



## Protect and Strengthen Grant-in-Aid Funding: Talking Points for Speaking with Legislators

Nonprofit leaders and board members can use these talking points in meetings, calls, or written messages to legislators regarding the need to maintain or increase Grant-in-Aid funding.

### 1. Protect Frontline Services in Every Delaware Community

Nonprofits are providing essential, direct services that touch every aspect of life in Delaware—food access, housing, healthcare, education, behavioral health, care for seniors, disability support, and more.

These services are not luxuries. They are lifelines for thousands of Delawareans, especially those most vulnerable.

► *Ask your legislator: Please protect these direct services. Do not let funding cuts take away support from those who need it most.*

### 2. Grant-in-Aid Is Supplementary—But Essential to Service Delivery

While Grant-in-Aid (GIA) is technically supplementary funding, it plays a critical role in sustaining nonprofit services and expanding access for Delawareans.

For many organizations, GIA makes the difference between maintaining programs at full capacity or reducing staff, limiting hours, or turning people away. Even modest GIA support can be the deciding factor in whether vital services reach the people who need them most.

► *Ask your legislator: Support maintaining—or increasing—GIA to ensure continuity of care across the state.*

### 3. Delaware Can Step Up to Fill the Gap

Federal funding cuts are real and are already impacting nonprofits in 2025.

State investment is urgently needed to offset this loss and protect services Delawareans count on every day.

► *Ask your legislator: Do not follow Washington's lead. Let Delaware protect its own—step up where federal support is falling short.*



#### **4. Nonprofits Deserve Equal Respect**

Nonprofits serve alongside schools and hospitals as part of Delaware’s essential infrastructure.

We provide care, education, prevention, and crisis response—often under contract with the state, and with fewer resources.

► *Ask your legislator: Treat nonprofits as equal partners—fully respect the value we bring to Delaware’s communities.*

#### **5. The Cost of Inaction is Real**

Cuts to GIA or flat funding in the face of inflation erodes capacity—and hurts real people: seniors, children, families, and people with disabilities.

Rising costs (fuel, insurance, wages, food) mean level funding is effectively a cut.

► *Ask your legislator: Every budget decision has a human impact. Prioritize services that let people live safely and with dignity.*

#### **7. Include Nonprofits in Policy and Budget Conversations**

Nonprofits are on the front lines. We see what is happening in real time and can help craft smart, responsive solutions.

► *Ask your legislator: Invite nonprofit voices to the table when hard decisions are being made; we are ready to help.*

#### **Final Message**

Protect the services our communities rely on.

We urge you to maintain or increase Grant-in-Aid funding in the FY26 budget.

A strong nonprofit sector means stronger communities, a stronger economy, and a stronger Delaware.