



FOUNDATIONS ON THE HILL 2022

UNITED PHILANTHROPY FORUM
Council on Foundations • Independent Sector

April 5-7, 2022

#FOTH2022



Talking Points:

Suggested Key Messages for #FOTH2022 Teams

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Overview of Key Themes and Messages

During FOTH 2022, philanthropy has the opportunity to educate legislators. To ensure that we as a sector deliver a clear, unified message, the Forum and our #FOTH2022 partners, Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, recommend the following talking points:

- 1) **The Value of Philanthropy and How We Collaborate**
- 2) **Public Policy & the Philanthropic Sector**
- 3) **Sector's Legislative Focus (*Charitable Giving, Mandates, Nonprofit Legislation*)**

**These messages are meant to be used as a guide, each Delegation is free to tailor their approach, as needed.*

Meeting Introductions

- We represent over (*# of members*) foundations that operate in our state/region. Our members work on a variety of issues to support the state/region/district and strengthen our communities.
- As needed, explain difference in types of foundations (private, public, operating, corporate).
- Our members have invested (*amount of money invested*) in the state/region/district through over the past (*X year/s*).
- *SHARE THE FOUNDATION STORIES: 1 or 2 foundations share a short story about how grantmaking is impacting the community in that state and/or district.*

The Value of Philanthropy and How We Collaborate

Philanthropy Is Valuable to Our Country

- The tradition of American generosity has a vibrant, unique history and is a big part of what distinguishes America from the rest of the world. Giving in our country is ever evolving and deeply intertwined in the American story. Americans gave \$471 billion to charities in 2020 to help their communities (*2021 Numbers still being compiled*).

- The charitable sector works alongside, but separate from, the institutions of government and business. This allows citizens to freely choose how to make society a better place through their own initiatives including those that help communities impacted by inequitable public policy.

Philanthropy as a Collaborator

- Philanthropy offers more than just grantmaking. We convene organizations, facilitate collaboration, share knowledge, and pool resources. The charitable sector plays a valuable and important role in collaborating with the public sector to leverage public investments and ensure a healthy democracy.

Public Policy & Philanthropy Sector

Public Policy Influences Philanthropy's Ability to Do Good

- The future of American generosity is not guaranteed. Public policy is crucial to preserving the spirit and capacity of American generosity and eliminating systemic and structural inequities that persist.
- The charitable sector supports policies that encourage and protect giving, promote racial equity, and strengthen democracy.
- We seek Congress' support on policies that encourage giving and address racial equity, allow us to focus on our missions, and effectively utilize our resources to maximize our impact.

Stronger Charitable Giving Incentives

- To ensure all taxpayers continue to have access to giving incentives, Congress should renew and expand the universal charitable deduction. This will help charitable organizations achieve their missions and support their workforces and communities as our nation recovers from the current and future crises.
- Support the Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act (S. 618, H.R. 1704), bipartisan legislation which would raise the \$300/\$600 cap on the nonitemizer charitable deduction to roughly \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for couples
- As proposals impacting the sector are considered, know that we are a resource to your office. Please reach out us so your office understands the full impact those proposals will have on our work and grantmaking.

Legislative Mandates (As Needed)*

- The charitable sector is a far-reaching network of various foundations and organizations serving a comprehensive range of needs and initiatives.
- Any shift or policy change that will impact donors and the charitable giving vehicles they use to donate to important causes in their communities should take into account those broad needs,

initiatives, and the nature of the charitable sector.

- Consideration and discussion of any proposal from external groups that seek to reform the charitable sector, should include the sector and charitable organizations that would be directly impacted by such reforms.
- Sector infrastructure groups are in the process of working together on proposals that more generally reflect the diverse nature of the sector, with a focus on equitable outcomes for communities across the country.

Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act

- The nonprofit sector is America's third-largest employer and has been a trusted partner to government throughout a generational crisis, but it has no formal seat at the table within government.
- The proposed White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership, Interagency Council, and Advisory Board will create a three-part structure leveraging the knowledge, trusted status, and reach of nonprofits to craft and implement better solutions for all.
- The forthcoming legislation will also make our sector stronger and enable nonprofits to better serve their communities by scaling effective solutions, cutting red tape, and meeting the unique needs of nonprofit workers.



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