

Time Sensitive Congressional Advocacy Asks – Due before May 8

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Advocate for Representatives to Sign on To Letter of Support for Funding the Bureau of Labor Statistics to Incorporate Nonprofit Wage and Employment Data in the QCEW

Representative Seth Magaziner has released a “Dear Colleague” e-sign on appropriations letter in support of BLS funding for the inclusion of nonprofit data in the QCEW.

Today’s Ask:

In partnership with Independent Sector, National Council of Nonprofits and the Nonprofit Infrastructure Coalition, we are asking that supporters (nonprofits, funders, support organizations, community members) contact all of your Congressional Representatives to:

- 1. Share why timely, accurate nonprofit wage and employment data is so important for your state. You can share about the important work of nonprofits in your state, as well as any information you have about workforce issues faced by local nonprofits. You can adapt the template below with the percentage of workers in your state who are employed by nonprofits. To see your state’s “nonprofit share of private employment”, see Appendix A on page 17 of the [2020 Nonprofit Employment Report](#).**
- 2. Ask the Representative to sign on to Representative Seth Magaziner’s e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter called, “[FY25 BLS Funding for Nonprofit Data](#).”**
- 3. If they have questions about the letter, they can contact Emily Mercado in Representative Magaziner’s office at emily.mercado@house.mail.gov**
- 4. Please email nancy.wolanski@unitedwayri.org to let us know about the responses you receive.**

If you have an existing relationship with any House office staff members, please engage with them directly. If you don’t have an existing relationship, please contact the State Director or Legislative Director with your request.

Representatives who are on the Appropriations Committee are the highest priority, but engaging with all Congressional offices is important.

TEMPLATE

Please contact your House offices with a request similar to this:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), through its Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, publishes quarterly information that covers more than 95% of U.S. jobs. These reports provide granular data for a wide array of industries and jobs, which public officials and industry leaders use to make economic, financial and policy decisions. However, while BLS publishes this data for a wide range of sectors, it has not provided quarterly data for the nonprofit sector. Nonprofit sector data has instead been released only every five years, which means that public officials and nonprofit employers are forced to make decisions about the provision of essential services, organizational strategy, and workforce projections, without timely or accurate data.

Since the nonprofit sector is a critical partner to government, and a frontline service provider in communities across the state, we are writing to request that you sign on to Representative Magaziner’s “FY25 BLS Funding for Nonprofit Data” e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter.

*In our state, nonprofit employees make up **% of the workforce. State and nonprofit leaders need access to quarterly nonprofit wage and employment data so that they can develop informed, timely workforce strategies, and ensure that residents are able to receive the essential programs and services they need.*

Please support our state’s nonprofit sector by signing on to Representative Magaziner’s e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter. We are pleased to stand with [24 national nonprofits and networks](#) in asking for this data in FY25.

In Representative Magaziner’s office, Emily Mercado (emily.mercado@mail.house.gov) is available to answer any questions you might have about the letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you,

Name

Title

Organization

SENATE

Advocate for Senators to Sign on To Letter of Support for Funding the Bureau of Labor Statistics to Incorporate Nonprofit Wage and Employment Data in the QCEW

Senator Jack Reed has released a “Dear Colleague” e-sign on appropriations letter in support of BLS funding for the inclusion of nonprofit data in the QCEW.

Today’s Ask:

In partnership with Independent Sector, the National Council of Nonprofits and the Nonprofit Infrastructure Coalition, we are asking that supporters (nonprofits, funders, support organizations, community members) contact both of your Senators to:

- 1. Share why timely, accurate nonprofit wage and employment data is so important for your state. You can share about the important work of nonprofits in your state, as well as any information you have about workforce issues faced by local nonprofits. You can adapt the template below with the percentage of workers in your state who are employed by nonprofits. To see your state’s “nonprofit share of private employment”, see Appendix A on page 17 of the [2020 Nonprofit Employment Report](#).**
- 2. Ask the Senator to sign on to Senator Reed’s e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter called, “[FY25 BLS Funding for Nonprofit Data](#).”**
- 3. If they have questions about the letter, they can contact Max Cavas in Senator Reed’s office at Maxwell_Cavas@Reed.Senate.gov**

4. Please email nancy.wolanski@unitedwayri.org to let us know about the responses you receive.

If you have an existing relationship with any Senate office staff members, please engage with them directly. If you don't have an existing relationship, please contact the State Director or Legislative Director with your request.

Representatives who are on the Appropriations Committee are the highest priority, but engaging with all Congressional offices is important.

TEMPLATE

Please contact your Senate offices with a request similar to this:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), through its Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, publishes quarterly information that covers more than 95% of U.S. jobs. These reports provide granular data for a wide array of industries and jobs, which public officials and industry leaders use to make economic, financial and policy decisions. However, while BLS publishes this data for a wide range of sectors, it has not provided quarterly data for the nonprofit sector. Nonprofit sector data has instead been released only every five years, which means that public officials and nonprofit employers are forced to make decisions about the provision of essential services, organizational strategy, and workforce projections, without timely or accurate data.

Since the nonprofit sector is a critical partner to government, and a frontline service provider in communities across the state, we are writing to request that you sign on to Senator Reed's "FY25 BLS Funding for Nonprofit Data" e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter.

*In our state, nonprofit employees make up **% of the workforce. State and nonprofit leaders need access to quarterly nonprofit wage and employment data so that they can develop informed, timely workforce strategies, and ensure that residents are able to receive the essential programs and services they need.*

Please support our state's nonprofit sector by signing on to Senator Reed's e-Dear Colleague appropriations letter. We are pleased to stand with [24 national nonprofits and networks](#) in asking for this data in FY25.

In Senator Reed's office, Max Cavas (maxwell_cavas@reed.senate.gov) is available to answer any questions you might have about the letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you,

Name

Title

Organization

Background

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) tracks quarterly wage and employment data for 95% of private employment across the country. Most industry sectors receive this data four times a year through BLS' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). This provides timely, accurate information to inform decision-making by policymakers and employers, workforce projections to inform workforce development needs and pipelines, and context to quickly and strategically respond to emerging trends and crises.

More than 10% of the nation's private workforce is employed by nonprofit organizations, making it the third largest workforce in the country, behind only retail and accommodation/food services. Almost 12.5 million people work for nonprofit organizations, and the sector is an economic engine. Nonprofits paid over \$670 billion in wages nationwide in 2017, making it the third largest generator of payroll income in the U.S. behind only professional/technical services and manufacturing. In the decade before the pandemic, the nonprofit sector was a dynamic sector contributing significantly to employment growth. From 2007-2017, the nonprofit sector increased its workforce by 18.6%. By contrast, for-profit employment in the economy as a whole grew by only 6.2%. To see your state's "nonprofit share of private employment", see Appendix A on page 17 of the [2020 Nonprofit Employment Report](#).

Unfortunately, BLS only releases nonprofit sector data every five years, so the last data release was in 2017, with no data available for the subsequent years or during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic put tremendous strain on community-based organizations across the country, as they struggled to address crisis level health, economic, psychological, and social needs in their communities. Nonprofit staff worked long hours over multiple years to provide essential services, like disaster relief, health services and behavioral health, basic needs like food and housing, and community development, often on behalf of federal, state and local government.

These staff have experienced extreme burnout and are increasingly leaving the sector. Nonprofit organizations are struggling to fill vacant positions, which results in waitlists for essential services, and increased burnout for remaining staff.

Understaffed support programs for seniors and people with disabilities, childcare, afterschool, and workforce development programs have hampered the ability of businesses to recover/continue to grow and the ability of adult family members to return to the workforce.

It is critically important to understand the scope of the nonprofit workforce crisis. Timely, accurate data is needed to develop solutions to strengthen workforce pipelines and ensure the sustainability of these foundational organizations, but currently, policymakers and nonprofit leaders only have access to data from 2017.

The Solution:

In 2021, Community leaders and researchers from across the country formally asked BLS to release nonprofit data on the same quarterly schedule it does for all other industries: <https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Ltr-to-DOL-Secretary-Walsh-8.6.pdf>

Last year, 24 national nonprofit organizations and networks reiterated the importance of including nonprofit data in the QCEW: <https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Nonprofit-Workforce-Data-in-FY-25-Request-Letter-to-WH.pdf>

BLS has indicated that they are able to incorporate nonprofit data into the QCEW, and have communicated their willingness to do so if they are provided additional resources. Funding for the inclusion of nonprofit data in the QCEW was not included in the Department of Labor FY25 budget. Therefore, the funding needs to be allocated through the Appropriations process currently getting underway.

Sign on “Dear Colleague” letters are being spearheaded by Senator Reed’s office in the Senate and Representative Magaziner’s office in the House. These are electronic letters circulated to every Congressional office. The title of both the Senate and House letters is **“FY25 Funding for Nonprofit Data.”**