The Nonprofit Sector in the United States: Size and Scope

Elizabeth T. Boris, Ph.D.

Director

Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy

The Urban Institute

Washington, D.C.



National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS)

- Mission is to develop and disseminate high quality data on nonprofit organizations and their activities for use in research on the relationships between the nonprofit sector, government, the commercial sector, and the broader civil society
- Housed at The Urban Institute's Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy



Characteristics of U.S. Nonprofit Organizations

- Diversity is the dominant feature:
 - Large, small
 - Varied missions, activities
 - Different board, management styles
 - Staffed by professionals, volunteers, both
 - Mixed Revenues—government grants,
 contracts, fees for services, contributions



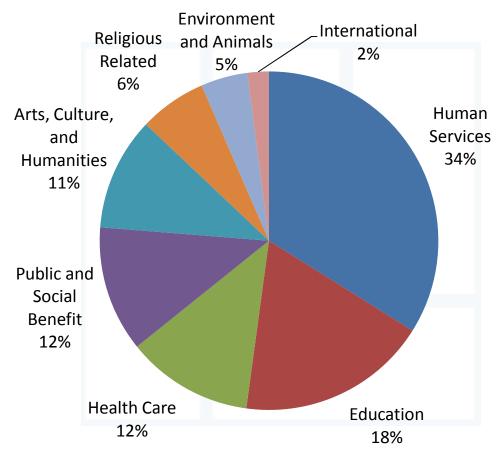
Scope of the U.S. Nonprofit Sector

- 1.43 million nonprofits in 2009
- 1.56 million nonprofits in 2012
- 386,000 religious congregations
- 1 million registered charitable nonprofits (including private foundations) in 2011



A Snapshot of the Nonprofit Sector

501(c)(3) Public Charities by Type, 2010



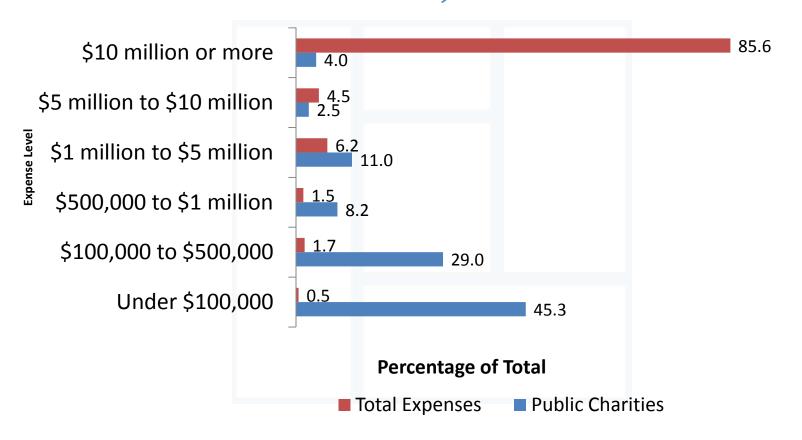


Economic Impact of Nonprofit Sector, 2010

- Contributed 5.5% to GDP
- Paid \$576.9 billion in wages and salaries,
 9% of U.S. Total
- Employed an estimated 13.7 million people
- Had \$2.1 trillion in revenues and
- \$1.9 trillion in expenses

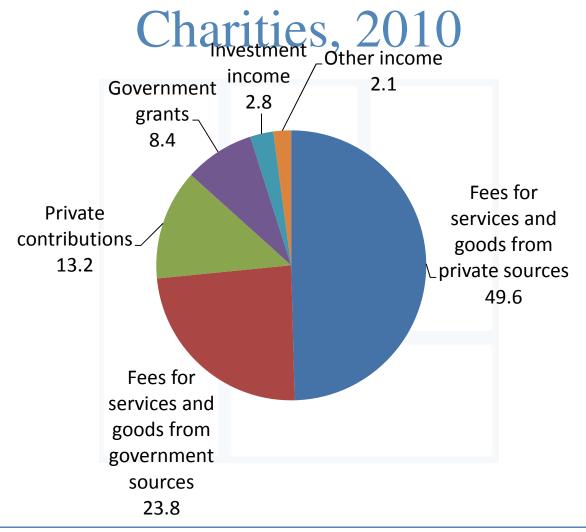


A Snapshot of the Nonprofit Sector, 2010





Sources of Revenue for Public





Private Giving by Type

Individual giving

80.6%

- \$211.8 B

72.8%

Bequests - \$22.8 B

7.8%

Corporate giving

5.3%

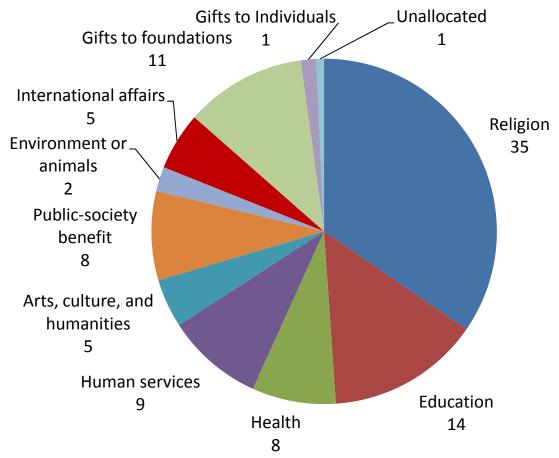
Foundation giving

14.1%

Congregations receive 35% of total



Estimated Distributions of Private Contributions by Recipient Area, 2010





Volunteering

- 26.3 percent of the population volunteered in 2010, or 62.8 million volunteers
- 6.8 percent of the population volunteers each day, or over 16.6 million volunteers per day in 2010
- 52 hours/year median
- 14.9 billion hours were volunteered in 2010, \$19.07 per hour (2006)
- Equivalent to 8.8 million full time employees earning \$283.3 billion

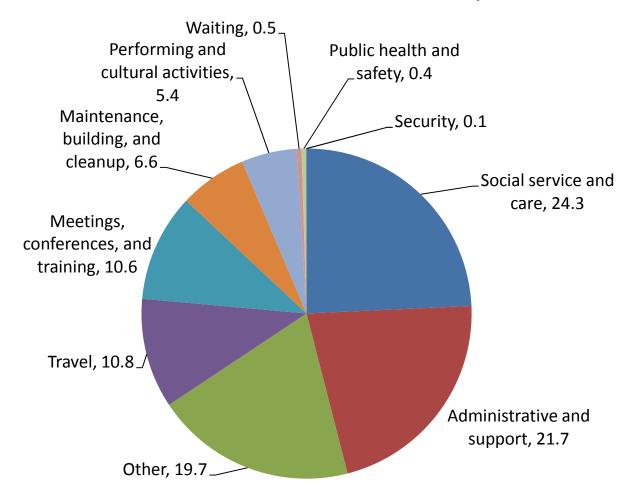


Types of Activities

- Deliver Services (for example, food, housing, health care, child care, education, etc.)
- Develop Arts and Culture (music, dance, traditions, etc.)
- Conduct Research and Share Information
- Engage Citizens and Advocate for Change



Volunteer Activities, 2010





The Nonprofit Landscape

- Contributions are 13.2% of revenues and static
 - Foundations, individual, and corporate giving
- Volunteers 15 billion hours, equivalent of 8.8 million employees, \$283.8 billion value, also static
- Rely more on fees and government contracts and grants with resulting requirements for:
 - Financial accountability, transparency
 - Marketing and contracting expertise
 - Performance measures, outcomes and results



Contact Information

Elizabeth T. Boris, Ph.D.

Director

Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy

The Urban Institute

2100 M Street NW

Washington, DC 20016

202-261-5770

Eboris@urban.org

Data Source: Nonprofit Almanac 2012; Nonprofit Sector in Brief 2012 (Urban Institute, 2012) www.urban.org

