

National Organizations Support Nonprofit Workforce Data Funding in FY25 Appropriations

June 13, 2024

Senator Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Robert Aderholt
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Shelly Moore Capito
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Capito, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As organizations representing the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, we urge you to correct a longstanding inequity in how the federal government reports wage and employment data through the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Specifically, we ask you to provide funding in the Fiscal Year 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for the BLS Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics to incorporate nonprofit organizations in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

By law, charitable nonprofits exist to serve a charitable purpose. They play a critical role in enriching our civil society and lifting their communities' voice. In addition to this work, the nonprofit sector is an economic powerhouse – the nation's third-largest employer at more than 12.5 million workers and 10% of the private workforce. In the course of doing good, these organizations constitute a vital piece of our nation's economy.

Most every sector of the economy – including many that are much smaller than nonprofits – can track its employment totals and wage information from BLS on a quarterly basis. This allows employers in those other sectors to benchmark their outcomes against larger trends, while helping policymakers understand challenges and craft responsive policy. Unfortunately, nonprofit organizations cannot do the same because nonprofit data are released only every five years, if resources permit, with the most recent data provided for 2017.

In addition to its fundamental unfairness, this system serves our sector and the American people extremely poorly. The nonprofit workforce is depleted and weary after years of crisis, leaving many vulnerable communities with frayed lifelines in an uncertain economy. According to its mission statement in the 2020-2025 strategic plan, the BLS "measures labor market activity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making." This mission simply cannot be achieved with a blind spot for the economy's third-largest employer.

Our request follows an analysis in the [BLS Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2025](#) (at page 8), which noted that nonprofit data could be integrated into the QCEW for just \$4-\$8 million per year, depending on the granularity of the data. That analysis – provided in response to [report language](#) from Congress – is further confirmation that such an investment would provide great value to the American economy, the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, and – most importantly – the communities that these organizations serve. For these reasons, we join with [more than 250 nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and scholars nationwide](#) in supporting the incorporation of nonprofit workforce data into the QCEW.

We look forward to working with you to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

American Red Cross
Aspen Institute Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Catholic Charities U.S.A.
Council on Foundations
Dance/USA
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity
Independent Sector
KABOOM!
League of American Orchestras
Lutheran Services in America
Mental Health America
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Council of Nonprofits
National Community Action Partnership
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Nonprofit Finance Fund
PEAK Grantmaking
Pillars Fund
Service Year Alliance
Social Current
The Nonprofit Alliance
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way Worldwide
YMCA of the USA
YWCA USA