

## **Charitable Trust Committee**

Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2025  
via Videoconference/Teleconference and In-Person

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Catherine Shannon, Co-Chair

Designee for State Treasurer Michael Frerichs (via videoconference)

Erica Spangler Raz, Co-Chair

Designee for Attorney General Kwame Raoul (via videoconference)

Andreason Brown (via videoconference)

Joan Dixon (via videoconference)

Dan McManus (via videoconference)

Designee for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Brandon Purcell (via videoconference)

Designee for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Sheila Simon (via videoconference)

### **TREASURER'S STAFF**

Alex Armour, Director of Charitable Trust, Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Sara Meek, Chief Legislative & Policy Officer

Dennis Rendleman, Attorney, Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Austin Stadelman, Policy Advisor

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ron Budzinski

Ariana Correa

Designee for Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Michael Bennet, VNA Community Services, Galesburg (via teleconference)

#### **1) Call to Order**

Catherine Shannon called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

**2) Welcome and Introductions**

Catherine Shannon welcomed committee members, staff, and members of the public.

**3) Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2025**

Sheila Simon moved to approve the minutes. Erica Spangler Raz seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**4) Update on Spring 2025 Finalists and Spring and Fall 2024 Grantees**

Alex Armour provided a status update on current grantees.

**5) Fall 2025 Application Scoring/Recommendation on Grant Awards – Action Item**

Alex Armour reported on the Fall 2025 application cycle and presented the finalists from the grant cycle.

Sheila Simon moved to approve the recommended list of grant award recipients. Dan McManus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**6) Report on Charitable Trust Fund**

Alex Armour provided a report on the financial status of the fund.

**7) 2026 Small Food Program Pilot Program and Rules Changes**

Austin Stadelman presented an update on the rules process for the Small Food Program Grants pilot program.

Erica Spangler Raz raised a concern about the use of the term “fiscal agent,” noting that in the nonprofit sector this phrase is commonly understood to mean a 501(c)(3) organization acting as a fiscal sponsor, not an individual or entity responsible for finances. She suggested alternate terminology to “fiscal officer” to avoid confusion.

Staff noted that the term in the rules need not match the language used in the application itself, and that the application will clearly describe the requirement. Staff will meet internally to determine if alternative language is needed.

Brandon Purcell sought clarification on whether organizations with a full-time employee could also apply for the pilot. Staff confirmed that organizations with a full-time employee are not eligible for the pilot but remain eligible for the standard grant.

**8) 2026 Grant Focus Areas**

The committee discussed grant focus areas for calendar year 2026. Options presented were: (1) food exclusively across both grant cycles plus the pilot; (2) food in both cycles plus one additional category; or (3) continuation of the existing alternating rotation.

After discussion, consensus was reached on the following plan for 2026:

Spring 2026: Food and Workforce/Economic Development  
Fall 2026: Food and Housing  
Pilot Program: Food (ongoing)

**9) 2026 Meeting Dates**

March 12, 2026

June 11, 2026

September 10, 2026

December 10, 2026

**10) Public Comment**

Michael from VNA Community Services in Galesburg thanked the Treasurer's Office and the committee for their consideration, noting that grant funds would be put to immediate use supporting seniors in Knox County.

**11) New Business**

No new business.

**12) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. Catherine Shannon wished all members a happy holiday season and a healthy new year.