

Nonprofit Workforce Data

The nonprofit sector is an economic power powerhouse: prior to the pandemic, it was the nation's third-largest employer with more than 12.5 million workers and 10% of the private workforce.¹ Yet, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not regularly report nonprofit employment and wage data. Charitable nonprofits, Congress, and the public need nonprofit employment and wage data to make informed decisions.

The Challenge

Almost every sector of the economy – including many that are much smaller than the charitable sector – can track its employment and wage information from BLS on a quarterly basis for free. Charitable nonprofits seeking similar information must purchase the data from third parties or wait for BLS to produce a nonprofit-specific dataset. Data on the charitable sector are released only every five years – if resources permit – with the most recent BLS data provided in 2017. Since then, nonprofits have reported significant workforce shortages; developing practical and policy solutions is difficult without knowing the scope of the challenges.²

The BLS Mission statement explains that the agency “measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.”³ This

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

- An additional \$4-8 million would allow BLS to generate quarterly estimates of nonprofit employment and wage data for all metropolitan statistical areas and eligible counties.
- This would include employment and wage data at the national and state levels, helping policymakers and nonprofits better plan for the future.

cannot be achieved when the third-largest employer is not accounted for.

Legislative Solution

Congress should provide funding for the BLS Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics to incorporate nonprofits in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). An analysis in the BLS Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2025 found that nonprofit data could be integrated into the QCEW for just \$4-8 million per year.⁴

The Ask

Will you work to secure 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?

¹ [Nonprofit Impact Matters](#), National Council of Nonprofits, 2019.

² [The Nonprofit Workforce Shortage Crisis](#), National Council of Nonprofits.

³ [Mission Statement](#), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, updated January 2, 2020.

⁴ [FY 2025 Congressional Budget Justification](#), page 8, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed June 25, 2024.