investments in the nonprofit sector, including but not limited to relief aid, workforce support, and capacity building funding.
- **Nonprofit Sector & Workforce Data:** Common Good supports increased nonprofit sector-specific data tracking and transparency; access to nonprofit employment and employer data information; and timely information related to nonprofit employers and the role they play in our economy and greater employment systems.
- **Promoting Civic Engagement:** Common Good supports policies that protect and expand voting rights; encourage civic engagement; preserve advocacy and lobbying rights for nonprofits; and center equity and inclusion.

About Common Good Vermont

Common Good Vermont, a statewide program of United Way Northwest Vermont, is a trusted resource and nonpartisan advocate for the State's more than 6,300 nonprofit organizations. Common Good Vermont supports the success of Vermont's nonprofits through education, advocacy and relationship building. Learn more at commongoodvt.org.