

GoWest Defense Fund Covenants

Purpose

The creation of unencumbered financial resources that can be used for targeted lobbying efforts, public awareness campaign management, electoral advocacy, and grassroots organization to protect credit union legal, political, legislative, and regulatory interests.

Governance

The defense fund will be overseen by the Defense Fund Oversight Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming Governmental Affairs Committees. Association staff will rely on the subcommittee for feedback and counsel when expending funds. The President/CEO and Chief Advocacy Officer will oversee the budgeting and may authorize disbursements from the fund up to an amount of \$25,000 without subcommittee approval. The Chief Administration Officer will be responsible for accounting for the fund on the Association's financial statements, and for disbursing checks.

Financial Goals & Funding

Fair share contributions are assessed as part of the Association dues process. The fair share formula used for fundraising will be determined by staff and committee chairs, based on projected needs and opportunities.

Defense Fund Covenants

Expenditures from the defense fund may only be made on behalf of the Association's government relations initiatives, or legislative and political initiatives aligned with protecting and advancing credit unions' operating environment and enhancing our influence, and only for the following authorized activities:

1. Public affairs expenditures incurred in defending state and federal legislative challenges affecting GoWest credit unions;
2. Costs associated with lawsuits brought on behalf of, or in conjunction with legislative or regulatory challenges affecting GoWest credit unions, or the filing of amicus curiae briefs;
3. Legal costs related to research of legislative or regulatory challenges affecting GoWest credit unions;
4. The commissioning of academic papers directly related to legislative or regulatory challenges affecting GoWest credit unions;
5. Media and public relations expenditures relating to legislative, regulatory or legal challenges affecting GoWest credit unions;
6. Targeted public relations efforts designed to increase the public's awareness of credit unions;
7. Grassroots mobilization costs incurred in defending against state or federal legislative or regulatory challenges;

8. Costs associated with other states' legal and/or public policy battles, if expended with the purpose of containing the issue, and keeping it from spreading to the GoWest region; and
9. Direct electoral advocacy on behalf of pro-credit union candidates i.e. partisan communications and/or related activities such as research or polling.