The members of the Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF), representing over 340 foundations and giving programs in 11 states and beyond, are dedicated to supporting local organizations that strengthen the fabric of their communities and work to improve the well-being of all residents. This work is critical to reversing troubling trends in poverty and economic inequality that threaten the future of our region.

Endowed philanthropy has the power to address these issues through sustained, long-term investment – and not only through grant dollars. SECF members provide trusted leadership and guidance by convening key stakeholders and encouraging practices that improve efficiency and effectiveness, all geared toward improving the quality of life in communities throughout the South.

SECF – on behalf of its members – supports laws and regulations that allow public and private philanthropy to operate in perpetuity, thereby permitting charitable organizations the ability to use endowments to generate long-term responses and support to communities.

If you have questions about SECF’s public policy work or would like support engaging with policymakers, please contact Jaci Bertrand, SECF’s vice president of member engagement, at (404) 524-0911 or via email at jac@secf.org.
Encouraging Charitable Giving

Public policy should encourage and recognize charitable giving by all Americans at all levels. We support efforts to maximize incentives for charitable giving and make them available for all Americans in order to allow greater support of critical community needs.

Community-Driven Philanthropy

Community foundations and other place-based funders share a common mission – building long-term, lasting philanthropic legacies for their communities. Donor-advised funds and other tools are among the many ways these foundations help diverse sets of donors support the communities in which they live. We oppose placing limitations on individuals and families that want to work with a place-based or community foundation, including undue or burdensome regulations that would reduce the significant philanthropic investment these individuals and families make.

Endowed Philanthropy

We support laws and regulations that allow public and private philanthropy to operate in perpetuity, thereby permitting charitable organizations the ability to use endowments to generate long-term responses and support to communities.

IRA Rollover to Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-advised funds provide an excellent vehicle for giving by individuals who want to make a sustained, long-term impact but may not have the wealth or time necessary to establish a foundation of their own. We support allowing people to rollover funds from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to donor-advised funds as an effective way to encourage more individual charitable giving.

Regulatory Activity

Government agencies, including the Department of Treasury, often issue guidance and regulations that affect the day-to-day operations of foundations. We are fully engaged with relevant executive agencies, informing their decisions that impact the sector and advocating for positive regulatory mechanisms.

Political Activity and Philanthropy

We oppose any effort to weaken provisions of current federal tax law, including the so-called Johnson Amendment, that prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from endorsing, opposing or contributing to political candidates.