Phase II Recommendation Template

Please complete the following template for each recommendation developed by your subcommittee.

Sending Committee (which subcommittee is submitting this recommendation?):
Healthcare, Nonprofits, Childcare and Support Services Subcommittee

Receiving Committee (which subcommittee will take this up in Task 2?):
Infrastructure

1. What is the title of this recommendation?
Nonprofit Advisory Council to State Government

2. Is it already an action step in the Economic Development Strategy? No. If so:
   a. Please describe it in a few sentences.
   b. Why is it particularly relevant for today’s challenges and opportunities?
   c. Are you recommending any modifications to it?

3. If it is not currently in the 10-year plan, please describe the recommendation in a few sentences or less.

   Nonprofits play important roles in implementing all seven of the strategies articulated in the 2020-2029 Maine Economic Development Strategy. For these strategies to be successful moving forward, it’s important to understand and leverage the unique circumstances of nonprofits as they work in partnership with the government and business sectors.

   The public health and economic crises stemming from the pandemic have only reinforced the lack of understanding of the unique role, nature and importance of nonprofits in our economy and the health and well-being of Maine communities. We have also identified gaps in their effective participation in discussions and problem solving around economic recovery. Two recent examples are the unique impacts that COVID has had on nonprofit performing arts organizations, which are critical to downtown economies, and BIPOC-led community-based organizations that have stepped up to serve disproportionately affected populations.

   Formation of a Nonprofit Advisory Council within state government would assist the Governor, the Secretary of State and other Commissioners on emerging issues and trends affecting charitable nonprofits and provide a coordinating forum for how these issues impact the work nonprofits do in partnership with state government.
Participation on the council would include broad representation of mission areas, including but not necessarily limited to arts, culture + the humanities; BIPOC-centered community groups; child development; education + recreation; economic/community development; environment/animal-related; health care; science/research and social services. Other participation criteria would prioritize diverse perspectives through geographic service area and budget size.

Communication channels could also be established with existing governmental councils such as the Maine Climate Council and the Children’s Cabinet as well as key agencies such as the Maine DECD, Maine DHHS and the Maine Arts Commission.

4. **What factors should an implementing agency consider to ensure that this recommendation promotes equity and does not disadvantage vulnerable populations?**

As articulated above, participation would prioritize equitable representation and ensure that a wide range of perspectives were represented in the Council’s agendas and work.

5. **What additional information would you like to share about this recommendation?**

Other U.S. states have similar advisory councils that could serve as models for the specific structure, purpose and governance of this proposed body. Such as: [https://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/advisory-council.aspx](https://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/advisory-council.aspx)