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**POLICY CATEGORY: 2. GOVERNANCE & BOARD PROCESSES**

**POLICY TYPE: 2.C. LEGAL & ETHICAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**POLICY TITLE: 2.C.1 *Definition of Transparency***

Approved by Board of Directors – 6/27/17

**Purpose:**

Together SC values and is committed to transparency, which it will follow to model good governance and nonprofit operations and to be accountable without defensiveness. Together SC defines transparency as the state of being open and forthcoming about critical and pertinent information about the organization’s decision-making, free from pretense or deceit, without violating confidentiality of members, donors, staff, and other stakeholders.

**Definition:** *Excerpt from Guiding Principles & Best Practices for South Carolina Nonprofits, 4th ed.*

*Guiding Principle 5:* *Nonprofits, by nature, exist to serve the public good and are obligated to their constituents and the public to ethically conduct their activities with accountability, transparency and compliance with the law.*

*Core Element 5.3: Our organization openly and honestly communicates with stakeholders and the public about our mission, activities, finances and decision-making.*

Accordingly,

1. Together SC will be open about its finances, its definition and measurement of success and the services it provides.
2. Staff Policies and procedures, Board policies and Board minutes, with the exception of executive sessions, will be available and accessible to our members.
3. Members will know and understand what they can expect from membership and what they should not expect as members.
4. In addition to regular financial audits, Together SC will frequently invite other qualified experts to audit or examine Together SC’s other processes and make suggestions for improvement.
5. Most Board meetings are open for observation, (The Chair may limit the number of attendees at any given meeting to ensure a climate for good Board discussion.)
6. Transparency does not extend to personnel matters. No information will be shared that violates the confidentiality of members, donors and board members