



Access to Nonprofit Workforce Data

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) tracks employment and wages for over 95% of American jobs nationwide. This data allows businesses across all sectors of the economy to benchmark against larger industry trends, understand wage shifts, and make decisions informed by timely information every quarter. Nonprofit employers are already included in the datasets that are reflected in the QCEW.

Nonprofit Workforce Data is Infrequent and Out-of-Date

Charitable nonprofits are the nation's third-largest employer, providing 14 million jobs¹ across every state, district, and territory. Yet unlike other sectors, QCEW data on the nonprofit sector is released just once every five years. The most recent release, in August 2024, covered 2018–2022, already more than two years out of date the day it was published.

Inadequate workforce data hurts nonprofits' ability to plan, invest, and meet key needs on behalf of the communities they serve. It also hurts policymakers, who will be forced to develop workforce policies using 2022 data about the nonprofit workforce until new data is released in 2029.

Americans Support Better Nonprofit Workforce Data

71% of voters, including 71% of Republicans and 72% of Democrats, agree that nonprofits and policymakers need to receive regular data about the nonprofit sector workforce.²

BLS' own mission statement claims that it “measure labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision-making” — a mission it cannot fully achieve with a persistent blind spot for the economy's third largest employer.

Bottom Line

Providing nonprofit workforce data on a timely basis would not require any additional data collection by government agencies and would not add any burden for organizations.

Independent Sector urges Congress and the Administration to provide basic workforce data on nonprofit organizations, similar to data provided regularly to for-profit businesses. According to previous budgets, this could be accomplished with just \$4 million in new or repurposed resources.

¹ *Financial Insecurity in the Nonprofit Workforce*, Independent Sector. <https://independentsector.org/research/financial-insecurity-in-the-nonprofit-workforce/>

² *New Poll: What Voters Want from Congress and Nonprofits*. Independent Sector. <https://independentsector.org/blog/new-poll-what-voters-want-from-congress-and-nonprofits/>