Problems with Government Contracts and Grants

2012 Government Experience Compared to Previous Year

- Better: 3%
- Same: 70%
- Worse: 28%

Nonprofits Reporting Limitations on Full Costs in Government Contracts and Grants

- Payments do not cover full cost of contracted services:
  - Not a problem: 39%
  - Small problem: 19%
  - Big problem: 42%
  - State rank: 10

- Complexity of/time required by application process:
  - Not a problem: 32%
  - Small problem: 38%
  - Big problem: 30%
  - State rank: 28

- Complexity of/time required by reporting process:
  - Not a problem: 19%
  - Small problem: 48%
  - Big problem: 32%
  - State rank: 4

- Government changes to contracts/grants midstream:
  - Not a problem: 34%
  - Small problem: 46%
  - Big problem: 20%
  - State rank: 2

- Late payments (beyond contract specifications):
  - Not a problem: 65%
  - Small problem: 22%
  - Big problem: 13%
  - State rank: 32

Nonprofits Reporting Limitations on Full Costs in Government Contracts and Grants

- Percent of nonprofits reporting limits on program administrative/overhead: 58%
- Percent of nonprofits reporting limits on general administrative/overhead: 54%
- Contracts require matching or sharing costs: 32%
- Grants require matching or sharing costs: 48%

Organizations Reporting Overhead Limits, by Limit Amount and Type***

- Program overhead
  - 0-15%: 4
  - 16-30%: 12
  - 31-45%: 22
  - 46-60%: 37

- General overhead
  - 0-15%: 11
  - 16-30%: 15
  - 31-45%: 23
Overview of Nonprofit Contractors and Grantees

Nonprofits with government contracts and grants: 1,216

Million dollars in contracts and grants: $4,631

Types of Organizations

- Arts, culture, and humanities: 6%
- Education: 2%
- Environment and animals: 2%
- Health: 17%
- Human services: 58%
- Other: 16%

Average number of Government Agencies Nonprofits Worked with in 2012

- 1 agency: 25%
- 2 to 4 agencies: 51%
- 5 or more agencies: 25%

Actions Taken by Nonprofits

- Reduced number of employees: 28% (Wisconsin), 26% (National)
- Reduced offices or program sites: 12% (Wisconsin), 7% (National)
- Reduced health, retirement, or other staff benefits: 9% (Wisconsin), 12% (National)
- Drew on reserves: 47% (Wisconsin), 42% (National)
- Borrowed funds or increased lines of credit: 23% (Wisconsin), 22% (National)
- Reduced number of programs or services: 12% (Wisconsin), 11% (National)
- Froze or reduced employee salaries: 17% (Wisconsin), 14% (National)

Financial Status of Nonprofits with Government Contracts and Grants

Expenditure Size of Nonprofits with Deficits

- Wisconsin: 9% of $100,000 to $249,999, 26% of $250,000 to $999,999, 48% of $1 million or more
- National: 17% of $100,000 to $249,999, 36% of $250,000 to $999,999, 65% of $1 million or more

Wisconsin Nonprofits Experiencing Declines in Revenue from

- Local government agencies: 46%
- State government agencies: 38%
- Federal government agencies: 48%
- Individual donations: 22%
- Private foundations: 31%
- Corporate donations: 39%
- Investment income: 39%


* Data reported are based on a national survey of 501(c)(3) public charities with expenses of $100,000 or more. Hospitals and higher education as well as nonprofits not likely to have government contracts and grants were excluded from the sample. Analysis is limited to nonprofits reporting government contracts or grants. See Methodology section for more details on response rate and data weights.

**State rankings: 1=highest percentage of nonprofits reporting problem; 51=lowest percentage of nonprofits reporting problem. See appendix for more details.

***Organizational overhead or administrative expenses include costs associated with the organization as a whole that cannot be attributed to a program (such as utilities, accounting staff, or a receptionist). Program overhead or administrative expenses refer to administrative expenses directly related to programs and services (that is, program administration, such as computer use, copying, rent, and telephone use).

n/r= Data not reported or too few respondents answered the question.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding. The full report on the national survey is available at www.urban.org/publications/412962.html.