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Phil -
Directive

Interagency Task Force on Nonprofits

EO Task Force Purpose: First, to identify current forms of collaboration between the Federal Government and nonprofits; and second, to evaluate ways this collaboration can be improved.

Goal: Promote coordination, cooperation, and effectiveness between the nonprofit sector and the Federal government in achieving mutual interests.

I. Establish Department Designees – through Cabinet Affairs daily CoS call. Mon/Tues.

II. Discussion with nonprofit community about concrete goals

- A. Removing administrative barriers
- B. Use of technology – Gateway
- C. Technical Assistance – Americorp ~ *later update fund + SRA*
- D. Best practices
- E. Data / Program information

III. Meet with Task Force Designees

- A. Inventory
 - 1. Classification: social welfare; education; health care; income assistance; culture and the arts; conservation and the arts
 - 2. Useful / necessary information
- B. Best practices
- C. Cross-Agency collaboration
- D. Administrative barriers
- E. Data / information for research

IV. Task Force Designee Study of Department Efforts

V. Task Force Convenes

- A. Review Process
- B. Review a few examples of diverse best practices
- C. Present ideas for discussion (background prepared and distributed before meeting)
 - 1. Streamlining reporting requirements
 - 2. Electronic transmission of IRS990 information
 - 3. Technical assistance
 - 4. Gateway
 - 5. Promoting philanthropy
 - 6. Information / data sharing for research

VI. Create Sub-Task Force Groups on Each Above Idea and Meet With Nonprofits

October 22, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Supporting the Role of Nonprofit Organizations

The United States is the most generous nation on Earth. In 1998, an estimated \$175 billion was given by American individuals, communities, foundations, corporations and other private philanthropies to a wide variety of causes and organizations. Individuals accounted for 85 percent of all contributions in 1998 and their giving has increased by almost one third since 1995. And over the next 20 years, approximately \$12 trillion in wealth is expected to be transferred from one generation to the next – more than one trillion of which will flow to nonprofit organizations through charitable giving.

In many cases it is nonprofit organizations that convert philanthropy into results -- helping people in need, providing health care and educating our nation's youth. The nonprofit sector is an integral component of our nation's life, embracing more than one and half million organizations with operating expenditures in excess of \$600 billion. But more telling than the dollar figures is the new spirit of service and civic activism that nonprofits of every kind are now exhibiting. We are today in the midst of a nonprofit boom, a time when the activities of this sector are becoming ever more creative and entrepreneurial.

Nonprofits are uniquely able to identify problems, mobilize fresh thinking and energy, care for those in need on a human scale, and promote social change at the community level. As this sector grows in size and importance, there is a growing opportunity to forge partnerships that include government, nonprofit groups, businesses and citizens to address pressing public problems. There are already many ways that nonprofits work closely with the Federal government. For example, Federal grant programs from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health assist nonprofit research institutions that search for cures to cancer. And the Corporation for National Service partners with nonprofits throughout the nation to provide after-school and tutoring programs. Our challenge in this time of burgeoning social entrepreneurship is to encourage government, nonprofits and others to work together more meaningfully.

Therefore, today I am asking the Directors of the Domestic Policy Council and the National Economic Council, and the Chief of Staff to the First Lady, to convene an Interagency Task Force on Nonprofits and Government (hereinafter, the "Task Force"). The purpose of this Task Force will be twofold: first, to identify current forms of collaboration between the Federal Government and nonprofits; and second, to evaluate ways this collaboration can be improved.

Structure of the Task Force

The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady will jointly Chair the Task Force. The Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers will be regular participants.

The Task Force shall be composed of the:

- (1) Secretary of Treasury
- (2) Attorney General
- (3) Secretary of Agriculture
- (4) Secretary of Commerce
- (5) Secretary of Education
- (6) Secretary of Labor
- (7) Secretary of Health and Human Services
- (8) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- (9) Secretary of Education
- (10) Secretary of Transportation
- (11) Administrator of the Small Business Administration
- (12) Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service

The Chairs of the Task Force may call upon these, other officials, and independent agencies as they deem appropriate to further the purposes of this effort or to participate in specific aspects of it. For example, matters relating to nonprofit management could involve the Small Business Administration. Matters relating to the economic impact of nonprofits could involve the Council of Economic Advisers. The Chairs, after consultation with Task Force members, will appoint staff members to coordinate the Task Force's efforts. The Chairs may call upon the participating agencies for logistical support to the Task Force, as necessary. Members of the Task Force may delegate their responsibilities under this order to subordinates. During its work the Task Force will consult regularly with the nonprofit sector.

Objectives of the Task Force

Among its objectives, the Task Force will:

1. Develop a public inventory of "best practices" in existing collaborations between federal agency programs and nonprofit organizations. The Task Force, in cooperation with nonprofits, will work to apply these leading models to other governmental efforts. For example, cross-agency initiatives that reflect the community-wide focus of many nonprofits could be highlighted and replicated. The Task Force will also examine ways that Federal agencies can better draw upon the experience and innovations of nonprofits in the development of public policy.
2. Evaluate data and research on trends on nonprofits and philanthropy. Understanding the significance of the relationship between the nonprofit and government sector requires an understanding of the presence that the nonprofit sector has on the economy and in its role in public service. For example, the Council of Economic Advisers should undertake an analysis of existing data from the private and nonprofits sectors concerning the role of philanthropy in the economy, including an examination of the factors that affect giving and an investigation of trends that are likely to affect giving in the future. This analysis could lead to further research and inquiry by the nonprofit sector on these issues. The Task Force will also

coordinate agency efforts to identify the contributions made by the nonprofit sector and information regarding philanthropic activity.

3. Develop further policy responses. The Task Force will meet to discuss new findings and to consider new or modified Administration responses on coordinating efforts between the Federal Government and the nonprofit sector. For example, the Task Force will work with the nonprofit sector and others to explore ways to encourage philanthropy and service, efforts to help nonprofits develop and grow (including “venture philanthropy”), opportunities for closer collaboration on research and in meeting local needs, and ways to reduce governmental barriers to innovative nonprofit enterprises. From time to time, the Task Force will report to me on the results of its efforts.

General Provisions

This order is intended only for internal management of the executive branch. This order is not intended, and should not be construed to create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees. This order shall not be construed to create any right to judicial review involving the compliance or noncompliance with this order by the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.