



Guidelines for Organizational Support Relationships

1. OVERVIEW

The Legal Action Center (“LAC”) is an independent, non-profit law and policy organization dedicated to improving access to health, justice and opportunity for people with histories of addiction, criminal justice involvement and/or HIV/AIDS. In order to achieve its mission, LAC seeks and secures funding from a variety of funders, including government agencies, foundations individual donors, corporations and other business entities.

LAC has a longstanding reputation for integrity, and is committed to avoiding conflicts of interest and the potential appearance of conflicts in all of its relationships. Therefore, LAC has adopted the following principles to guide the organization’s relationships with donors, and to ensure that they do not influence the policies or operations of the LAC.

2. DEFINITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

LAC currently accepts unrestricted operational grants and sponsorships from corporate, other business and professional association funders.

2.1 Restricted/Project-Specific Grants, Contracts and Sponsorships.

“Restricted/Project-Specific Grants, Contracts and Sponsorships” are defined as financial support by an outside party for a specific project or set of deliverables consistent with LAC’s mission and to which LAC has agreed. In some cases, the individual or entity providing the funding might wish to be recognized in materials related to the project and/or deliverables that their funding supported.

2.2 Unrestricted Operational Grants

“Unrestricted Operational Grant” is defined as financial support by an outside party for general operating needs of LAC without explicit deliverables tied to the funding. The individual or entity that provides unrestricted operational support may wish to be acknowledged in this way in organizational materials.

3. EXCLUDED ACTIVITY

LAC shall not engage in the following types of relationships with corporate, other business or professional association funders:

3.1 Endorsements

Under no circumstances will LAC endorse, license, certify, or in any way imply support for any sponsor's product, service or program.

3.2 Product or Association

LAC's name and logo may not be associated with specific branded products.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CORPORATE, OTHER BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

The following principles guide the LAC's business relationships and fundraising decisions:

4.1 Sole Discretion

LAC retains sole discretion with regard to how the support it receives in the form of operational grants and sponsorships will be applied, invested or expended.

LAC shall, at all times, maintain complete control and sole discretion of the content of its educational programs and materials.

4.2 Solicitation, Acceptance and Refusal of Funds

LAC has the right to refuse funding from any entity whose interests are deemed to be contradictory to LAC's mission.

4.3 Maintain Independence At All Times

LAC shall, at all times, independently form positions on issues related to health and criminal justice policies and programs. LAC's position will always be informed by its mission and the interests of its clients and constituents, and will never be influenced by commercial or political interests.

5. TRANSPARENCY OF FUNDING AND POLICIES

LAC will, unless otherwise prohibited by law, disclose the sources of financial support it receives from government agencies, foundations, corporations and other businesses and individual donors in its annual filing of IRS form 990, on the LAC website pages associated with the sponsored activities and in all relevant program materials. These guidelines will be publicly available on LAC's website.