
Deaf Nonprofits - A Survey

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Agenda - Deaf Nonprofits

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- Introduction & Research Question
- Limitations
- Key Findings
- Implications & Conclusions
- References

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Introduction - Public Service Context

Public service includes:

- Nonprofits
 - Local, national, international
- Government
 - Local, state, federal, international

Introduction: Public Service Context, Why?

- Services
- Advocacy & a virtuous cycle
- Meets community needs
- Meets social and religious needs
- Jobs and opportunities for deaf people
- Strengthens and expands the community

Introduction

What do we mean by nonprofit organizations?

- Organization for charitable or social benefit
- In the US - 501c3 status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Organizations focused on community work and service, e.g., sports, advocacy, mental health, services

Introduction: Research Question

Deaf Nonprofits in the US:

- How many are there?
- What are their resources?
- What are their purposes?

Research Approach

- Form 990N & 990 EZ from publicly available IRS databases
- ProPublica nonprofit database

Note:

- All educational institutions were eliminated
- Focus is primarily on organizations >\$50K

Research Procedure

Keyword search:

1. Deaf
2. Hard of hearing
3. Speech / hearing
4. American Sign Language
5. ASL
6. Deafdisabled
7. Deafblind
8. Late deafened
9. Hearing impaired

Research Limitations

- Solely focused on 501c3s, not businesses that may provide social services
- Still preliminary data - needs more analysis and processing
- Does not include subsidiary organizations, only stand-alone organizations
- Tried to avoid medical, audiology based organizations

Key Findings: Number of Nonprofits

- 753 deaf-related nonprofits with IRS information
- 193 likely defunct
- 167 organizations who will expire if 990s are not submitted in 1 year
- 45 organizations shut down during COVID
- ~486 are currently active

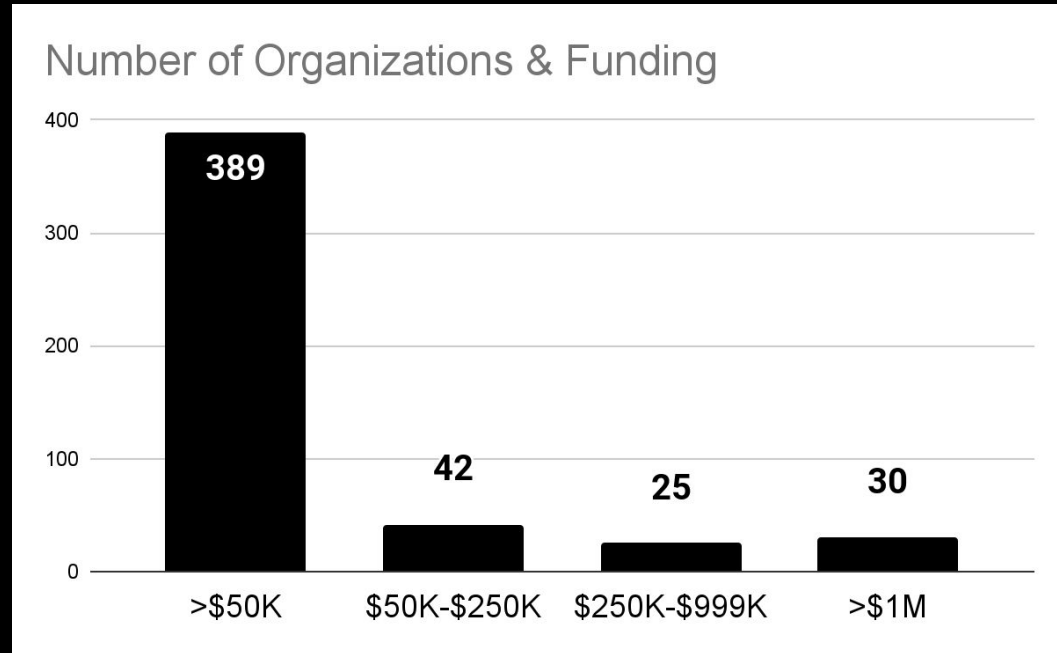
Key Findings: Funding

- Form 990 requires organizations that have more than \$50,000 in revenue to report income
- Only 20% have more than \$50K in revenue
- 80% have less than \$50K in revenue

Key Findings: Funding

- $>\$1\text{M} = 30$
- $\$250\text{K} - \$999\text{K} = 25$
- $\$50\text{K} - \$250\text{K} = 42$
- $>\$50\text{K} = 389$

$N = 486$

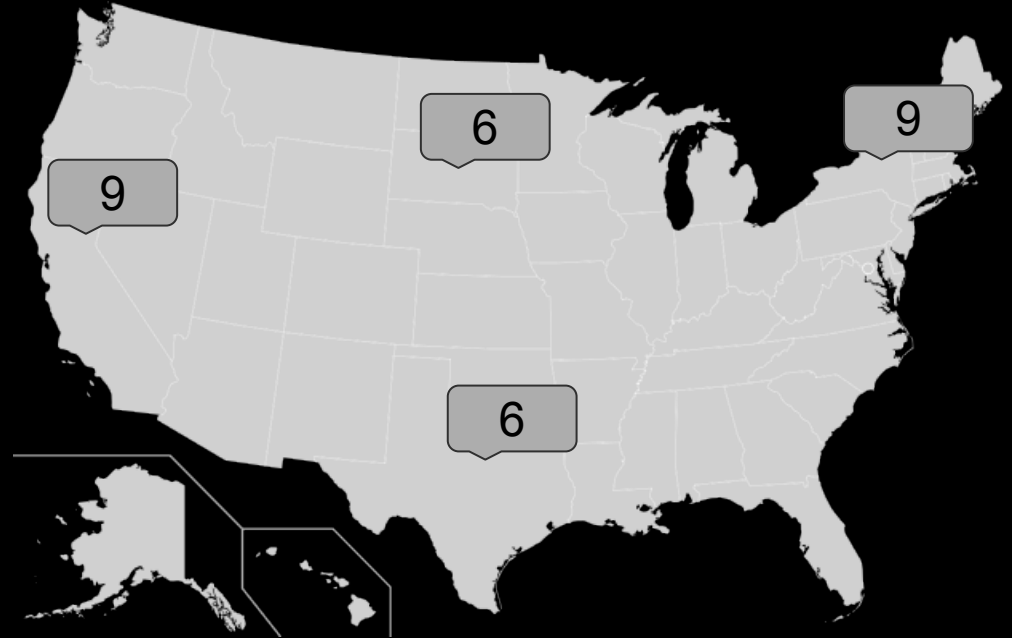


Key Findings: Organizations >\$1M

n = 30

Regions:

- West - 9
- Northeast - 9
- Midwest - 6
- South - 6



Key Findings: Type of Organization Over \$1M

n = 30

- Services: 21
- Medical: 1
- Interpreting: 1
- Animals: 1
- Religious: 1
- Advocacy: 1
- Arts: 1
- Education: 1
- Association: 1
- Mental Health/DV/SV: 1

Key Findings: Organizations >\$1M

n = 30

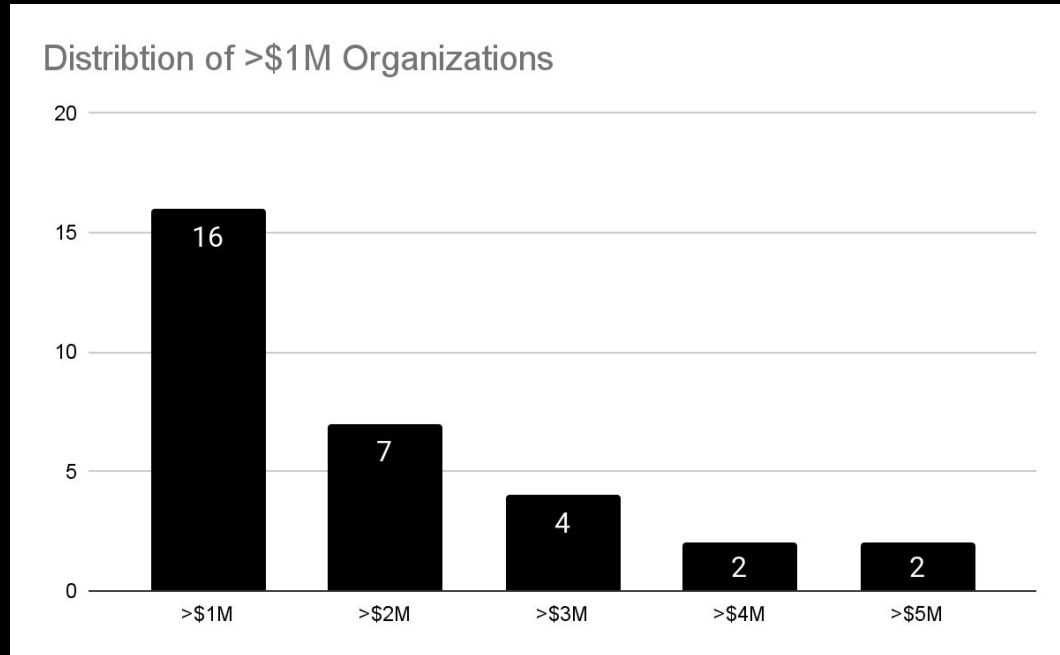
>\$1M - 16

>\$2M - 7

>\$3M - 4

>\$4M - 2

>\$5M - 2

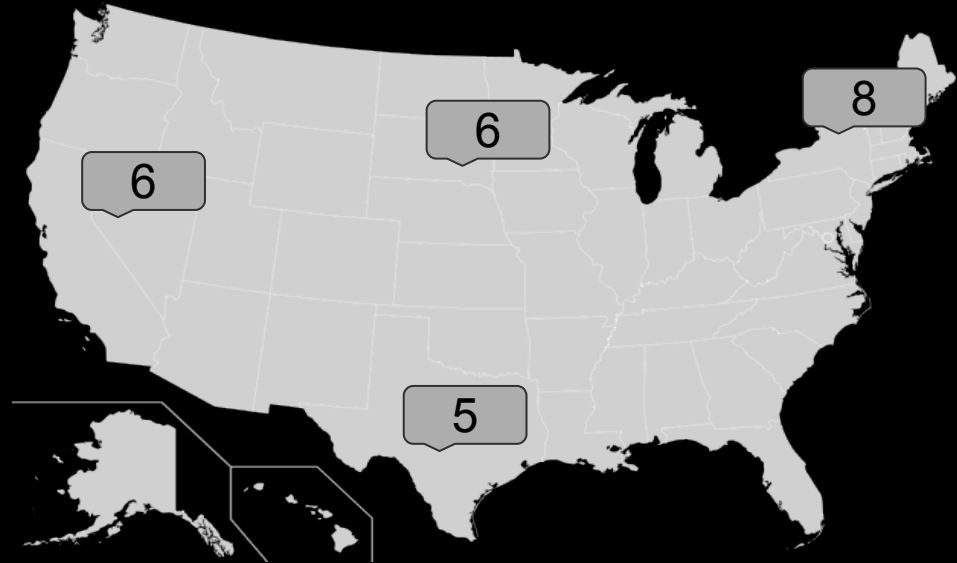


Key Findings: Organizations \$250K to \$999K

n = 25

Regions

- South: 5
- Northeast: 8
- Midwest: 6
- West: 6



Key Findings: Organizations \$250K to \$999K

n = 25

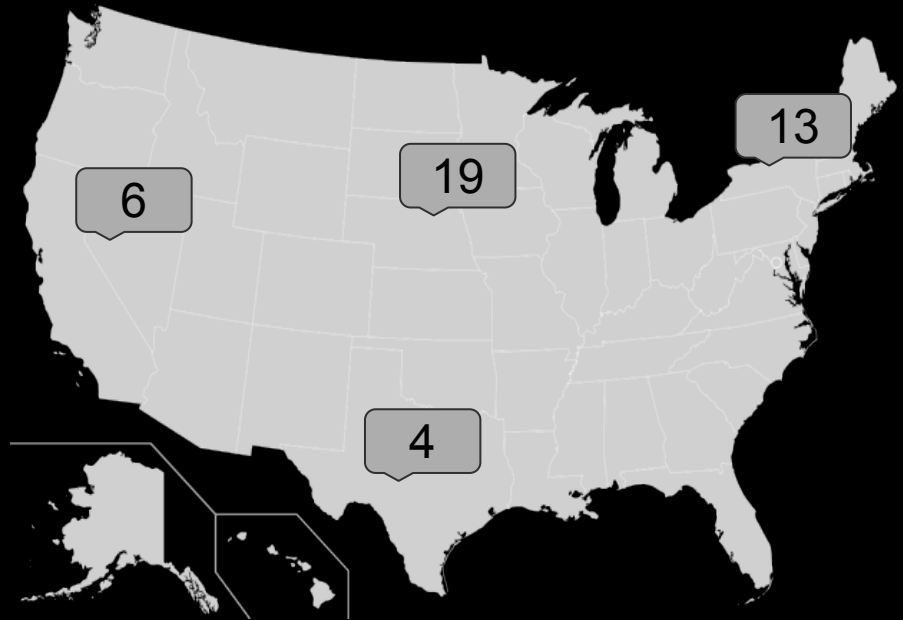
- Services: 13
- Religious: 7
- Mental Health/DV/SV: 4
- Arts: 2
- International: 1
- Association: 1

Key Findings: Organizations >\$50K to \$249K

n = 42

Regions:

- Northeast - 13
- West - 6
- South - 4
- Midwest - 19



Key Findings: Organizations >\$50K to \$249K

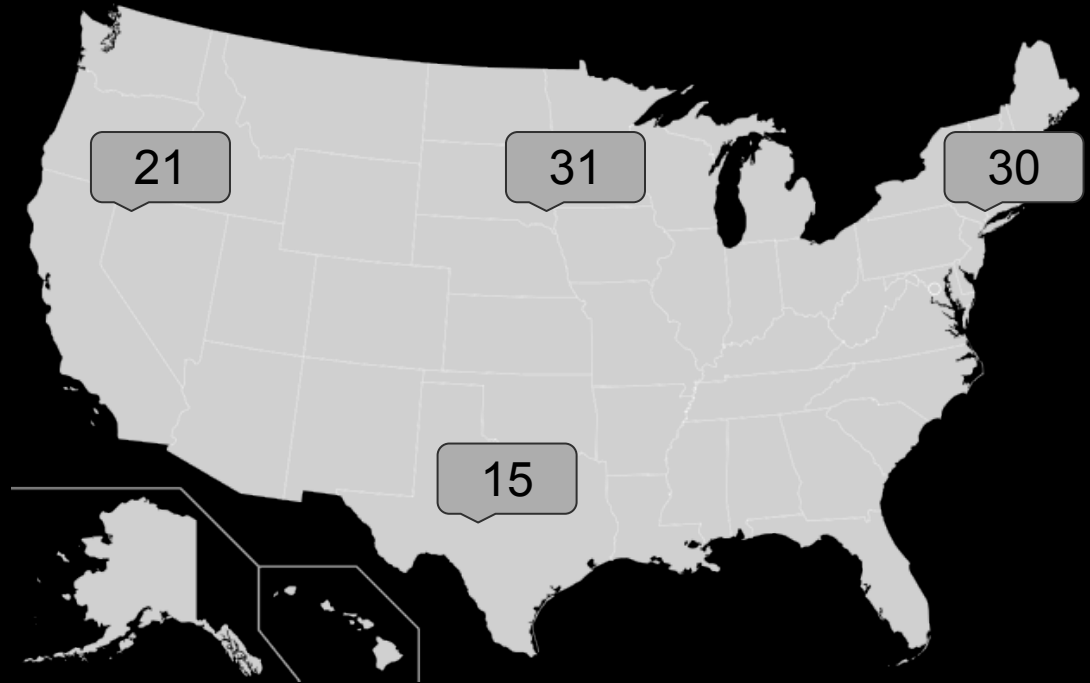
n = 25

- Religion: 14
- Services: 13
- Associations: 6
- Athletics & Recreation: 4
- Arts: 2
- Education: 2
- Advocacy: 1

Key Findings: Funding by Region - Above \$50K

- Northeast: 30
- Midwest: 31
- South: 15
- West: 21

n = 97



Key Findings: All Organizations >\$50K

n = 97

- Services: 45
- Religious: 21
- Associations: 8
- Mental Health, DV, SV
(stand alone): 5
- Arts: 5
- Athletics & Recreation: 4
- Education: 3
- Advocacy: 2
- International: 1
- Interpreting: 1
- Medical: 1
- Animals: 1

Conclusion

- Some Deaf organizations appear at risk of closure, typically:
 - Organizations with little funding
 - Established organizations without a transition plan
- Fewer stand alone Mental Health/DV/SV than expected
- Religious organizations are overrepresented below \$999K
- Service based organizations = bigger budgets

Conclusions

- Smaller nonprofits provide a specific service or a specific niche
- California is overrepresented in the >\$1M bracket
 - Why? State block grant programs (25% federal); 1980 Welfare and Institution Code
- Few programs appear viable in rural communities, and appear concentrated in Deaf centers
- Only 7 state associations make more than \$50K

Opportunities for Future Development

- Service organizations focus on individuals
- Few organizations >\$50K focus on topics that are important to the community:
 - Early childhood intervention; ASL acquisition; Parent outreach
 - Cultural, medical model, and mixed models of audiological intervention
 - Community-building (anecdotal evidence suggests these are declining with closure of Deaf clubs)
 - Diversity, inclusion, special interest groups (e.g., NBDA)

Implications: Opportunities

- State Associations should broaden their scope
 - Advocacy, services, housing, training, grants, community priorities, etc
- Partnerships with federal, local and state governments are crucial for organizational health -> virtuous cycle
- Organizations can shift into new areas important to the community
- Fundraising and donations - many organizations don't do this well

Reflection Questions

- Is this a Deaf nonprofit recession, or are functions taken over by socially-focused small businesses (e.g., mental health, Deaf news)?
- What do social nonprofits & community-building organizations look after COVID & the ADA?
- What do organizations need to succeed and stay healthy?
- How do we train current and future generations for public service in a grant-based nonprofit environment?
- Should we invest in fundraising and seek donations?

Discussion

In small groups, share ideas on how we can support the health of deaf nonprofit organizations, and bring it to the larger group!

Questions?

Feedback?