



INDIANA NONPROFITS

Scope and Community Dimensions

Nonprofit Survey Series
Report #2

THE INDIANA NONPROFIT SECTOR: A PROFILE

A JOINT PRODUCT OF
THE CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY
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VI. CONCLUSION

Several findings stand out from our analysis. First, Indiana nonprofits are engaged in an enormous variety of activities and play a critical role in addressing a broad range of community needs: they meet spiritual needs; they provide a wide mixture of services to the broader community and/or their members; and they serve as primary vehicles for the state's residents to express collective values and pursue civic engagement. Given this diversity of services, it is no wonder that many nonprofits report significant increases in demand for services.

Second, to succeed in these efforts, Indiana nonprofits must deliver high quality programs and acquire the financial and human resources to do so. They must also manage these resources effectively and efficiently. Our findings show that they depend on a variety of funding sources and on their ability to engage volunteers to serve as board members, raise funds, deliver services, or support the organization in other ways. However, significant segments of the state's nonprofits face major challenge in securing these financial and human resources.

Third, we find major differences on many dimensions across the major nonprofit fields of activity examined—religion, human services, public/societal benefits, arts/culture/humanities, education, health, and all other types combined. There are some notable differences by the size, funding mix, and age of Indiana nonprofits, at least some of which cannot be fully separated from the major fields of activities.

Fourth, there are important differences in the profiles of the nonprofit sector across selected regions for the state. These include some differences in the distribution of nonprofits across major fields. There are also some regional variations in how major nonprofit fields differ in targeting their services to particular groups, face increased demands in services, or exhibit different financial profiles.

These conclusions—that Indiana nonprofits show important strengths, but also face significant challenges and that these vary a great deal across major nonprofit fields of activity and among regions—are particularly noteworthy. It means that efforts to build on strengths and/or address challenges will need to be carefully tailored to the particular combinations involved. In turn, that will require the sustained involvement of public and private

sector decision makers. It will also require dedicated efforts by nonprofits themselves—collaborating and networking to build on their strengths—to solve the problems they face and make their needs known and understood. Such efforts are essential given the tough fiscal crisis which the state and many units of local government now face, especially when combined with major challenges nonprofits face in securing philanthropic donations because of the recession and other uncertainties.

Our comprehensive report documents the many strengths and benefits that Indiana nonprofits bring to the daily lives of the state's residents, its communities, and its economy. We hope our analysis serves to preserve and further advance these strengths and benefits.