



## **Charter of the Illinois Attorney General Charitable Advisory Council**

The Charitable Advisory Council was created under the Solicitation for Charity Act (225 ILCS 460/23) to serve, study and advise on issues on charitable giving, volunteerism, and fund raising in the state of Illinois. The council is a permanent body composed of citizens chosen by the Attorney General.

### **Composition and Committee Structure**

The Charitable Advisory Council (hereinafter CAC) is a body of 40-60 organizational members and members at large involved in charitable giving, volunteering and fund raising in Illinois. The composition of the CAC will reflect the geographic diversity of the state of Illinois. CAC members will serve a defined term of 4 years and may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Attorney General. Initial members will be divided into two classes A and B. Class A members will serve a two-year term, Class B members will serve a four-year term. This is intended to stagger new members to the CAC.

An organizational member is defined as a member who represents a charitable organization and membership will remain tied to the organization. In the case of attrition of an individual organizational member, the Attorney General, upon the recommendation of the organization, will select a new representative from that organization. Members at large are individuals (such as lawyers, fundraising consultants, and accountants) who do not represent a charitable organization but who possess expertise of strategic benefit to the CAC.

Membership is contingent on the completion of the electronic Open Meetings Act Training.

CAC size, composition, and membership retention is at the discretion of the Attorney General.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee (hereinafter EC) will help to coordinate the operation of the council with the Attorney General's Office. It shall consist of as many members of the CAC as necessary to complete its work and will include two co-chairs. The Attorney General's Office will select two Co-Chairs for the EC from the CAC membership. The Co-Chairs will recommend CAC members to the Attorney General for membership on the EC. The EC will also include the chairs of all CAC working committees, will serve as the facilitator between the working committees and the Attorney General's Office and may make recommendations for changes relative to the committee structure, new council members and committee chairs.

The EC and the Attorney General's Office will review the composition of the CAC annually to address attrition and consider the addition of new members. The EC will compile a list of proposed new members and send it to the Attorney General's Office for approval. Proposals for new members will take into account the individual's type of organization and geographic location in order to ensure broad representation of the charitable sector on the CAC. The Attorney General's Office will issue invitations to members.

EC members will serve for a defined term of three years and may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Attorney General.

The initial EC shall be divided into three classes A, B and C. Class A members will serve a one-year term, class B members will serve a two-year term, and class C members will serve a three-year term. This is intended to stagger new members onto the committee.

### **Working Committees**

*Legislative:* The purpose of this committee is to review existing state laws and regulations governing the charitable community and make recommendations for improvement and to provide insight on proposed legislation. This is a significant focus for the Advisory Council and a tremendous opportunity for the charitable sector and its leadership to provide input to the Attorney General and the Charitable Trusts Bureau on the revision and implementation of laws and practices affecting the charitable community. The priorities for this committee may include:

- Reviewing existing statutes and rules and identifying needed revisions and additions;
- Providing input on proposed legislation affecting the charitable community.

*Communications and Outreach:* The purpose of this committee is to identify methods to facilitate easier and more interactive education and outreach to the non-profit sector, and to develop a communications strategy for the CAC to inform the sector about issues related to effective management and governance of charitable organizations, including fundraising and legal compliance.

Each committee will have a Chair and Co-Chair. The majority of each committee shall be members of the CAC. The remaining members of each committee need not be CAC members, but must have an appropriate skill set related to the committee's objective. Committees can meet via teleconference calls.

The Executive Committee and the Attorney General's Office will have the ability to create new working committees at their discretion. As appropriate and necessary, other participants who are not members of the CAC may be invited to join working committees to provide specific input and expertise.

### **CAC Meetings**

The CAC shall meet once a year unless the EC determines there are no significant current issues relating to charitable giving, volunteerism and fundraising in the state of Illinois that require an annual meeting. The day, time, and place of the annual CAC meeting shall be determined by the EC in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office and notice of the meeting shall be given.