



Published on National Council of Nonprofits (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org>)

Original URL: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-and-policy-issues/government-grants-and-contracts>

## Government Grants and Contracts

Governments at all levels depend on charitable nonprofits to provide efficient and effective services to residents that would be more costly if provided by others. Likewise, the nonprofit sector, as a whole, earns about a third of its total revenue by providing services under written agreements with governments.

The National Council of Nonprofits and its network of state associations of nonprofits are committed to improving the government-nonprofit contracting relationships and fix broken and antiquated grant/contracting systems in order to promote efficient and effective programs and services. The Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Guidance presents significant opportunities for nonprofits and governments to strengthen nonprofits and the services they provide.

### Key Issues

[Read about Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform](#)

## Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform

The National Council of Nonprofits has worked through its network of state associations of nonprofits and with governments to help repair the broken contracting "system."

[Read about OMB Uniform Guidance](#)

## **OMB Uniform Guidance**

Governments that hire nonprofits to deliver services are required to reimburse nonprofits for the reasonable indirect costs they incur when federal dollars are part of the funding stream.

[Read about Resources for Understanding Government Grants](#)

## **Resources for Understanding Government Grants**

Grants.gov is a government website where federal agencies post information about direct federal grants opportunities, referred to as "Funding Opportunity Announcements" or "Request for Proposals."

## **Reports**

[Read about Toward Common Sense Contracting: What Taxpayers Deserve](#)

## **Toward Common Sense Contracting: What Taxpayers Deserve**

Tested, replicable solutions to the government-nonprofit contracting problems and calls on all interested parties to join in efforts to promote common sense contracting.

[Read about Investing for Impact: Indirect Costs Essential for Success](#)

## **Investing for Impact: Indirect Costs Essential for Success**

How governments that hire charitable nonprofits to deliver services and then reimburse them for less than reasonable indirect costs undermine the ability of nonprofits to deliver high quality services.

[Read about Partnering for Impact: Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform Task Force Results for Taxpayers](#)

## **Partnering for Impact: Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform Task Force Results for Taxpayers**

Proven ways for governments and nonprofits to collaborate to save money for taxpayers and donors while maintaining or even improving client-based outcomes and enhancing accountability.

[Read about Costs, Complexification, and Crisis: Government's Human Services Contracting "System" Hurst Everyone](#)

## **Costs, Complexification, and Crisis: Government's Human Services Contracting "System" Hurst Everyone**

How contracting problems affect everyone in America, identification of specific practices that contribute to the problems being experienced, and proposed solutions.

## **White Papers**

[Read about A Dozen Common Sense Solutions to Government-Nonprofit Contracting Problems](#)

## **A Dozen Common Sense Solutions to Government-Nonprofit Contracting Problems**

Sample of common sense contracting and grantmaking solutions that can overcome specific problems that prevent governments and nonprofits partnerships from being successful.

[Read about Three Simple Things Statewide and Local Elected Officials Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money](#)

## **Three Simple Things Statewide and Local Elected Officials Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money**

Simple recommendations for statewide and local elected officials to strengthen communities, improve government, and save taxpayers money.

[Read about Three Simple Things State Legislators Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money](#)

## **Three Simple Things State Legislators Can Do to Strengthen Communities, Improve Government, and Save Taxpayers Money**

Simple recommendations for state legislators to strengthen communities, improve government, and save taxpayers money.

## **Additional Resources**

[Read about National Study of Nonprofit-Government Contracts and Grants 2013: State Profiles](#)

## **National Study of Nonprofit-Government Contracts and Grants 2013: State Profiles**

National and state-by-state snapshots of most types of nonprofit organizations that have contracts and grants with local, state, and federal governments.

[Read about Human Service Nonprofits and Government Collaboration](#)

# **Human Service Nonprofits and Government Collaboration**

Findings from the 2010 National Survey of Nonprofit Government Contracting and Grants.

[Read about Lessons Learned from Successful Task Forces](#)

## **Lessons Learned from Successful Task Forces**

Creation of inclusive, nonpartisan collaborations offers promising first steps for fixing broken contracting systems.

[Read about OMB Uniform Guidance Final Rule Analysis](#)

## **OMB Uniform Guidance Final Rule Analysis**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced major reforms to the Uniform Guidance, the set of common rules governing most federal grantmaking to charitable nonprofits and others.