

Talking Points & Context

Effective Recovery Policies Require Regular Nonprofit Employment Data

Use the following talking points and context to engage policymakers, constituents, and nonprofit advocates.

Nonprofits Are an Essential Partner to Government, But Are Poorly Understood

- From healthcare to housing, education to environmental protection, government at all levels relies on charitable nonprofits to generate innovative new solutions and provide critical services throughout the country.
- At more than 10% of the private workforce the nonprofit sector is also a major job creator and component of local economies, outdistancing all branches of manufacturing, all construction, and all finance and insurance.
- Nonprofits' economic role often surprises policymakers and the public, in part due to the lack of timely information about the sector.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is Not Meeting its Mission on Nonprofit Data

- The mission of the BLS includes a charge to "measure labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making."
- Industries like goat farming and limousine service receive regular quarterly workforce data, while the nonprofit sector – the nation's third largest workforce – is required to purchase this information or wait years for it.
- Policymakers and nonprofit executives are left without adequate information to assess needs and develop responses for this key piece of the American economy.

COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Underscored and Amplified the Need for Regular Nonprofit Data

- The global economic and public health crisis caused by COVID-19 devastated the finances of many nonprofits at a time of skyrocketing need. While nonprofit leaders were hit by dramatic swings in revenue, costs, and

- employment, the BLS was not able to release regular nonprofit employment and wage data that could help policymakers respond.
- Nonprofit researchers from Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies made heroic efforts to provide regular estimates but had to use uncertain projections based on old data.
 - Lacking adequate official data from BLS, nonprofits were forced to divert significant resources to gathering replacement data, and relief legislation was less effective as a result.