



## How They Do It: Pennsylvania Funders on Engaging the Public Sector

Philanthropy professionals in Pennsylvania understand how state policy affects the nonprofit sector, and many have a history of engaging and educating state policymakers. Even given private foundations' constraints on lobbying, there are numerous opportunities for communication between philanthropy and the public sector that are permissible and can serve to build relationships and advance important issues.

A number of Pennsylvania funders work to ensure that both public and private dollars are used effectively to promote quality results, to the benefit of both taxpayers and communities. Funding organizations that work regularly in fields like public education, healthcare or workforce development often have deep knowledge, expertise and connections that can be useful to fellow funders whose work is place-based or occasionally touches upon these fields.

The Keystone Policy Series of conference calls/ webinars has been developed by **Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania** ([www.gwpa.org](http://www.gwpa.org)) and **Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia** ([www.philanthropynetwork.org](http://www.philanthropynetwork.org)) to inform all Pennsylvania funders about how their colleagues are working on selected statewide policy issues. Funding organizations across the state will:

- Learn background information about a community issue from a statewide perspective
- Hear about work undertaken by Pennsylvania funding colleagues to address a policy challenge
- Learn about potential solutions in Pennsylvania and potential roles for philanthropy
- Build/ strengthen working relationships with other funders across the state

### 2017 SERIES

#### Session 1: Education Advocacy

January 31, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Join our funding colleagues as they address statewide education advocacy efforts currently underway; including current priorities and challenges, the role their organizations play in these initiatives, and opportunities for other funders to become involved. Examples for discussion include:

- **Pre-K for PA**, an initiative of Early Learning PA established in 2014 with the goal of making pre-k a priority issue in the gubernatorial and legislative elections and advocating increased access to high-quality pre-k for all Pennsylvania's 3- and 4-year olds.
- **The Campaign for Fair Education Funding**, a non-partisan coalition of 50+ statewide organizations whose mission is to ensure that Pennsylvania adopts and maintains an adequate and equitable system of funding public education. Funders will hear about the implications of House Bill 1552, signed by Governor Wolf in June 2016, which establishes a funding formula and

provides emergency funds for two of the commonwealth's financially distressed school districts, as well as his call for new funding to help restore equity to Pennsylvania public school districts.

- **The Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission (ELIC)**, which was created in September 2008 through Executive Order. Funders will hear about how the Commission works to secure public investment in early learning by focusing on practices that are educationally, economically, and scientifically sound by increasing business, civic, and public awareness of the importance of early childhood education.

**Speakers:**

- Kristen Burns, Associate Director, Grable Foundation
- Michele Figlar, Vice President of Learning, The Heinz Endowments
- Stan Thompson, Education Program Director, The Heinz Endowments
- Elliot Weinbaum, Great Learning Program Director, William Penn Foundation

## Session 2: Health Policy Advocacy

February 23, 2017 - 2:00 – 3:00 PM

The **Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative (PHFC)**, an active statewide funders' network, is now in its tenth year and going strong. PHFC strives to improve the effectiveness of health funders' initiatives by promoting collaboration, sharing best practices, and creating a unified voice among funders who are working in communities across Pennsylvania. Among its priorities have been integration of behavioral and physical health; healthy eating and active living; and improving Pennsylvania's system of managed long-term services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities.

Join us as **Ann Torregrossa, Executive Director of PHFC**, provides an update on PHFC's priorities and initiatives for 2017. She will describe where Pennsylvania health funders are putting their attention in light of today's policy environment, such as changes to the Affordable Care Act, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid. As the former director of Governor Rendell's Office of Healthcare Reform, Ann brings deep content knowledge to the work of PHFC; her knowledge and insights will be especially valuable to funders who are generalists, but wish to make more impactful grants to promote health in their communities.

Additionally, **Ann Marie Healy, Executive Director of First Hospital Foundation**, will join us to describe the foundation's recent strategic planning process. She and her board arrived at a new focus that puts policy advocacy at the forefront of the foundation's work.

## Session 3: Investing In Change: Foundation Support for Lobbying and Other Advocacy

March 29, 2017 - 2:00 – 3:30 PM

The ongoing Keystone Policy Series endeavors to highlight how Pennsylvania funders are working on selected statewide policy issues. But are you a funder who's uncertain about how to begin? Not sure how to make the case for funding advocacy? Uncertain whether you can fund grantees that lobby? Wondering whether your public or private foundation can speak out on a particular issue? This session will answer these questions and more.

Led by **Abby Levine, Director of Alliance for Justice's Bolder Advocacy** program, this special 90-minute Keystone Policy Series webinar will cover:

- Reasons for public and private foundation support for advocacy

- Overview of activities that constitute advocacy and public policy work
- Various advocacy roles for foundations
- Definitions of lobbying
- Activities that are exceptions to the definitions of lobbying, including those which are permissible by private foundations
- Rules for private and public foundation grants to nonprofits that lobby, including general support, specific project, and multi-year grants
- Grant agreement language that permits support for policy work

## Session 4: Financially Distressed Municipalities

**April 18, 2017 - 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

A soon-to-be released analysis from the Pennsylvania Economy League of the finances of Pennsylvania's municipalities over a 44-year period reveals that Pennsylvania's municipal government system is plainly broken. Revenues are not keeping pace with the cost of services the public expects. The 18 cities and boroughs that are now a part of the state's Act 47 program for distressed municipalities are the most obvious examples, but this new analysis from PEL makes it clear that municipalities' financial problems are the result of a dysfunctional system.

Worse, now there is a looming deadline. Under 2015 revisions to Act 47, all municipalities must exit the Act's protection within the next several years -- back into the system that failed them in the first place. Meanwhile, tax burdens and other pressures are increasing in other municipalities across the board as fiscal decay has spread and accelerated over the last two decades.

Join your funding colleagues as **Gerald Cross**, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Economy League, shares insights from PEL's new analysis prior to its public release. **Karen Miller**, Senior Fellow, Berks County Community Foundation, and **Max King**, President & CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation will engage participants in a conversation about why it is important for philanthropy to understand the problems in public-sector financing in the places where they award grants, and where philanthropy can play a useful role.

## Session 5: Combating Pennsylvania's Opioid Epidemic

**April 27, 2017 2:00-3:30 PM**

The opioid epidemic affects Pennsylvanians from every walk of life. Rich, poor, black, white, young, or old – the opioid crisis is unprecedented in its reach and devastation. At least ten Pennsylvanians die every day from a drug overdose, with over 3,500 overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in 2015 alone.

In recent years, major U.S. policy efforts have been aimed at combating the epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Join us for a discussion of federal, state and local policy initiatives and learn about opportunities for Pennsylvania funders to become involved.

Speakers:

- **Joni Schwager, Executive Director**, Staunton Farm Foundation
- **Joe Pyle, President**, Scattergood Foundation
- **Brendan Saloner**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health