EMPOWERING



NONPROFITS

Uniting to Meet the Challenges We Face as Nonprofits

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Overview – Setting the Scene

- An older understanding of nonprofits and American life
- Where we've been
- What we're hearing
 - Highlight: tough finances, more need and red tape
 - Highlight: erosion of public trust, crisis of legitimacy
- Not as well known in Texas
 - Government withholding payments to nonprofits
 - New Taxes and fees
- Crisis of legitimacy What we can do

An older understanding

- Private associations
- Exceptional new civilization
- Responsibility and common men and women
- Softening individualism: broadening hearts and minds
- Elevating and stretching the possible
- Preserving freedom



An older understanding

- "Nothing, in my view, more deserves attention than associations in America."
- "If men [and women] are to remain civilized ... the art of association must develop and improve among them at the same speed as equality ... spreads."



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Back to the present – TANO around Texas – Listening

- El Paso, Laredo, Alpine, Amarillo, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock
- San Angelo, Wichita Falls, Abilene
- Dallas, Fort Worth, Sherman, Denton
- Houston, Galveston, Beaumont
- Austin, Round Rock, Killeen, San Antonio, San Marcos
- Corpus Christi, Kingsville, Harlingen, McAllen
- Tyler, Jacksonville
- Statewide Task Force (Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector):
 Austin, Dallas, Houston, El Paso, Harlingen

- Continued fiscal distress/ decreased revenue from traditional sources
 - Corporations
 - Foundations
 - Government
 - Individuals



- Growing needs
 - More people hungry
 - More people unemployed and underemployed
 - More people uninsured and underinsured
 - More home foreclosures and more people homeless
- Governments abandoning programs, off loading on to Nonprofits



- Heightened competition
- Increased demands to demonstrate performance
- Pressures to attract qualified workers



- Increased public scrutiny
 - Sarbanes Oxley
 - Whistleblower protection policy and procedures
 - Document retention and destruction policy
 - Executive compensation
 - New 990s
 - Federal pre-emption of state nonprofit laws
 - Potential tightening of auditing and other standards

- An erosion of public support and trust
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and ranking member Chuck Grassley – proposals to "fix" alleged scandals:
 - Recurring renewal of 501(c) 3 tax exempt status
 - "accreditation" of larger nonprofits
 - Increased fees for all IRS filings
 - Performance based reviews as part of 990 report
 - Establish Federal standards for boards and ethics issues
 - Limit board size; IRS could disqualify certain persons
 - Mandatory CPA audits; and attached to 990

Not as well known in Texas

- Government withholding payments contractually owed to nonprofits
- Fiscal Policy initiatives: New Taxes and Fees



Not as well known

- Withholding payments contractually owed to nonprofits
- Exhaustively documented in Urban Institute Study: Human Services Nonprofits and Government Collaboration: Findings from the 2010 National Survey of Nonprofit Government Contracting and Grants
 - Paying less than it costs to deliver
 - In essence, nps loaning to government
 - Avoidable inefficiencies foisted on nps
 - Increasing burden: complexifying reporting requirements

Not as well known

- Fiscal policy initiatives in other states (and Texas)
 - New taxes and fees: Pilots
 - SB 714 (=HB 1022): Drainage fees (PILOTs) imposed by the City of Houston on utility-using tax-exempt properties owned by charitable and religious organizations would be banned by state law. Above bill seeks to ban and was passed by Senate. On 4-6-2011, the Houston City Council passed an ordinance exempting churches and schools from the previously-enacted drainage fees, in response to the local public outcry and the state legislation referenced above.

Crisis of Legitimacy

- Lack of understanding
 - Relationship of nonprofits and government in providing services
 - Ongoing shifting of services to nonprofit sector
 - Basics what is a nonprofit?
 - Forgetful of American distinctiveness
- Isolation, anomie, fear, reluctance to stand up

Crisis of Legitimacy

- Further aggravating
 - Taxation of tax-exempt organizations
 - State budget crisis not going away anytime soon
 - Really puts the question squarely: why are nonprofits treated differently?

One response: State Association Movement and the National Council

- 42 state associations nation's largest network of nonprofits
- 25,000 nonprofits (goal 100,000)
- Connecticut Cabinet official for nonprofit relationships
- Illinois Guidelines for government/nonprofit relationships
- Texas 2nd Task Force (improving relations with nonprofits)



Response: TANO

- Over 800 members (up from 350 last year)
- Statewide presence established and growing
- One of fastest growing associations
- Growing because meeting the needs of nonprofits
 - Advocacy
 - Convenient programming and consulting
 - Benefits that strengthen organizations/Cross-sector Collaborations

What we can do: know who we are

- Texas nonprofit sector: 403,196 workers (2nd quarter, 2008)
- 3.8% of total workforce (1 out of every 26)
- 8 x as many workers as state's utilities industry
- 5 x oil and gas extraction industry
- 2 x real estate and leasing industry
- 20% more than the entire Texas state government



What we can do: know who we are

- Texas nonprofit sector: small
- 95% all NPs have gross revenue less than \$1 million
- 92% less than \$500,000
- 88.4% less than \$250,000
- 82.2% less than \$100,000
- 55% of all TX nonprofit jobs are in health services
- 15% in educational services
- 12% in social assistance



What we can do: advocate

- TANO help us get the word out that NPs can engage in advocacy
 - Take the powerful, free, and easy 501(h) Election to safeguard your advocacy activities
 - "insubstantial" standard
- Extensive info on website
- PP Alerts
- PP Conference calls
- Non-ideological concern for sector wide issues



What we can do: HHSC Task Force

- Access to credit and capital
- Grant and contract process
- Coordination
- Communications plan
- HB 1965: TF on Improving Relations with Nonprofits

What we can do: Come together and Unite

- Build a new public awareness of the sector
- Be aware of its economic impact
- Tap older understandings of the sector's historic roots and distinctiveness
 - Distinctively American
 - Tempering individualism and preserving freedom

Sum up – Crisis of legitimacy: 2 futures

- New broad-scale public awareness of the role of nonprofits in American life
- Gradual, steady erosion of legitimacy and distinctive treatment under the law
- Critical moment
- "If I am not for myself, who is for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when? -- Hillel