



PHILANTHROPY OHIO  
GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
September 2004

We live in a time when the institutions of society are under suspicion; a time when the well-publicized conduct of a few raise questions about the activity of entire sectors. Organized philanthropy does its work within this context; and like the rest of the nonprofit world, is being challenged to adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior.

In order to encourage openness, transparency and accountability, the Board of Trustees of Philanthropy Ohio has adopted the following set of “Guiding Principles” for members. We believe that by adhering to these principles, members demonstrate their commitment to maintaining public trust in organized philanthropy. Annual evidence of intention to operate according to these principles is a requirement for membership in Philanthropy Ohio.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PHILANTHROPY OHIO

1. Adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior in all foundation activities
2. Operate with an active governing board that sets and regularly reviews all organizational policies, including those related to governance, conflict of interest; grantmaking, and finance (including audit)
3. Have basic information readily available regarding programs, funding priorities and application requirements
4. Maintain constructive relationships with applicants, grantees, donors and the public based on mutual respect, candor and confidentiality
5. Strive to include the perspectives, opinions and experiences of the broadest possible cross-section of people to inform the organization’s grantmaking/ contributions, governance/staff structure and business practices
6. Support continuous learning by trustees, staff and grantees
7. Honor donor intent through thoughtful deliberation in the context of changing social conditions
8. Fulfill all fiduciary and legal responsibilities

Adopted by the Board of Trustees September 24, 2004