



## 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 remaining nonpartisan, transparent, and fair in its dealings with all partners and stakeholders.

#### ***ASTHO Mission***

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership association. ASTHO members are the chief public health officials representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. territories and freely associated states, and the District of Columbia. Our organization's mission is to transform public health within states and territories to help members dramatically improve health and wellness.

#### ***Purpose of Corporate and Foundation Support***

ASTHO regularly seeks out new opportunities to partner with private sector organizations to improve the public's health. These joint projects allow us to leverage the strengths and expertise of the private and corporate sectors to make a significant impact on state and territorial public health. Additionally, these relationships help ensure the sustainability of ASTHO, while companies and foundations with complementary goals benefit from improved public health and visibility as a supporter of the organization.

### 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. ASTHO's board of directors and executive management have worked to create policies, practices, and an organizational culture focused on ensuring that all programs are consistent with our mission. ASTHO seeks out support relationships that further our mission and goals and, in addition, seeks out relationships with and support from companies or foundations whose ethical values and principles are consistent with ASTHO's, whose fiscal and business practices are sound, and whose policies, practices, and behaviors are consistent with the protection and promotion of public health.

#### ***Objective and Impartial***

ASTHO will remain objective, regardless of any support or relationship. Program content will be developed without influence from financial or other supporters. ASTHO maintains 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 any support relationship.

To maintain its objectivity, ASTHO considers collaborative efforts on a case-by-case basis and participates when the collaborators represent a broad and balanced 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 does not endorse any



products or organizations, nor does 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 have no planned discussions on competitive business issues, and ASTHO immediately curtails any discussions or meeting activities that might appear to violate the antitrust laws.

***Ethical and Above Reproach***

ASTHO does not provide access to policymakers or other favors for a supporter's gain or benefit. ASTHO does not participate in direct or indirect relationships with supporters that compromise or appear to compromise its image, reputation, or integrity or that of its membership.

No employee, officer, volunteer, or other representative of ASTHO is able to make any promise to a supporter in exchange for support or a relationship, and ASTHO employees, officers, volunteers, and other representatives may not expect any favoritism from our supporters.

***Transparent***

ASTHO's relationships with all contributors and partners are a matter of public record.

***Unacceptable Relationships***

ASTHO cannot accept support from corporations whose principal product is tobacco or alcohol, or such companies' 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 Board of Directors.