



Corporate and Foundation Support and Relationship Protocol

BACKGROUND

Protocol Purpose

The purpose of this Protocol is to provide general guidance regarding corporate and foundation support and relationships. These guidelines ensure that all corporate and foundation relationships support ASTHO's public health mission and assist ASTHO in maintaining objectivity in dealings with the private sector.

ASTHO Mission

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership association. Its mission is to formulate and influence sound national public health policy and to assist state health departments in the development and implementation of programs and policies to promote health and prevent disease. ASTHO reserves the right to refuse any support relationship that does not further the mission or goals of ASTHO. ASTHO further reserves the right to refuse any relationship with or support from companies or foundations whose ethical values and principles are inconsistent with ASTHO's, whose fiscal and business practices are unsound, or whose policies, practices and behaviors are inconsistent with the protection and promotion of public health.

ASTHO Members

ASTHO members are the chief health officials representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Purpose of Corporate and Foundation Support

Historically, ASTHO has accomplished its mission primarily through membership dues and federal and foundation grants. More recently, ASTHO has sought new opportunities to partner with private sector organizations to improve the public's health. These relationships help ASTHO diversify its funding base, while companies and foundations with goals complementary to ASTHO's share benefits relating to improved public health.

PRINCIPLES

Mission Driven and Focused

ASTHO's mission drives every relationship and program. All relationships will support, preserve and promote trust in the Association and its members. Through its policies, practices and behaviors ASTHO will in no way initiate, create or drive programs are inconsistent with its mission.

Objective and Impartial

ASTHO will remain objective, regardless of any support or relationship. Program content will not be influenced by financial or other supporters. ASTHO will maintain complete control and decision-making authority over its programs, products, services and related activities, policies, position or editorial content of any of its publications, and all operational funding. ASTHO must approve all materials relating to the relationship.

To maintain its objectivity, ASTHO will consider collaborative efforts on highly controversial issues on a case-by-case basis. ASTHO's intention is to participate when the collaborators represent a broad spectrum of opinions and interests.



Participation in any corporate or foundation relationship does not imply ASTHO approval of a corporation's or foundation's policies or endorsement of their products. ASTHO will not endorse any products or organizations nor will it participate in exclusive arrangements with corporate or foundation supporters. ASTHO must approve any use of its logo or name.

It is the policy of ASTHO to comply strictly with all laws that relate to the conduct of its activities, including the antitrust laws of the United States. ASTHO meetings and events shall have no planned discussion on competitive business issues, and ASTHO will immediately curtail any discussions or meeting activities that appear to violate the antitrust laws.

Ethical and Above Reproach

ASTHO will not accept support from companies in return for access to policy-makers or other favors for the company's gain or benefit. ASTHO will not participate in direct or indirect relationships with supporters that compromise or appear to compromise its image, reputation or integrity.

No employee, officer, volunteer or other representative of ASTHO may make any promise to a supporter, nor expect any favoritism from a supporter in exchange for support or a relationship.

Transparent

ASTHO will advise all contributors and private partners that the relationship will be a matter of public record.

TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS

Corporate Alliance

Companies and corporate foundations that support good public health practices and want to keep current on ASTHO news, programs, events, plans, developments and progress, and receive discounts in event participation and attendance, may participate in ASTHO's Corporate Alliance Program as an annual participant. Annual Corporate Alliance Program participants must agree to abide by all corporate and foundation protocol guidelines.

Corporate Sponsor

Companies interested in collaborating in ASTHO programs should consider the Corporate Sponsor program for opportunities. Annual Corporate Alliance participants receive the right of first refusal on sponsorship opportunities. It is therefore beneficial to Corporate Sponsors to first become Annual Corporate Alliance participants. Corporate sponsors must agree to abide by all corporate and foundation protocol guidelines.

Unacceptable Relationships

ASTHO will not accept support from corporations whose principal product is tobacco, or their subsidiaries. ASTHO will not accept support from corporations whose principal product is alcohol, or their subsidiaries.

It may be appropriate for ASTHO to work with organizations that have received support from companies that engage in activities related to the production, sale, or distribution of alcohol or tobacco. As long as the potential supporter is not receiving funding from these corporate sources for the joint ASTHO project or program, ASTHO will consider participating in the support relationship. Funding directly or indirectly from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement may be accepted.

EXCEPTIONS

Any exceptions to these policies require the prior approval of the ASTHO Executive Committee.