Research, Reports, and Data on the Nonprofit Sector

Nonprofits depend upon quality research to, among other things, increase their understanding, improve their operations and programs, and advance their public policy and public awareness initiatives.

Nonprofit Impact Matters: How America’s Charitable Nonprofits Strengthen Communities and Improve Lives
The story of the nonprofit sector, told from the nonprofit perspective for the first time.

Read the report and view additional nonprofit sector research and data

Recent Reports from the National Council of Nonprofits

- The Scope and Impact of Nonprofit Workforce Shortages (December 2021, updated July 2022)
- Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits: Principles, Recommendations, and Models for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (October 2021, updated April 2022)
- See the data pages on our Nonprofit Impact Matters site for more data and reports - including state-level data - on how the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic crisis have affected nonprofits.

State Nonprofit Economic Impact Reports

- Alaska
  - Alaska’s Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact (2021)
- Arizona
  - Beyond the Bottom Line: The Economic and Social Impact of Arizona Nonprofits (2018)
- California
- Colorado
  - Colorado Nonprofit Economic Impact Study (2019)
- Connecticut
  - State of the Connecticut Nonprofit Sector (2022)
- District of Columbia
  - Nonprofits Count (2016)
- **Florida**

- **Hawai`i**

- **Idaho**
  - *State of the Sector Report* (2022)

- **Illinois**

- **Kentucky**
  - *More Than Charity: Kentucky's Nonprofit Sector* (2020)

- **Louisiana**
  - *State of the Nonprofit Sector Economic Report* (2022)

- **Maine**
  - *Adding Up Impact: Maine Nonprofits at Work* (2021)

- **Maryland**
  - *Maryland Nonprofits by the Numbers* (2021)
  - *Strengthening Communities: The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector on Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore* (2019)
  - *Nonprofits Count* (2016)

- **Massachusetts**
  - *Poverty in Massachusetts: Lower Than Average But Far Too High, Especially for Children*

- **Michigan**
  - *2015 Michigan Civic Health Index*

- **Minnesota**

- **Missouri**
  - *2015 Landscape Report: Quantifying Missouri's Nonprofit Sector*

- **Montana**
- Montana Nonprofit Economic Impact Report (2023)
- Nebraska
  - Nebraska's Nonprofit Sector (2019)
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
  - New Jersey Nonprofits 2023: Trends and Outlook
  - New Jersey Nonprofits 2022: Trends and Outlook
- New York
  - State of the Nonprofit Sector in New York State (2023)
  - The Economic Power of the Hudson Valley's Charitable Nonprofit Sector (2022)
  - The Economic Impact of NYC Nonprofit Organizations (2020)
- North Carolina
  - Nonprofits' Impact on North Carolina (2016)
  - Essential: Our State's Nonprofit Sector is a Vital Economic Engine (2015)
- North Dakota
  - North Dakota Nonprofit Sector Impact (2019)
- Oregon
- South Carolina
  - South Carolina's Nonprofit Sector Impact (2018)
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
  - Utah Nonprofit Sector Report (2021)
  - Utah Economic Report to the Governor (2021)
- Vermont
- Virginia
  - Virginia Nonprofit Sector Report (2023)
  - State of the Nonprofit Sector on the Virginia Peninsula (2019)
- Washington
More Reports from the National Council of Nonprofits

- *The Nonprofit Overtime Implementation Conundrum* (July 2016)
- *Toward Common Sense Contracting: What Taxpayers Deserve* (May 2014)
- *A Dozen Common Sense Solutions to Government-Nonprofit Contracting Problems* (December 2013)
- *Investing for Impact: Indirect Costs Are Essential for Success* (September 2013)
- *Partnering for Impact: Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform Task Forces Produce Results for Taxpayers* (April 2013)
- *Three Simple Things Statewide and Local Elected Officials Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money* (October 2012)
- *Three Simple Things State Legislators Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money* (October 2012)
- *Costs, Complexification, and Crisis: Government’s Human Services Contracting “System” Hurts Everyone* (October 2010)
- *State Budget Crises: Ripping the Safety Net Held by Nonprofits* (March 2010)

Notable Regularly Updated Reports on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector

- Building Movement Project
- Fundraising Effectiveness Project
- Giving USA
Sources of Research on the Nonprofit Sector

- Association for Research on Nonprofits and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
- Candid's U.S. Social Sector Dashboard
- Congressional Research Service
- Council on Foundations
- Foundation Center
- George Mason University Center on Nonprofits, Philanthropy, and Social Enterprise
- Government Accountability Office
- Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University
- International Society for Third-Sector Research
- Johns Hopkins University, Nonprofit Economic Data Project
- The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University
- National Center for Charitable Statistics
- National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
- Nonprofit Quarterly
- Regulatory breadth index (RBI)
- Stanford Social Innovation Review
- Urban Institute