

THE STATE OF
NONPROFIT
AMERICA

LESTER M. SALAMON *editor*



LIKE THE ARTERIES of a living organism, nonprofit organizations carry a life force that has long been a centerpiece of American culture—a faith in the capacity of individual action to improve the quality of human life. They embody two seemingly contradictory impulses at the heart of American character: a deep-seated commitment to freedom and individual initiative and an equally fundamental realization that people live in communities and consequently have responsibilities that extend beyond themselves. Uniquely among American institutions, those in the nonprofit sector blend these competing impulses, creating a special class of entities dedicated to mobilizing private initiative for the common good.

While they are celebrated as a fundamental part of the American heritage, nonprofit organizations have recently confronted an extraordinary range of challenges—significant demographic shifts, fundamental changes in public policy and public attitudes, new commercial impulses, massive technological developments, and changes in lifestyle. Although nonprofit America has responded with creativity to many of these challenges, the responses have pulled the sector in directions that are, at best, poorly understood and, at worst, corrosive of its special character and role. But little headway has been made in tracking these developments systematically, in assessing their impact, and in getting the results into the hands of nonprofit practitioners, policymakers, the press, and the public at large.

[CONTINUED ON BACK FLAP]

This book is intended to fill this gap, to offer an overview of the state of America's nonprofit sector, and to identify the changes that might be needed to promote its long-term health. To do so, it assembles a set of original essays prepared by leading authorities on key components of the American nonprofit scene and on the key trends affecting their evolution. The result is the first integrated account of a set of institutions that we have long taken for granted, but that Alexis de Tocqueville recognized more than 175 years ago to be "more deserving of our attention" than any other part of the American experiment.

About the Editor

LESTER M. SALAMON is the former deputy associate director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and currently the director of the Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. He has written or edited more than twenty books, including a leading textbook on nonprofit institutions, *America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer* (The Foundation Center, 1999).

Jacket design by Mea Rhee

Advance Praise for

THE STATE OF NONPROFIT AMERICA

"*The State of Nonprofit America* gives us a much-needed assessment of one of the true treasures of American society—our private, nonprofit organizations—at a critically important moment in their development. All of those concerned about the special qualities of our society should read and ponder its message."

—PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, 2002 NOBEL LAUREATE

Tells a readable story of how a multitude of intertwined public and private trends—shifts in demography, public policy and attitudes, technology, the marketplace—have combined to shape today's diverse nonprofit sector. Beyond reporting on how the sector has responded to past challenges, it provides provocative suggestions for changes necessary to promote nonprofits' health over the long term. It is a welcome addition to the literature, and I commend this book to anyone interested in the special role nonprofits play in American life."

—DOROTHY S. RIDINGS, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

"Provides a revealing insight into the important role that nonprofit organizations have come to play in the effective operation of our publicly funded services. It makes clear why we must make this partnership work."

—STEPHEN GOLDSMITH, SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT FOR FAITH-BASED AND NONPROFIT INITIATIVES, MAYOR OF INDIANAPOLIS (1992–99)

"This is a thorough, extensive portrait of the nonprofit sector in the U.S. and the major fields of endeavor, presenting the challenges facing the sector and its limitations, while acknowledging its strengths and contributions. All those who care about the sector will find something of interest."

—SARA E. MELÉNDEZ, PRESIDENT AND CEO, INDEPENDENT SECTOR

"*The State of Nonprofit America* is an indispensable resource for those who seek to understand America's nonprofit sector and the forces that are shaping it. So good, so complete, it is both immediately relevant and bound to stand the test of time."

—PETER B. GOLDBERG, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION PRESS

Washington, D.C.

www.brookings.edu

PUBLISHED IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

ISBN 0-8157-0624-3



9 780815 706243

The State of Nonprofit America

Co-published by the Aspen Institute and Brookings Institution Press

The thousands of organizations that comprise America's private nonprofit sector represent a national treasure. Yet serious pressures are altering the playing field on which nonprofits operate, and many are responding in ways that may undermine their popular support.

Despite the significance of these developments, little has been done to analyze and interpret them in a clear and understandable way. Lester M. Salamon, a leading authority on the nonprofit sector, and the Aspen Institute have joined forces with more than a dozen experts to produce *The State of Nonprofit America*, an integrated, authoritative assessment of the state of nonprofit America and the key trends affecting its evolution.

The State of Nonprofit America summarizes critical opportunities and challenges, examines each of the sector's major fields, and assesses important cross-cutting trends and issues. It provides a basic sourcebook for sector leaders, the press, public officials, and citizens concerned about the future of America's nonprofit sector and eager to understand the forces affecting it.

Overview

The Resilient Sector: The State of Nonprofit America

Lester M. Salamon

Major Fields

Health

Bradford H. Gray and Mark Schlesinger

Education and Training

Donald M. Stewart, Pearl Rock Kane, and Lisa Scruggs

Social Services

Steven Rathgeb Smith

Arts and Culture

Margaret Wyszomirski

Housing and Community Development

Avis Vidal

International Assistance

Shepard Forman and Abby Stoddard

Religious Congregations

Mark Chaves

Civic Participation and Advocacy

Elizabeth T. Boris and Jeff Krehely

Infrastructure Organizations

Alan J. Abramson and Rachel McCarthy

Foundations and Corporate Philanthropy

Leslie Lenkowsky

Individual Giving and Volunteering

*Virginia A. Hodgkinson
with Kathryn E. Nelson and Edward D. Sivak, Jr.*

Major Challenges

Commercialization, Social Ventures, and For-Profit Competition

Dennis R. Young and Lester M. Salamon

**Devolution, Marketization, and the Changing Shape of
Government-Nonprofit Relations**

Kirsten Grønbjerg and Lester M. Salamon

Accountability, Effectiveness, and Public Perceptions

Evelyn Brody

Demographic and Technological Imperatives

Atul Dighe

For Whom and For What? The Contributions of the Nonprofit Sector

William A. Diaz

For more information contact:

The Aspen Institute

www.aspeninstitute.org/stateofnonprofitamerica

Winnifred Levy
202-736-5814

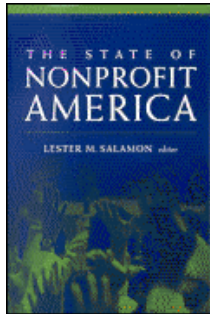
winnifred.levy@aspeninstitute.org

Scott C. Walsberger
202-736-2902

scott.walsberger@aspeninstitute.org

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2011

BOOK



The State of Nonprofit America

Lester M. Salamon, ed., Brookings Institution Press and Aspen Institute 2002 c. 563pp.

The thousands of organizations that comprise America's private nonprofit sector represent a national treasure. Yet serious pressures are altering the playing field on which nonprofits operate, and many are responding in ways that may undermine their popular support.

Despite the significance of these developments, little has been done to analyze and interpret them in a clear and understandable way. Lester M. Salamon, a leading authority on the nonprofit sector, has joined forces with more than a dozen other experts and the Aspen Institute to produce this volume, an integrated, authoritative assessment of the state of nonprofit America and the key trends affecting its evolution.

The book is organized into three sections. The first summarizes critical trends and issues; the second examines each of the sector's major subsectors (e.g., health, education, social services, arts and culture, international assistance, advocacy); the third focuses on major cross-cutting trends and issues (commercialization, changing government policy, accountability, and demographic and technological imperatives).

The State of Nonprofit America will be updated every two years. It provides a basic sourcebook for sector leaders, the press, public officials, and citizens concerned about the future of America's nonprofit sector and eager to understand the forces affecting it.

Ordering Information

Paper Text, 563 pages
978-0-8157-0623-6, **\$29.95**

[ORDER](#)

Cloth Text, 563 pages
978-0-8157-0624-3, **\$64.95**

[ORDER](#)

Your online order will be processed by The Hopkins Fulfillment Service.

[Order by Mail, Fax, or Phone »](#)

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Lester M. Salamon

Lester M. Salamon is the director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies. He has written or edited more than twenty books, including a leading textbook on nonprofit institutions, *America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer* (The Foundation Center, 1999).

SELECTED REVIEWS

"THE STATE OF NONPROFIT AMERICA is an indispensable resource for those who seek to understand America's nonprofit

sector and the forces that are shaping it. So good, so complete, it is both immediately relevant and bound to stand the test of time." Peter B. Goldberg, *Alliance for Children and Families*, 12/1/2003

"THE STATE OF NONPROFIT AMERICA gives us a much-needed assessment of one of the true treasures of American society-our private, nonprofit organizations-at a critically important moment in their development. All of those concerned about the special qualities of our society should read and ponder its message." President Jimmy Carter, *2002 Nobel Laureate*, 12/1/2002

"This is a thorough, extensive portrait of the nonprofit sector in the U.S. and the major fields of endeavor, presenting the challenges facing the sector and its limitations, while acknowledging its strengths and contributions. All those who care about the sector will find something of interest." Sara E. Meléndez, *Independent Sector*, 12/1/2003

"Provides a revealing insight into the important role that nonprofit organizations have come to play in the effective operation of our publicly funded services. It makes clear why we must make this partnership work." Stephen Goldsmith, *special adviser to the president for faith-based and nonprofit initiatives*, 12/1/2002