



Philanthropy New York's
Policy Strategy 2026/2027
Approved

Philanthropy New York's public policy work engages diverse stakeholders to create the policy conditions that allow our members and their grantees to create a stronger and more equitable New York. PNY believes that through participation in public policy and collaboration with the government, the sector can maximize its impact and foster an environment aimed at improving conditions for the region's foundations and nonprofits.

The following identifies the tools that PNY can access in service to achieving policy and advocacy outcomes, and outlines the criteria and considerations PNY holds in making decisions about how and when to utilize our policy assets.

Our purview:

We believe that by balancing a focus on supporting a strong nonprofit ecosystem and the independence of the philanthropic sector, we can create conditions that allow for impactful returns on philanthropic investment. Therefore, we focus first and foremost on the New York City nonprofit ecosystem. PNY's policy efforts are meant to ensure that nonprofits and philanthropic institutions are able to operate with the freedom they need to address critical issues and the capacity they need to make meaningful change.

Philanthropy New York's public policy efforts are guided by the belief that local, state, and federal laws and policies should:

- Promote a just and equitable society
- Strengthen nonprofits and
- Support a healthy and sustainable philanthropic sector

In the current operating environment, we anticipate that the key issues that PNY will address include:

1. **Protecting the ability of nonprofit and philanthropic institutions to fulfill missions as civic leaders.**
2. ***Supporting the freedom of philanthropic institutions to give in alignment with their mission***
3. **Strengthening nonprofit capacity via contract reform and streamlined payments.**
4. **Advocating for living wages for nonprofit workers**
5. **Supporting a fully functioning multi-racial democracy including *support for grassroots mobilization and community power and participation at the local level through the Office of Mass Engagement.***

Our Policy Assets:



We have multiple tools to exercise leadership and influence policy at the local, state and federal level. These include:

- Lobbying:
 - PNY will engage our elected representatives to urge votes for and against specific legislation that would harm or support the nonprofit sector and the ability of foundations to function effectively
 - PNY will issue and amplify public policy statements¹ where PNY's voice can support a thriving nonprofit sector and systemic change within historically marginalized communities
 - PNY will present testimony or amicus briefs to relevant government bodies as they are investigating issues of importance to the nonprofit sector.
- Government relations:
 - PNY will build ongoing relationships with local and federal officials to support the open exchange of knowledge and ideas that can help to shape legislation or government action in support of the nonprofit sector.
- Educating:
 - PNY will produce programming that highlights the impact of particular legislation and helps members understand how to take action in light of legislative efforts, including support for grassroots campaigns and movement organizations
- Convening:
 - PNY will coordinate issue-based working group discussions with elected officials to shape policy development and implementation
- Communicating:
 - PNY will provide analysis, insights and urge action through our WeeklyPhil, Public Policy Corner and LinkedIn platform

Criteria for taking action:

In order to determine the effectiveness of PNY taking action on a particular issue, the PNY staff will use the following guidelines:

1. Values Alignment:
 - a. Will this issue advance our organizational vision of philanthropic foundations

¹ Public policy statements undergo a member review process and must be approved by the Public Policy Committee before being adopted by the board. Before making any public policy statement on behalf of PNY's member community, the Public Policy Committee will engage in an analysis to ensure that we are centering equity in our decision-making. This analysis includes the following questions:

- *Who does this policy build power for? Who does it block power from?*
- *Will this policy help increase access and opportunity for communities of color? If so, how?*
- *Does this policy counter racial discrimination in the issue area? How?*
- *Is our policy position sufficiently informed by the voices/community of those affected?*
- *Does this policy promote the structural changes needed to increase racial equity within the targeted institution?*



working to create a more just, equitable and democratic society?

- b. Is this related to our values as an organization?

2. Geography: What is the relationship between PNY's unique geography and the issue at hand?
 - a. What is the impact on the New York City Metro area, where PNY has local knowledge and proximate relationships?
 - b. Does PNY have legislative relationships at the federal, State or local level that could impact the issue?
 - c. Is the issue broadly harmful to Americans but protections are in place from NYC and/or NYS government?

3. Expertise and Analysis: What is PNY's unique expertise regarding the policy issue?
 - a. Does PNY hold a root cause analysis of the issue? How aligned is our analysis with other experts in the field - members and/or partners?
 - b. Are we in allyship with organizations that have determined that this issue is of particular concern to a wide number of nonprofit organizations or nonprofit employees?
 - c. Does PNY have access to subject matter experts who can inform our actions on the issue?
 - d. Will adding PNY's voice be meaningful to the allyship of our partners? Does the issue impact a philanthropic practice (internal or external) that PNY has a perspective on?

4. Tools and Capacity: Does PNY have a policy tool that will make an impact on the identified issue?
 - a. Are others in the field (Forum, CoF, IS) leading with analysis or information on the issue, and does PNY have a shared analysis?
 - b. What is the ask from members that PNY address this issue?
 - c. Does PNY believe a philanthropic response or voice is necessary?
 - d. Is PNY a suitable/trusted vehicle for amplification of the issue?
 - e. Does the team have capacity and bandwidth to address the issue?
 - f. How does current bandwidth impact the choice of tool/action?