



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

AGWA Members shall embrace these values for generating charitable support and administering grants:

1. Members put philanthropic mission above personal gain.
2. Members affirm, through personal giving, a commitment to philanthropy.
3. Members improve their professional knowledge and skills so their performance will better serve others.
4. Members practice their profession with the absolute obligation to safeguard the public trust.
5. Members value privacy and freedom of choice.
6. Members foster cultural diversity and pluralistic values, and treat all people with dignity and respect.
7. Members avoid even the appearance of any criminal offense or professional misconduct.
8. Members bring credit to the profession by their public demeanor.
9. Members act according to the highest standards and visions of their organization, profession, and conscience.
10. Members are aware of codes of ethics by other professional organizations that serve philanthropy.

Standards of Professional Practice

- Standard 1. Members shall not engage in activities that harm their employers, clients, volunteers, the association, other members, or the grant profession.
- Standard 2. Members shall not engage in activities that conflict with their fiduciary, ethical, and legal obligations to their employers or clients.
- Standard 3. Members shall effectively disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest, however such disclosure does not preclude or imply ethical impropriety.
- Standard 4. Members shall not exploit any relationship with a grantmaker, employer, volunteer, the association, vendor, or client to the benefit of the member.
- Standard 5. Members shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal civil and criminal laws.
- Standard 6. Members recognize their individual boundaries of competence and are forthcoming and truthful about their professional experience and qualifications.
- Standard 7. Members shall take care that all solicitation materials and grant management reports are accurate and not misleading.
- Standard 8. Members shall take care that grant funds are used in accordance with grantmaker's intentions and guidelines.
- Standard 9. Members shall not disclose privileged or confidential information to unauthorized parties.
- Standard 10. Members shall adhere to the principle that all donor information created by an organization is the property of that organization and shall not be transferred or utilized except on behalf of that organization.
- Standard 11. Members shall not accept compensation that is based on a percentage of contributions or contingent upon the award of a grant.
- Standard 12. Members may accept from employers performance-based compensation, such as bonuses, provided they are in accord with prevailing practices within the organization, and are not based on a percentage of contributions.
- Standard 13: Members shall not pay finder's fees to gain access to donors, and shall take care to discourage their organizations from making such payments.
- Standard 14: Members shall, when stating fundraising results, use accurate and consistent accounting methods that conform to the appropriate guidelines adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for the type of organization involved.
- Standard 15: Members shall fulfill commitments made to the association, other members, employers, clients, and grantmakers.