
2026 Nonprofit Lobby Day Prep Session

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Unleashing the Power of Nonprofits





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nycon 
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Unleashing the Power of Nonprofits



NYCON's mission is to promote a vibrant nonprofit sector across New York State through advocacy, education, and leadership.

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Nonprofit New York champions
and strengthens nonprofits
through advocacy, capacity
building, convening, and research
to cultivate a unified, just, and
powerful sector.

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Agenda

- Nonprofit Day Basics
- Lobbying 101
- Legislator Meetings

Nonprofit Day Basics

- When, where, how to register
- AM program agenda
- Logistics (parking, hotel)

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NONPROFIT LOBBY DAY



NEW THIS YEAR
APRIL 21, 2026

NONPROFIT LOBBY DAY 2026

1st Annual Statewide Nonprofit Lobby Day

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

NYS Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY

Join nonprofits from across New York State for the first-ever statewide Nonprofit Lobby Day. This is an opportunity for organizations with similar missions and focus areas to come together, meet with their legislators, and raise awareness about the vital role nonprofits play in our communities — and the challenges they face.

Whether you are new to advocacy or experienced in legislative meetings, Nonprofit Lobby Day is designed to provide you with the tools, confidence, and resources you need for a successful day.

[Register for Lobby Day](#)



Agenda – April 21, 2026

- **10:00 – 10:30 AM:** Registration
 - **10:30 – 11:15 AM:** Introductory Program (Third Floor Terrace)
 - **11:15 – 11:30 AM:** Group Photo
 - **Noon – 4:00 PM:** Individual meetings with legislators – *nonprofits must schedule their own meetings.*
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Legislative Meetings

- Finding your legislators
 - Find your State Senator: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>
 - Find your Assembly Member: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>
 - Common Cause: <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>
- Scheduling Meetings

Lobbying 101 - What Is Lobbying?

- **Advocating for or against specific legislation** at the local, state, or federal level
- Communicating with **lawmakers or their staff** about a bill, budget item, or policy proposal
- Asking the public to **contact legislators about legislation** (“call your senator about Bill X”)

Lobbying 101 - What is NOT Lobbying?

- **Nonpartisan education** about policy issues
- **Research, reports, or policy analysis** that do not urge action on a specific bill
- **Meeting with legislators to provide expertise** without advocating for or against legislation
- **Advocacy related to regulations or implementation** (not tied to legislation)
- **Voter engagement** that is nonpartisan (e.g., voter registration)

Lobbying 101

Why Lobbying Matters for Nonprofits

- **Protects funding streams** and programs your community relies on
- Ensures **policy decisions reflect real community needs**
- Positions your organization as a **trusted expert** for policymakers
- Strengthens your **mission impact beyond direct services**

Lobbying 101 - Key Rules for 501(c)(3) Orgs

- Lobbying is **legal and encouraged within limits**
- Must be **nonpartisan** (no supporting/opposing candidates)
- **Track time and resources** spent on lobbying activities
- You must register and report as a lobbyist if you expect to **exceed \$5,000** in lobbying expenses in a calendar year.

Legislative Meetings

- What should you bring?
 - 1 pager about your org
 - 1 pager from contracting coalition
 - Business cards
- What to expect/not to expect
- Follow-Up: thank you afterword, any other relevant resources

Legislative Meetings

Quick Tips

- Share **real stories and data from your work**
- Building relationships with legislators is important, even if no ask
- Identify a **clear contact** for the future (Albany and district)
- Coordinate messaging through coalitions
- Always **document advocacy activities**

Q&A

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