



Partners in Public Service

Government-Nonprofit
Relations in the
Modern Welfare State

• LESTER M. SALAMON •

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"Cooperation between government and the nonprofit sector makes a great deal of sense both conceptually and practically. These two massive sets of institutions share many of the same basic objectives and have strengths and weaknesses that are mirror images of each other. Under the circumstances, the recent efforts to dismantle, or significantly curtail, this partnership seem singularly ill advised, even if they were largely unintended. A more sensible approach would be to find ways to make this partnership truly work, not only for the 'partners' but also for those being served. To do so, however, it will first be necessary to make clear how extensive the partnership is and what a substantial stake we all have in its effective operation."

—from the Introduction

Lester Salamon pioneered the study of nonprofit organizations and of their cooperation with government in the development and delivery of important social and economic services. His unique research in the early and mid-1980s was the first to document the pervasive interrelationships between government and the nonprofit sector in the United States, identifying some of crucial characteristics of nonprofit human service agencies and examining the impact of the budget and tax policies of the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Partners in Public Service brings together some of Lester Salamon's most important work on the changing relationship between government and the voluntary sector in the American version of the modern welfare state. Approaching issues from a variety of perspectives—theoretical, empirical, retrospective, prospective, and comparative—Salamon illuminates the theoretical basis of government-nonprofit cooperation, shows why government came to rely on nonprofit groups to administer public programs, documents the scope of the resulting partnership, reviews the consequences for this partnership of recent attempts to cut federal spending, and explores the expanding scope of government-nonprofit collaboration at the international level.

LESTER M. SALAMON is director of the Institute for Policy Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. His many books include *Human Capital and America's Future: An Economic Strategy for the Nineties*, co-edited with David W. Hornbeck and available from Johns Hopkins.

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