

Effective Legislative Advocacy by Nonprofit Organizations

Sponsored by: Daphne Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York Foundation, the New York Women's Foundation, North Star Fund, Stonewall Community Foundation, and the Union Square Awards

As the recession deepens, government funding for nonprofit services is threatened for virtually every program that serves as the safety net for New York's neighborhoods. Nonprofit organizations and their communities must raise their voices and protect their interests in Washington, in Albany, and in City Hall. Yet many nonprofits still shrink from opportunities to participate in the legislative process, fearing that their tax-exempt status prohibits that activity. As more nonprofits become involved in legislative advocacy, many for the first time, their activities may create liability if they do not understand the laws. **"Effective Legislative Advocacy by Nonprofits"** will address the legal limits on legislative activity -- what specifically constitutes *lobbying* activities, the kinds of advocacy that are not lobbying, and how to comply with the lobbying laws. The workshop will also offer practical guidance on effective techniques to motivate elected officials to listen to and act upon your organization's concerns.

Sean Delany and Elizabeth Perez of Lawyers Alliance for New York will conduct the seminar, along with several grantee participants who will share their advocacy experiences.

Topics Covered

- Fighting budget cuts – when is it lobbying?
- How to comply with the NYS and NYC procurement lobbying rules
- How 501(c)(3) organizations can legally lobby for themselves and for their constituents
- What is the difference between "direct lobbying" and "grass roots lobbying"
- How your organization can safely and effectively form coalitions for legislative advocacy
- What forms of lobbying communications are most effective for reaching state and local elected officials – and what techniques do not work

Lawyers Alliance for New York is the leading provider of free and low-cost business and transactional legal services to nonprofit and community development organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in New York City's low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Who Should Attend: Executive Directors, senior staff and core members.

When: **Tuesday, May 31, 2011**
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
(breakfast and lunch will be served)

Where: Lawyers Alliance for New York
171 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor
Between 33rd and 34th Streets

How to register: Return the enclosed registration form by Friday, May 27 to:
Carolyn Canahuate, Lawyers Alliance for New York
Fax (212) 941-7458 or e-mail ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org

For more information: Contact Carolyn Canahuate, (212) 219-1800 or
ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org