



2022 Nonprofit Westchester Advocacy and Policy Agenda

Our Mission: To strengthen Westchester's nonprofit organizations as they transform lives, empower communities, and drive positive change.

**Racial Equity | Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Child Care | Youth Development
Healthcare**

**Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Co-Occurring Disorders
Hunger, Food Insecurity and Distribution | Advocacy
Housing, Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Homelessness Prevention
Domestic Violence | Immigrant Rights | LGBTQIA
The Environment and Climate Change
Home Care | Older Adults
Physical, Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities
Workforce Development | Community Development
Economic Development | Arts & Culture
Cancer Care and other Support Groups and Services**

**NPW: Westchester's Only Membership Organization
Solely Dedicated to Advancing the Needs of Westchester's Nonprofit Sector,
the People We Serve and the Nonprofit Workforce.**

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Equitable Partnerships with Government

During 2021, tens of thousands of Westchester residents, from all backgrounds and at all income levels, turned to 501c3 nonprofit organizations for help – and we met the unprecedented demand for government mandated and other necessary services.

Our childcare and youth service programs made it possible for essential workers to go to work. Isolated, homebound people and our loved ones in nursing homes, shelters and other residential settings were cared for. We counseled people of all ages to help them confront traumatic loss. Our agencies provided food, shelter, clothing, other necessities, and life-saving physical and mental health care to our most vulnerable. We continued to prepare young people for college and train and support all people, including returning citizens, to enter the workforce. We promoted racial equity, disability rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQIA awareness and so much more. Our parking lots, reception areas and community centers were turned into distribution centers. From our CEOs to front line essential workers, the nonprofit workforce went where it was needed – no job was too big or small in helping Westchester to recover and heal emotionally and economically from the pandemic. NPW member organizations continue to meet the needs of people and communities that are still impacted.

Yet, the pandemic has reinforced what we already know. Nonprofit organizations operate with insufficient infrastructure and resources. Our workforce and clients deserve more.

We understand that change must be achieved collaboratively. Nonprofit Westchester seeks partnerships with government, including the formation of a Nonprofit Contracting Taskforce, that will actualize needed, long-term solutions, and sustainable change that address systemic disparities.



1. Equitable Contracting

With a nonprofit workforce that is 80% women and 55% people of color, equitable contracting for nonprofit services is essential to advance racial equity and to ensure that all people who contribute to the health and economic vitality of Westchester County can live here and enjoy an outstanding quality of life. We seek to advance a procurement system that prioritizes meaningful outcomes for residents, rather than race-to-the-bottom cost-cutting including:

- Equitable wages to nonprofit workers through government contracts
- Payment in full and on time for contracted services. Delayed reimbursements amount to millions of dollars in hidden costs to nonprofits. This weakens our financial infrastructure and capacity to deliver services to society's most vulnerable.
- Full reimbursement for indirect expenses, and the issuance of contracts that reflect market rates for goods and services.

2. Nonprofit Capacity Building

Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act should be utilized to center and address racial equity. Westchester nonprofit organizations led by people living in and or originally from the community they serve should benefit from funding opportunities that support them to build capacity, receive technical assistance, and establish a learning community. These organizations are most often led by Black people and Brown people for Black people and Brown people and are best equipped to meet the needs of the community. They have been systemically excluded from funding to strengthen, sustain, and measure their impactful work.

3. Advance the Issues of Our Member Organizations

Nonprofit Westchester will continue to provide a platform to advance recognition of and support for the diverse and intersecting issues addressed by our member organizations such as:

- Affordable and safe housing and homelessness prevention,
- Hunger and food insecurity,
- Youth safety, well-being, and education,
- The digital divide,
- Childcare,
- Immigrant rights,
- Physical and mental health.

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