



INDEPENDENT SECTOR
A vital voice for us all

Independent Sector brings together the nonprofit community to increase its ability to improve lives and strengthen society.

How Independent Sector Leads the Nonprofit Community

IS provides leadership in public policy.

We convene charities, foundations, corporate giving programs, and those who work with them to amplify the nonprofit sector's voice with legislators, other government officials, and with the media. By organizing this collaboration, IS advances public policies that enable the nonprofit community to address the challenges facing America and the world.



IS helps the nonprofit community be more effective.

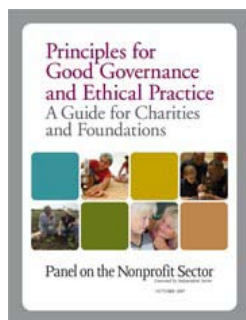
The collective expertise of our members strengthens nonprofit organizations individually and collectively. We help our field advocate for sensible public policies, encourage effective practices, increase accountability, examine trends that affect nonprofit organizations, and address other key issues.



IS brings together leaders to develop ideas and take action.

IS is the one organization that enables leaders and innovative thinkers from across the nonprofit community to connect with each other, invent new solutions, share messages, and inspire creativity. Working together, our impact extends far beyond any one field or organization.

Highlights of Independent Sector's Work



IS stands as a powerful advocate for sensible public policy.

IS continues to shape policies that help charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs improve lives. Most recently, we have given the nonprofit community a strong voice on the reforms and giving incentives included in the landmark Pension Protection Act of 2006 and in the 2007 revision of the IRS Form 990.

IS convened the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector.

Convened in 2004 at the encouragement of the leaders of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector has brought together thousands of leaders from across the nonprofit community to develop recommendations for maintaining the highest possible standards of transparency, governance, and accountability. Much of the Panel's *Final Report* (2005) was enacted into law via the Pension Protection Act of 2006, and its *Principles of Good Governance and Effective Practice* (2007) are providing thousands of nonprofits with valuable guidance.



IS organizes the nonprofit community's premier conference.

The IS Annual Conference is the premier meeting ground for leaders from throughout the nonprofit community, bringing together 1,000 people to address vital issues facing charities and foundations. The 2008 conference, to be held in Philadelphia right after this November's elections, will focus on the best ways for the nonprofit community to use our powerful voice to secure brighter futures for people across the country and around the world.

Strength of the IS Coalition

Our work today continues a tradition of more than 25 years. Since our founding in 1980, we have **sponsored ground-breaking research; fought for public policies** that support a dynamic nonprofit community; and **created unparalleled resources** for staff, boards, and volunteers to improve their organizations and better serve their communities.

Independent Sector's membership of **more than 600 organizations** collectively represents tens of thousands of charitable groups of every size in every region of the country, as well as millions of donors and volunteers. Our growing community encompasses public charities, private foundations, and corporate philanthropies across an amazingly diverse spectrum of missions.

Staff from our members work with their colleagues to **strengthen individual organizations, the nonprofit community, and society** in the United States and around the world. Last year, more than 250 leaders from members shaped IS's work through participation in our committees, which cover topics such as public policy, ethics and accountability, international issues, and communications.

IS members stay connected when they:



Receive **timely, regular updates** on key nonprofit issues through electronic briefings such as:

- Daily Policy Digest, the latest developments in legislation and regulation.
- *Daily Media Digest*, full versions of major media stories affecting the nonprofit community.
- *Memo to Members*, our monthly electronic newsletter.
- Updates on other developments.

Become more involved in **shaping public policies** through efforts such as the:

- **Policy Action Network (PAN)**, a growing coalition that takes collaborative action on key nonprofit issues in federal, state, and local government.
- The monthly **Washington Update and Strategy Roundtable** (formerly known as the Legislative and Regulatory Advisory Committee), which receives the latest information on current congressional and regulatory issues and shares strategies about communicating more effectively with members of Congress.

For more information, visit www.independentsector.org or email info@independentsector.org.

Our Vision

A just and inclusive society and a healthy democracy of active citizens, effective institutions, and vibrant communities.

Our Mission

To advance the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the charitable community.