



Snapshot of Past Policy Priorities and Legislative Wins of the Nonprofit Infrastructure Coalition

2020 - 2022

The Nonprofit Infrastructure Coalition (NIC), formerly known as the NIIAG, was created in 2020, amid a pandemic, social and racial unrest, and deep economic uncertainties. The aim of the NIC is to build healthy nonprofits so they, in turn, build thriving communities.

One of the operating principles of the NIC has always been to use viable legislative vehicles to advance our diverse policy aims. Below is a partial list of the NIC “wins” that advanced as part of large legislative vehicles, like COVID-relief legislation, the infrastructure package, or year-end omnibus appropriations bills. This is not a complete list of the NIC accomplishments and, to be clear, none of these wins is attributable to the NIC alone. We win because we align our contributions and actions with other advocates across the sector.

CARES Act

<https://independentsector.org/resource/coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act-cares-act-summary-for-nonprofits/>

- **Charitable Giving:** The CARES Act provided a temporary deduction of \$300 for charitable contributions for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions on their tax return, a critical acknowledgement by Congress that nonprofits needed an infusion of financial resources to maintain and expand services to meet growing community needs, while also protecting the health of their staff, volunteers, and constituents. Charitable giving incentives remain a priority of the NIC.
- **Election Assistance:** At a time (2020) when the conduct of healthy and safe national elections was a critical priority, the NIC worked with others across the sector to secure \$400 million to help states adapt elections procedures to the realities of a pandemic. Nonprofit missions depend on ensuring that our constituents are able to vote. This remains core to the work of the NIC.

2020 Year-End Legislation

<https://independentsector.org/resource/summary-of-the-2020-year-end-covid-19-relief-spending-and-tax-legislation/>

- **Charitable Giving:** With the NIC support, this legislation extended and expanded the universal charitable deduction through 2021.
- **Broadband Internet:** Broadband access became of almost “existential” importance to nonprofits and the communities they serve during the pandemic. NIC support helped to secure \$7 billion in total for broadband internet programs in this COVID relief package.
- **U.S. Postal Service:** A fully functioning postal service is critical to nonprofits that fundraise by direct mail – and was even more critical during the pandemic. This legislation converted a \$10 billion loan authorized in the CARES Act into direct funding for the USPS with no repayment required.
- **Childcare:** The NIC has emphasized access to childcare as critical to our sector’s workforce, which we know draws heavily upon women and mothers. This bill provided \$10 billion in emergency funds for the childcare sector through the Child Care Development Block Grant program.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

<https://independentsector.org/resource/summary-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act/>

- **Broadband:** The bipartisan, and historic, infrastructure package passed in the last Congress provided a total of \$65 billion in funding, which included states, territories, tribes, and the District of Columbia, for broadband deployment. Additional provisions addressed broadband affordability, digital equity, and distance learning in rural communities.
- **Public Transit Funding and Electrification:** While public transit and rail-line electrification might not be policies that are specific to nonprofits, they have a considerable impact on the larger environment in which we operate. Specifically, this bill included \$54 billion in funding that helps nonprofit employees get to work and helps communities’ better access nonprofit services.
- **Energy Efficiency and Assistance:** The infrastructure package, as supported by the NIC, included \$50 million for a pilot program to award grants for energy-efficiency upgrades to buildings owned and operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- **Reconnecting Communities:** The infrastructure package provided \$1 billion for the creation of a program to reconnect communities divided by inequitable transportation infrastructure decisions of the past. The program – which received an additional \$3 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act – funds planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure.

2022 Year-End Legislation

<https://independentsector.org/blog/year-end-wins-but-many-nonprofit-priorities-left-in-the-cold/>

- **The Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act.** The Act takes important steps to strengthen the foundations of American democracy, on which all nonprofits rely to serve their communities. The bipartisan legislation – which Independent Sector urged negotiators to include in the year-end omnibus bill – stipulates that the Vice President’s role in counting electoral votes is purely ceremonial, raises the threshold for objecting to the proceedings, and ensures that a candidate in a contested election can still access presidential transition resources.
- **Nonprofit workforce data:** A healthy nonprofit sector requires that we have access to wage and employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This data is available to our for-profit counterparts quarterly, but unavailable to the nonprofit sector – the third largest employer of the private workforce. The NIC worked with others across the sector to include bill language that would advance efforts to close this data inequity.
- **Civics Education:** The bill provided \$23 million for increased civic education, critical to building an informed and engaged population, and one that drives change through civic practices like volunteering, donating to charity, and voting.

Joining the NIC

Any nonprofit organization committed to mobilizing in support of policies that build a healthier, more equitable nonprofit sector is welcome to explore and join the NIC. There are no fees or Independent Sector membership requirements needed to join.

The coalition meets monthly and those interested in additional information can reach out to Jeff Moore at Independent Sector (jeffreym@independentsector.org) or Ronda Jackson at KABOOM! (rjackson@kaboom.org) You can find additional information on the NIC and its membership on [Independent Sector’s website](#).

We are stronger with you than without – and welcome you into our coalition.

