



# Nonprofit Public Policy Issues for 2019

## **2020 U.S. Census**

The federal government is currently making preparations for the constitutionally required 2020 Census. With nearly \$14 billion in federal funds at stake for Washington State, we are calling on Congress to do what it takes to ensure an accurate count in 2020. **This means supporting the necessary funding for Census implementation and removing the proposed citizenship question.** In addition, our Census Resources Page at [www.washingtonnonprofits.org/2020Census](http://www.washingtonnonprofits.org/2020Census) contains an outreach toolkit for nonprofits, a Census video, and other Census information. Please share these materials with the nonprofits serving your constituents.

## **New Tax on Employee Transit Benefits**

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act contained a new provision that applies a 21% unrelated business income tax (UBIT) to transportation and other fringe benefits offered by nonprofits to their employees. **Please cosponsor H.R. 513, H.R. 1223, H.R. 1545, S. 632, and/or S. 1282 as appropriate to support the nonprofits serving our state.**

## **Nonprofit Relief Act**

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) will be filing a bill that addresses certain tax issues for nonprofits. The bill would repeal the new silo UBIT for nonprofits; expand the new paid leave tax credit to nonprofit employers; and fix the tax treatment for volunteer mileage reimbursements. **Please support this forthcoming House bill.**

## **Expanding Charitable Giving Incentives**

The federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the standard deduction and altered the estate tax. Research suggests these changes will decrease charitable giving among low and middle-income donors. It is estimated by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee Democrats that the new law places approximately \$285 million in charitable giving at risk for our state. **To remedy this, please support the creation of a new Universal Non-Itemizer Deduction by cosponsoring H.R. 651 and/or H.R. 1260.**

## **Public Service Loan Forgiveness**

Washington Nonprofits supports maintaining the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which many nonprofit employees use to manage their student debt. Quite simply, this federal program enables talented individuals to pursue nonprofit careers. **Please support proposals to ensure this program is implemented properly for borrowers and oppose cuts to the program in the future.**

## **Federal Poverty Line Rule Making**

Through a highly technical proposal, the Office of Management and Budget signaled its intent to lower the Federal Poverty Line by changing its methodology for calculating the poverty line. The impact of this will be a reduction of eligibility for federal programs and a higher demand for nonprofit services from people who lose federal benefits. **Please oppose this rulemaking so that individuals and families are not harmed by the loss of benefits in the near-term or long-term.**

## **Broadband Internet Access Throughout Washington State**

There are many areas throughout Washington State that lack reliable Internet access, which negatively impacts nonprofits and the people they serve. It also makes 2020 Census implementation more challenging. This year, Washington State created the Governor's Statewide Broadband Office to ensure Internet access throughout the state. **Please support legislation that brings federal resources to Washington State to expand Internet access to all residents.**

For more information, please contact Washington Nonprofits' Director of Public Policy and Advocacy David Streeter at [david@washingtonnonprofits.org](mailto:david@washingtonnonprofits.org) or (855) 299-2922 or visit our website at [www.washingtonnonprofits.org](http://www.washingtonnonprofits.org).