

## Keynotes for Nonprofits July 2009



**INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION**

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### Workshops & Conferences

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#### **The New Picture of Government Funding**

*Monday, July 20, 2009*

*8:30AM – 12:00PM*

*Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave, St. Paul*

After years of policies which shrunk the role of the federal government in supporting nonprofits, particularly in areas of human services, housing and economic development, the tide may be turning. While state and county budgets are clearly under stress, government still represents large parts of funding for nonprofits.

To help you navigate this changing environment, you are invited to attend [The New Picture of Government Funding](#), a half-day conference hosted by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. The workshop will provide:

- An overview of the changes in government funding and implications for nonprofits;
- An update on the status of federal economic stimulus funding distribution and availability; and
- Practical information about understanding and/or accessing funding in this new era.

The morning also features several [breakout sessions](#) where you can delve deeper into specific information about government resources and shifts.

\$49 for MCN members/\$69 for nonmembers. For more information and to register visit [http://www.mncn.org/event\\_fundraising.htm#new](http://www.mncn.org/event_fundraising.htm#new).

#### **Staffing Transitions: Conducting Compassionate Layoffs**

*Tuesday, July 21, 2009 (online)*

*2:00PM – 4:00PM*

*or*

*Thursday, July 30, 2009 (in-person)*

*1:00PM – 4:00PM*

*Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, St. Paul*

Difficult times can cause organizations to make difficult choices, including laying-off staff. You are invited to learn how to handle layoffs during [Staffing Transitions: Conducting Compassionate Layoffs](#), a new workshop from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

Although difficult for the organization, as well as for the employees who are let go and the employees who remain after separations, staffing transitions can be conducted in a way that demonstrates compassion and leaves all parties with dignity intact.

This workshop will:

- Provide insights into managing change;
- Review the role of managers with separating and remaining employees;
- Outline final preparations for notification of layoff;
- Prepare managers for meetings with employees through demonstration and practice;
- Consider what successful separation means for both the organization and the departing employee; and
- Provide helpful “dos and don’ts”.

\$65 for MCN members/\$95 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, visit [http://www.mncn.org/event\\_hr.htm#complay](http://www.mncn.org/event_hr.htm#complay).

### **What is a Healthy Organization? (...and how do we become one?)**

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*

*1:00PM – 3:30PM*

*Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

This workshop is intended for nonprofit leadership teams who wish to:

- Understand nonprofit effectiveness indicators and
- Strengthen their organization from the inside out by exploring the Initiative Foundation’s capacity-building programs for nonprofits.

With help from Initiative Foundation staff and a professional consultant, you’ll begin to assess your nonprofit’s strengths, challenges and current state of organizational development. You’ll also learn how a partnership with the foundation may help you become more effective, strategic and stable.

We strongly recommend that you come to this workshop in teams, including board member(s) if possible! This workshop is free to all nonprofit groups and organizations in our region, thanks to our partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

For more information and to register complete and return the [registration form](#) or contact Tricia at 877/632-9255 or [tholig@ifound.org](mailto:tholig@ifound.org).

### **Grant Research & Writing**

*Friday, August 21, 2009*

*10:00AM-2:30PM*

*Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

This workshop is a valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals.

Who should attend? Those who have little or no grant writing experience and wish to develop practical skills related to funder research and proposal writing and those who want to refresh their grant writing skills.

Seating is limited. \$55 per person includes snacks, lunch and workshop materials. To register complete and return the [registration form](#) or contact Jolene at 877/632-9255 or [jhoward@ifound.org](mailto:jhoward@ifound.org).

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## Funding Opportunities

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### [Don Griesmann's Grant Opportunities](#)

*Tuesday, June 30, 2009*

In the past week, CharityChannel's most dedicated volunteer has written 41 articles on unique grant funding opportunities, with a total of 940 articles on current grant opportunities.

Be sure to check out CharityChannel [www.charitychannel.com](http://www.charitychannel.com) resources. This site is an excellent resource both for funding opportunities and for a variety of nonprofit management, board, volunteer, and grant topics.

### **Keynotes for Communities**

For more than 25 funding opportunities take a look at Dan Frank's [Keynotes for Communities](#). You can also sign up to get this monthly newsletter by contacting Jolene at [jhoward@ifound.org](mailto:jhoward@ifound.org).

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## Things to Know

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### **Minnesota Council on Foundation's 2008 Giving in Minnesota Report**

*Giving in Minnesota*, an annual research report produced by the Minnesota Council on Foundations since 1976, provides a comprehensive analysis of the trends and patterns of giving by organized philanthropy in the state. The report is intended to present the scope of the philanthropy field in Minnesota to nonprofits, the news media, public officials and the greater public, as well as foundations and giving programs.

In December 2008, Bill King, MCF President, presented the findings of the 2008 report at a discussion with other foundations, nonprofits and community leaders.

A [special update to MN Council of Foundations' \(MCF\) January 2009 Outlook Report](#) assesses how grantmakers in Minnesota have been affected by the economic downturn and how they anticipate responding to community needs.

Conducted in partnership with the national Council on Foundations, the survey results confirm that many grantmakers in the state anticipate further declines in giving for the remainder of 2009. Despite these findings, Minnesota's grantmakers are faring somewhat better than grantmakers nationwide.

### **Impact of Governor's unallotment is detailed; legislature voices disapproval**

The impact of Governor Pawlenty's proposed unallotment has become clearer in recent weeks. Most recently, Minnesota Budget Commissioner Tom Hanson testified that the plan would trigger the loss of 3,300 to 4,700 jobs. The Legislative Advisory Commission, the body that can hear but not modify the Governor's proposed plans, has condemned the plan. Meanwhile, advocates learned last week of an additional \$4 million in cuts to health and human services.

As always, the Minnesota Budget Project keeps a close watch on all developments, with regular updates at their Minnesota Budget Bites blog.

- Learn about [the impact the plan will have on job loss](#)
- Read [the Legislative Advisory Commission's response to the plan](#)
- See the [additional proposed cuts to HHS announced](#)
- Visit [the Minnesota Budget Bites blog](#) for more updates

### **New laws take effect on July 1 as 2010-2011 biennium begins**

A recent press release from the Minnesota House of Representatives had this to say about the start of the 2010-2011 biennium and the new laws that are taking effect: Gov. Tim Pawlenty's unallotment plan to balance the 2010-2011 biennium is effective July 1. As currently proposed, it shaves nearly \$2.68 billion from state government spending; however, many of the proposed cuts won't take place until fiscal year 2011. A complete summary of all laws passed by the 2009 Legislature will be available online from House Public Information Services after July 1, 2009 at [www.house.mn/hinfo/NewLaws/NewLawsmain.asp](http://www.house.mn/hinfo/NewLaws/NewLawsmain.asp). Read [a summary of new laws that take effective July 1, 2009](#)

### **DHS to host "Road Shows" around the state for update on 2009 legislative action**

As you know, the 2009 Legislative Session resulted in several significant changes for the state's home-and-community-based service system. Assistant Commissioner Colman and the directors in the Continuing Care Administration have planned a series of meetings to brief stakeholders on the major changes that lie ahead. View the [schedule and locations for the briefings with a link for registration](#)

### **Audit Threshold for Charitable Organizations Increased**

The [audit threshold for Minnesota nonprofits](#) has increased from \$350,000 to \$750,000 in gross receipts. That's good news for small and medium-sized nonprofits. As a result, Minnesota organizations with fiscal years ending on or after July 31, 2008 aren't required to produce an annual financial audit if their gross receipts are under \$750,000. This information has been provided by: Management Assistance Program (MAP), learn more at: [www.mapfornonprofits.org](http://www.mapfornonprofits.org).

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## **Resources for Nonprofits**

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### **Nonprofit Merger Tool from MAP for Nonprofits [www.mapfornonprofits.org](http://www.mapfornonprofits.org)**

In the land of 10,000 nonprofit organizations (Minnesota) - nonprofit mergers can be a good thing. Newly-published by MAP for Nonprofits, [MergeMinnesota](#) aims to "awaken" nonprofits to a new reality - mergers may be the best strategic path to preserve community services.

The 70-page [MergeMinnesota](#) provides an overview of nonprofit merger processes and tools created and used by MAP merger consultants, along with guidance from national and local nonprofit merger experts and a review of nonprofit merger literature.

*MergeMinnesota* was published with the support of The Wells Fargo Foundation and The Greater Twin Cities United Way. It was written by Ron Reed, of MAP for Nonprofits and Susan Dowd of the Library Strategies Consulting Group, The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

Complimentary single copies of *MergeMinnesota* are available by calling 651-393-2160.

In June 2009 MAP also announced the creation of a community fund to help struggling nonprofits save vital human services through realignment or merger options. The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation's gift of \$40,000 per year for the next two years is the lead gift in what will be a \$200,000 Community Realignment Fund. [More...](#)

**Interfaith Funders** (a good resource for faith-based organizations!)  
[www.interfaithfunders.org](http://www.interfaithfunders.org)

Interfaith Funders has released a brand new publication on reaching major donors about community organizing! As an association of grantmakers dedicated to increasing resources for organizing, Interfaith Funders is well aware of how difficult it is for organizing groups to raise money. The name of this booklet says it all: [\*Untapped: How Community Organizers Can Develop and Deepen Relationships with Major Donors and Raise Big Money.\*](#)

Though most organizing groups have been familiar with the fundraising maxim that "most money comes from individuals," there is little understood as to how to attract donors. The Linchpin Campaign of the Center for Community Change interviewed major donors themselves to find out what messages and approaches about organizing work and don't work. This tool adds to an organizer's fund development toolbox with insights and specific how-to's, to find and engage long-term supporters; advice much needed in today's tight fundraising climate.

To order publications or request information, please contact: [interfaithfunders@yahoo.com](mailto:interfaithfunders@yahoo.com)

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*This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact Cathy Hartle [chartle@ifound.org](mailto:chartle@ifound.org).*

*If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Tricia Holig, [tholig@ifound.org](mailto:tholig@ifound.org).*