

Did You Know?

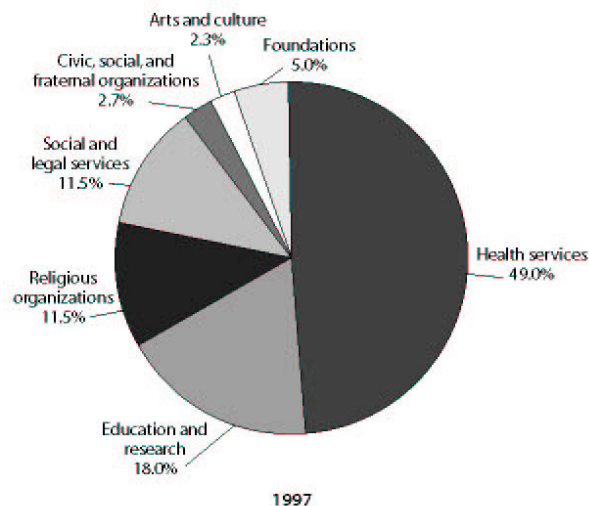
Facts About the Nonprofit Sector

From *The New Nonprofit Almanac & Desk Reference*

A joint project of INDEPENDENT SECTOR and the Urban Institute

- Almost 6 percent of all organizations in the United States are in the nonprofit sector.
- Between 1987 and 1997 the number of charitable organizations in the United States increased at an annual rate of 5.1 percent—more than double the growth rate experienced by the business sector.
- The entire nonprofit sector represented 9.3 percent of all paid employees in the U.S. in 1998.
- Between 1995 and 1998, charitable giving by individuals increased by over \$10 billion annually.
- An estimated 89 percent of reporting independent sector organizations are “operating” entities which deliver information, products, and services to their members and the public. The remaining 11 percent are “support” organizations, which collect funds and provide financial support to operating organizations.
- Estimates for the total annual revenue of the independent sector in 1997 are \$665 billion. Of this, 38 percent came from private payments for dues and services, 31 percent from government contracts and grants, 20 percent from private contributions, and 11 percent from other sources (including investments, interest, and dividends).
- In 1997 two subsectors, health services and education, disproportionately shared 67 percent of the total annual revenue of the independent sector.
- Education received the largest share of all foundation giving (24 percent) in 1998 in terms of both dollars and number of grants.
- Among all independent sector entities, religious organizations receive the largest share of funds from total private giving (individual, foundation, and corporate)—44 percent in 1998.

Independent Sector: Distribution of Revenue by Subsector, 1997



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