



## **The Council of State Governments External Funding Solicitation and Acceptance Guidelines**

### **Overview**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) brings together the public officials of the states, commonwealths and territories of the United States and affiliated provincial governments of Canada to champion excellence in state government to advance the common good.

CSG is a nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization that solicits and accepts external funding to help underwrite the cost of its programs and activities.

CSG achieves balance and objectivity in its public policy work through activities and programs that are data-driven, consensus-based and reflect the priorities of its member state officials. As a trusted steward of resources, CSG values transparency, integrity, propriety and thrift in its solicitation, acceptance and use of external funds. These guidelines are established to ensure consistency in operationalizing those values.

### **Definitions**

For purposes of these guidelines:

A “donor” includes any entity or individual who has made a gift or is solicited for a gift. No state, commonwealth, territory of the United States or affiliated provincial government will be considered a donor.

“External funds” include anything of value received by CSG from an external source, including qualified charitable contributions, sponsorships, awards and grants. Funds received from a state, commonwealth or territory of the United States or from an affiliated Canadian provincial government or from a state official (such as dues, sponsorships, registration fees, etc.) are not external funds for purposes of these guidelines.

All external funds solicited by or on behalf of CSG are subject to the guidelines.

1. CSG solicits and accepts external funds consistent with its tax-exempt, non-profit status, its nonpartisan mission, all applicable laws, regulations and these guidelines. All external funds accepted by CSG are subject to audit and CSG financial management guidelines.
2. CSG maintains absolute creative control and editorial independence of its programs and activities and solely determines the agenda, content and participants in its programs and activities.



3. Acceptance of external funding never constitutes an endorsement of a donor, product, service or public policy position of a donor.
4. The CSG Associates Program, administered consistent with these guidelines, helps create valued partnerships between CSG and the donors invited to participate in the program. The CSG Executive Committee exclusively determines any benefits provided by CSG to members of the CSG Associates Program.
5. CSG discloses the names of its donors and never accepts anonymous external funding.
6. CSG strives for diversity among its private sector donors to avoid any one donor exclusively funding a CSG program or activity.
7. External funding, once accepted by CSG, is considered a completed and unrestricted gift unless otherwise agreed upon in writing.
8. CSG never accepts external funding from political parties or partisan political organizations, however, CSG may, to the extent allowed by law, accept external funding from the campaign account of a public official or former public official.
9. CSG does not accept external funding of anything other than cash or cash equivalents nor any gift from a foreign government, without the prior approval of the executive director/CEO, or, when appropriate, a regional director; and, CSG does not accept external funding in the form of any interest in real property without the prior approval of the CSG Leadership Council upon the recommendation of the executive director/CEO, with notice of any such approval to the CSG Executive Committee.
10. Consistent with the recommendation of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the National Council of Nonprofits, CSG employees are not compensated based on a percentage of external funding received or any other commission-based formula. CSG strongly discourages the use of commissioned based compensation by any entity that contracts with CSG to conduct fundraising on behalf of CSG or in support of a CSG program or activity.
11. Any violation of these guidelines should be reported to the CSG executive director/CEO or general counsel and, when appropriate, a regional director.