

Based on DANA's strategic plan, DANA's public policy efforts in 2025 will focus on moving towards the following outcomes:

- **Increased Public Understanding:** People understand what it truly takes for nonprofits to effectively support Delaware communities.
- **Sector Prestige:** The nonprofit sector is prestigious, respected, and valued as an equal economic and employment partner.
- **Informed Policymaking:** Policymakers and administrators are knowledgeable, guided by, and accountable for ensuring beneficial community outcomes.
- **Supportive Civic Engagement:** Civic engagement and social sector investments fully support the infrastructure and resource capacity needs of nonprofits.

### Policy Priorities for 2025

#### 1. Nonprofit Ombudsperson:

- Advocate for a State Office of the Nonprofit Ombudsperson, led by a dedicated ombudsperson and small staff, to serve as a single point of contact for nonprofits partnering with the state.

#### 2. Statewide Contract Process Reform:

- Standardize and modernize procedures across state agencies to simplify processes for all vendors, including:
  - A statewide indirect cost rate matching the federal rate.
  - A standard negotiation checklist for state agencies and vendors.
  - Standard cost escalator language in all multi-year contracts.
  - Modernization of the State's financial systems to include:
    - Automatic payment schedules with built-in delinquent payment penalties.
    - Electronic contract execution.
    - Simplified application and reporting processes.

### **3. Equitable Investment for Nonprofit Workforce:**

- Advocate for enhanced state investment to address disparities and strengthen nonprofit operations:
  - Sustained state investment, similar to the investments for small business incubators, in the DANA Nonprofit Accelerator Program.
  - Establish a task force to study the economic impact of nonprofits on Delaware's economy.
  - Establish nonprofit access to state-negotiated health care rates through the State of Delaware Group Health Insurance Program.
  - Collaborate with businesses and government to expand access to high-quality early childhood programs for nonprofit workforce support.

### **4. Grant-In-Aid Reform:**

- Promote a more transparent, accountable, and responsive Grant-In-Aid process.

### **5. Increased Nonprofit Representation:**

- Advocate for greater nonprofit representation on state boards and commissions.

### **Federal Initiatives (in conjunction with the National Council of Nonprofits)**

- Represent Delaware nonprofits to federal policymakers on key issues:
  - Universal Charitable Deduction.
  - Charitable Mileage Rate.
  - Protecting the Johnson Amendment.
  - Increased Federal Funding