WEST VIRGINIA IMPACT COMMISSION

In a busy and always accelerating world, working together can take a back seat due to the different demands put upon government, business, nonprofits, philanthropy, and the general public. With the need to strengthen our communities and opportunities for citizens, bringing together leaders from state government, foundations, and nonprofits to identify key topics and how to partner on major opportunities for the Mountain State can accelerate progress. The creation of the West Virginia Impact Commission convening the state’s executive and legislative branch leaders with nonprofit and philanthropy leaders can move our state from scattered to a focused movement forward as depicted above.

PURPOSE: When government works in partnership with philanthropy and nonprofits, the greatest progress and successes take place for the citizens and communities of West Virginia. We know the value of having an active presence and working relationship with the legislative and executive branches of state government results in great impact and quality of life for our citizens. As Government leaders develop plans, strategies, and policies, it is beneficial for them to have access to key leaders from philanthropy and nonprofits to determine the best ways to maximize their plans and constitutional duties. Philanthropy WV and the WV Nonprofit Association has identified the creation of a special commission to educate and build stronger partnerships among state government through the creation of a specialized commission. States such as Ohio, Michigan, and others have created a similar structure to facilitate better and stronger communication and strategy connection between the state’s philanthropic, nonprofit, and government leaders.

PLAN: The creation of the West Virginia Impact Commission serves as an official platform for education, briefing, and partnerships that engages leaders from the executive and legislative branches of government, philanthropy, and nonprofits. The creation of the Impact Commission will be managed by Philanthropy WV and the WV Nonprofit Association by convening the key leaders from the executive and legislative branches of state government impacting the nonprofit and philanthropy sectors. As an advisory commission, the membership of this body which will convene two to three times a year at the WV State Capitol. The membership of the Impact Commission will include: (1) Governor of West Virginia or his designee, (2) West Virginia Attorney General or his designee, (3) West Virginia Secretary of State or his designee, (4) West Virginia State Treasurer or his designee, (5) Speaker of the WV House of Delegates & Minority Leader of the WV House of Delegates, (6) President of the WV Senate & Minority Leader of the WV Senate, (7) President & CEO of Philanthropy WV, and (8) Executive Director of the WV Nonprofit Association. The Commission will be jointly co-chaired by Philanthropy WV and WVNPA out of respect of the busy schedules of executive and legislative government branch leaders. The purpose of the West Virginia Impact Commission is to:

a. Discuss needs and plans of government leaders in fulfilling the responsibilities of state government with their nonprofit and philanthropic partners
b. Serve as an advocacy and communication platform among all players on the issues, priorities, and needs of the Mountain State’s citizens and communities
c. Coordinate a stronger connection for public-private-philanthropic-nonprofit partnerships
d. Foster a better working environment among all sectors to move the state forward between transitions of government leadership

For more details on the plans of the WV Impact Commission, please contact Philanthropy WV at 304.517.1450 or the WVNPA at 304.667.2248.