

## Presidential Candidate Questionnaire – 2020 Election

Independent Sector—the nation’s leading coalition of public charities, private foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs—requests your answers to the following questionnaire. Since our founding in 1980, we have advanced the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the charitable community in order to create a just and inclusive society of active citizens, effective institutions, and a healthy democracy. Independent Sector is a nonpartisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office.

Your responses will be shared with our members, who collectively represent tens of thousands of organizations of every size in every region of the country. At last tally, this network reaches over 27 million Twitter followers and more than 44 million Facebook likes. To allow us to share your full response, please keep answers to no more than 250 words. You may attach any related materials or expanded explanations of your answers. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact Dan Cardinali at [danc@independentsector.org](mailto:danc@independentsector.org).

### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

**Candidate Name:** Andrew Yang

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 214, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10018

**Website:** yang2020.com

### CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

**1) Please describe how you have been personally involved in, supported, or been affected by the nonprofit sector.**

Andrew Yang founded a nonprofit, Venture for America, in 2011, with the mission of revitalizing communities that suffered during the 2008 financial meltdown. Over 7 years, Yang helped young entrepreneurs and local businesses create thousands of jobs across Detroit, Columbus, St. Louis, New Orleans, Birmingham, and many other cities. It was working in these cities and seeing the economic distress in our country that convinced Yang to run for president to rewrite the rules of our economy to put people over profits and build a trickle up economy.

**2) Given its roles in delivering government services, pursuing innovative solutions, filling systemic gaps, and advocating for social change, the nonprofit sector is a key operating partner for every president. How will your administration rely on the nonprofit sector to implement your priorities, and how will you seek the sector’s input on those priorities?**

As the founder and leader of a nonprofit for seven years, Andrew Yang has had firsthand experience with the efficacy that these organizations have in translating policy vision into reality. The Yang administration will not lose sight of this as it seeks out partners to implement reform and cater to the new service demands and opportunities catalyzed by the Freedom Dividend. First, with an extra \$1000/mo, individuals will have more resources to support local non-profit groups that are engaged with each community. Additionally, the resources provided to individuals will make it easier for non-profits to find ways to be more effective. As an example, a non-profit dedicated to getting homeless individuals back on their feet could help them use the Freedom Dividend to find a place to live and get other care they need.

**3) Charitable giving is a central piece of our national identity and has been bolstered by the tax code for over 100 years. Do you believe that the tax code should encourage charitable giving, and in what ways?**

Andrew believes the tax code should encourage charitable giving. While he does believe that there are instances of abuse portions of the tax code around charitable giving, we should continue to use our system of taxation to encourage donations. Additionally, Andrew would direct the IRS to create a Prosperity Grant program. This will give every American \$100 per year to donate to a 501(c)3 non-profit. This would not only funnel approximately \$20 billion to local non-profit organizations, it would also increase civic engagement in local communities.

**4) In addition to financial support, Americans also give back by investing time in their communities. What role do you believe volunteerism and national service play in facing our nation's challenges, and what policies— if any—would you pursue to encourage volunteerism and national service?**

Volunteerism and national service better our communities and bring otherwise dissimilar Americans together. The Freedom Dividend will naturally encourage people to spend more time volunteering by removing the economic boot off of their throats allowing them to spend their time and attention on things they value more, like working in their community. It will also lower economic stress, which has been shown to make people less agreeable and less connected to their communities. Finally, Andrew would implement many programs that would encourage national service. These include student loan forgiveness programs and the American Exchange Program, where all high school students would spend time in another part of the country volunteering and working with people from across America.

**5) More than 10 percent of America's private workforce is employed by nonprofit organizations, but our sector faces unique workforce development challenges. How will you help nonprofit organizations attract, develop, diversify and retain the workforce needed to best serve their communities?**

Many Americans are stuck working in jobs that are not fulfilling due to financial restrictions. Andrew intends to implement forward-looking policies to give Americans the chance to pursue interests like nonprofit work without worrying about strain on themselves or their families. His first major initiative as President would be to implement a Freedom Dividend of \$1000 a month that would provide a foundation for every American to improve their own lives. With this policy implemented, Americans will have the economic freedom to work in jobs that they find more fulfilling.