

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### **Introduction**

Staff and Volunteers of the Broad Reach Foundation For Youth Leaders are expected to adhere to the highest standards of personal and professional competence, integrity and impartiality. This policy represents general standards. The Executive may alter or augment any standard of this policy.

### **Financial Interest**

A Volunteer or member of staff will be considered to have potential conflict of interest where he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family (including mother, father, brother, sister, child, husband, wife, common-law spouse) has a direct or indirect financial interest in a matter involving the Foundation, and where the he/she could influence, or appear to be able to influence, any decision on that matter by the Foundation.

An indirect financial interest includes funding or program matters affecting the employer of a member of the Board, or a member of their family, as defined above. A potential conflict exists where he/she could directly influence a decision made in course of discharging his/her duties, and also where he/she could indirectly influence a decision through exerting personal influence over the decision-maker(s).

### **Interests In Common**

A conflict of interest does not exist if the interest is one that is shared in common and generally to the same degree: by many agency partners representing youth; or, by virtually all members of the Board.

### **Family and Personal Interest**

If a potential conflict exists because of a Staff or Volunteer's personal or family interest in a matter, the Staff or Volunteer shall advise the Board or appropriate committee at the first convenient opportunity, and it shall be recorded [In the case of a staff member, her/she notify his/her supervisor in a similar manner]. In the case of significant conflict, the person should outline the nature and extent of the conflict in a letter filed with the President, but he/she shall still make a conflict declaration.

### **Abuse of Position**

Volunteers or staff shall not use their position with the Foundation, nor their connection to the Foundation, for personal benefit. In particular, no procedure or system shall be altered or manipulated to provide an advantage for volunteers, staff, family, colleagues or agencies to which he/she is a member. Similarly, no personal benefit is to be taken from the use of confidential information.

## **Selling to Broad Reach Foundation For Youth Leaders**

Policy Volunteers and Staff and their firms or agencies are not precluded from selling goods, materials or services to the Foundation, provided this activity is consistent with generally accepted competitive commercial practices. Any such arrangements shall meet the test of being available on an equal basis to others, and the amount of payment or compensation shall be appropriate to the circumstances, and below or equal to the cost of such services in the market.

Policy Volunteers and Staff may accept directorship or other volunteer responsibilities with other organizations. This extends to Agency Partners on the basis that: (a) such responsibilities are disclosed to the President (in the case of staff to the Executive Director) and the Board (and both shall maintain a record thereof); and, (b) they shall exempt themselves from all discussions and decisions concerning the relevant Agency Partner.

## **Impartiality**

Staff and Board members should recognize that they are seen to exert influence on Foundation funding and fund raising decisions and practices, and to have positions where impartiality and trust is required. When a Board member or Staff member wishes to exercise his/her rights as a citizen to comment upon a decision by the Foundation or some community or governmental body, their intentions and appropriate measures to protect the integrity and reputation of the Foundation shall be discussed first with the Board to President or Staff to Executive Director.

## **Declarations on Conflict of Interest**

In addition to the foregoing provisions of this section, where a Policy Volunteer or Staff perceives that he/she may have a conflict of interest, as defined above, the following procedure shall apply:

- 1) As early as possible in the next meeting of the Board, the person shall indicate the general nature of the potential conflict of interest and the declaration/ comment shall be recorded in the minutes, along with an indication that they refrain from further discussion and voting on the matter. It is the responsibility of the member to declare a possible conflict of interest. Members of the Board may ask if there is a possible conflict.
- 2) The person shall not participate in any way in the discussion or debate on any matter in which he/she declares potential conflict of interest, nor shall he/she shall discuss the matter with staff or follow-up on its execution by staff, nor shall he/she send any correspondence on the matter to the Board, except in relation to the declaration of the conflict,
- 3) If the matter under discussion takes place during a confidential meeting of the Board, in addition to the provisions in sub-clauses (1) and (2), he/she shall leave the room during the discussion and voting, and shall be recorded as having done so; and,

4) The withdrawal or absence of a member for purposes of a declaration of potential conflict of interest does not cause the loss of quorum, provided that at least three members of the Board have not made a conflict or interest declaration on the matter.

### **Insider Information**

All Policy Volunteers and Staff are required to refrain from the use or transmission of any confidential or privileged information while serving with the Broad Reach Foundation For Youth Leaders, and following termination of their relationship with the Foundation.

### **Gifts and Benefits**

In order to preserve the image and integrity of the Foundation, business gifts for personal use should be avoided; however, the Foundation recognizes that moderate hospitality is an accepted courtesy of a business relationship or marketing efforts. Recipients of allowable gifts or benefits should not permit themselves to reach the position whereby they might be, or might be deemed by others to have been, influenced in making a business decision as a consequence of accepting such hospitality. The frequency and scale of any hospitality accepted should not be greater than the Foundation would allow a Board or staff member to claim as a routine business expense.

Where any gift is accepted, the acceptance must constitute a benefit to the Foundation, or be of nominal value and publicly acknowledged. Where a gift cannot realistically be refused, or where its acceptance may be seen to be an example of normal business courtesy, the option exists for the Policy Volunteer or Staff to redirect the gift to an agency partner of the Foundation. This policy does not apply to any gifts or benefits received in connection with speaking engagements on behalf of the Foundation, or in connection with Policy Volunteer or Staff participation in fund raising activities of their own club or employer, nor to participation in association activities.

### **Purchasing Procedures**

In order to preserve a neutral purchasing policy, Foundation Policy Volunteers or Staff should not be able to benefit from the purchasing system of either the Foundation or any of its members. An exception may be allowed where it is deemed to be in the general interests of the Foundation to maximize its purchasing volume.

### **Hiring of Relatives**

The policy of the Foundation shall be that no Policy Volunteer or Staff shall participate in any fashion in the hiring, promotion, disciplining or termination of a family member, as an employee of the Foundation.

In general, the fact that a person is related to an employee or to a Board member, shall operate neither to prejudice, nor to raise the person's prospects of being hired, promoted, disciplined or dismissed. In all cases, merit, qualifications, experience, equity and budgetary provision shall be the governing considerations for hiring and promotion.

## **Enforcement**

It is the responsibility of every Policy Volunteer and Staff Member to be aware of the Code and his/her obligations under the Code, and to the best of his/her ability to ensure that all other Policy Volunteers and Staff are similarly aware. Where any Policy Volunteer or Staff has reason to believe that another Policy Volunteer or Staff is committing a serious breach of this Code, he/she may approach the President, (in the case of Staff to the Executive Director) or another officer of the Board, in confidence. However, the responsibility to ensure that all persons observe this Code is under the sole jurisdiction of the Board, and shall be dealt with by the Board as a whole. The members of the Board of Directors shall use the Code as a guide to their actions and failure to do so may form the basis for removal from the Board.

## **Severability**

The provisions of this code of Conduct are severable and if any provision, section or word is held invalid or illegal, such invalidity or illegality shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, section or words.