**Lobbying**

**Expending Federal Funding Prohibited**

Lobbying cannot be supported with federal funds:

Section 1611 of Title 2 of the U.S.C. prohibits non-profit entities that engage in lobbying activities from receiving Federal Funds.

In general, recipients of federal funds are not allowed to use said federal funding to lobby federal, state, or local officials or their staff to receive additional funding or influence legislation.

**What is Lobbying?**

**Direct lobbying**: Any attempt to influence legislation through communication with any member or employee of a legislative body, or with any other government official who may participate in the formulation of legislation. A specific activity constitutes direct lobbying if:

* The principal purpose is to influence legislation,
* There is reference to a specific piece of legislation (even if the legislation is not currently under consideration), and
* A point of view is expressed.

Lobbying consists of attempting through contacts with, or causing others to make contact with decision-makers at the federal, state and local level: *Congress, executive branch agencies such as the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Supreme Court, state governments (including governors), and local officials (county and city)*, to influence the approval, modification or rejection of any legislation by the federal, state or local legislature or any committee thereof or to develop or maintain relationships with, promote goodwill with, or entertain members of the legislature or executive officials. "Lobby" and "lobbying" shall also mean communicating with an executive official for the purpose of influencing the consideration, amendment, adoption or rejection of any rule of rulemaking, or any ratemaking decision, procurement, contract, bid or bid process, financial services agreement, or bond issue.

**Lobbying or Advocacy?**

What are the key differences between advocacy and lobbying?

1. There is no limit to the amount of non-lobbying advocacy your organization can do.

2. Lobbying involves attempts to influence specific legislation at the local, state, or federal level while advocacy is focused on educating about a specific issue.