

# The Nonprofit Research Collaborative

## November 2010 Fundraising Survey



## **Executive Summary**

In this ninth annual survey of nonprofit organizations (charities and foundations), respondents answered questions comparing their organizations' total contributions in the first nine months of 2010 compared with the same period in 2009. Nearly the same percentage of organizations reported that giving was up as those that reported giving was down. Of the about 2,500 responses, 36 percent said giving rose and 37 percent said giving fell, while the other 26 percent reported that total giving remained the same.

However, there are some differences across organizations according to charity type and budget size.

- Organizations in four of the analyzed subsectors reported an equal percentage of both increases and decreases in contributions. These subsectors include: Arts, Education, Environment/Animals, and Human Services.
- International organizations were the most likely to report an increase in contributions, reflecting donations made for disaster relief.
- In the Health, Public-society Benefit, and Religion subsectors, a larger percentage of organizations reported a decrease in charitable contributions than reported an increase. In these three subsectors, there is at least a five-point gap between the percentage with a drop and the percentage with an increase in gifts received.
- The larger the organization's size based on total annual expenditures, the more likely the organization was to report an increase in charitable receipts in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period in 2009.
- Approximately 22 percent of charities used volunteers in positions that were formerly paid positions during the first nine months of 2010. This is up from 15 percent a year ago.
- Most organizations were hopeful about 2011. About 47 percent planned budget increases, 33 percent expected to maintain their current level of expenditures, and only 20 percent anticipated a lower budget for 2011.

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## **Summary of the Nonprofit Research Collaborative Fundraising Survey**

People at more than 2,350 public charities and 163 private foundations answered this survey. The majority of people taking the survey served their organization as CEO, director of finance, or director of development. Questions focused on how the first nine months of 2010 compared with the first nine months of 2009. Topics covered include:

- How total contributions changed.
- Whether or not the organization receives the majority of its contributions from October through December and outlook for next year.
- Changes in demands for service.
- Past and future grantmaking (asked of grantmaking organizations only).
- Budget predictions and what measures might be used to reduce the budget.
- Risk of folding in the coming year due to financial reasons.
- Receipt of contributions for Haitian earthquake or Pakistani flood relief and whether funds were passed on to another organization to perform the relief work.

All charities were asked to identify their main subject category or service area from 26 options. The analysis team researched and recoded subject categories for organizations that entered “other” or “unclassified” for the main subject category (134 organizations).

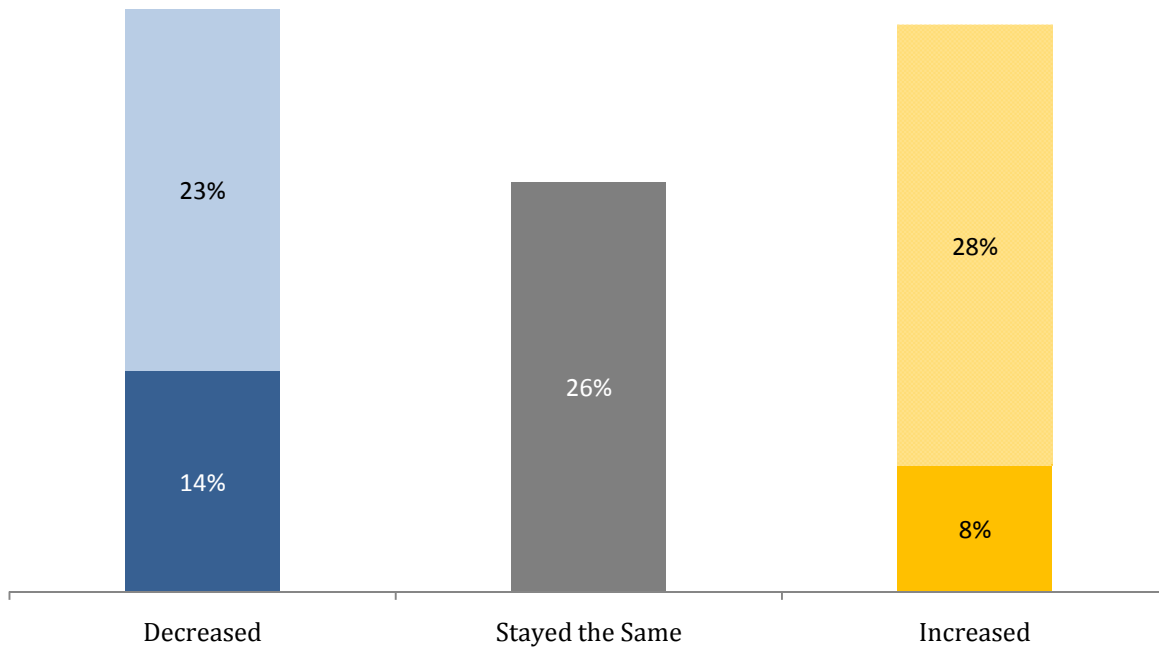
Please see Appendix A for the survey questions and the number of responses to each.

## Main Finding

About the same share of public charities saw a decrease (37 percent) as an increase (36 percent) in charitable giving in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the first nine months of 2009. Just over one-quarter (26 percent) indicated that receipts from gifts remained the same in the two years.

The slide in giving found in 2009, when 51 percent of organizations reported a decline, has slowed in 2010. However, giving still did not reach levels seen in 2006 and 2007, when less than 20 percent of organizations reported a drop in total contributions.

**Figure 1: Distribution of organizations by change in total contributions during the first nine months of 2010, comparing the first nine months of 2010 with the first nine months of 2009**



Lighter shade = changed modestly; darker shade = changed greatly. Dark grey = stayed the same.  
Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

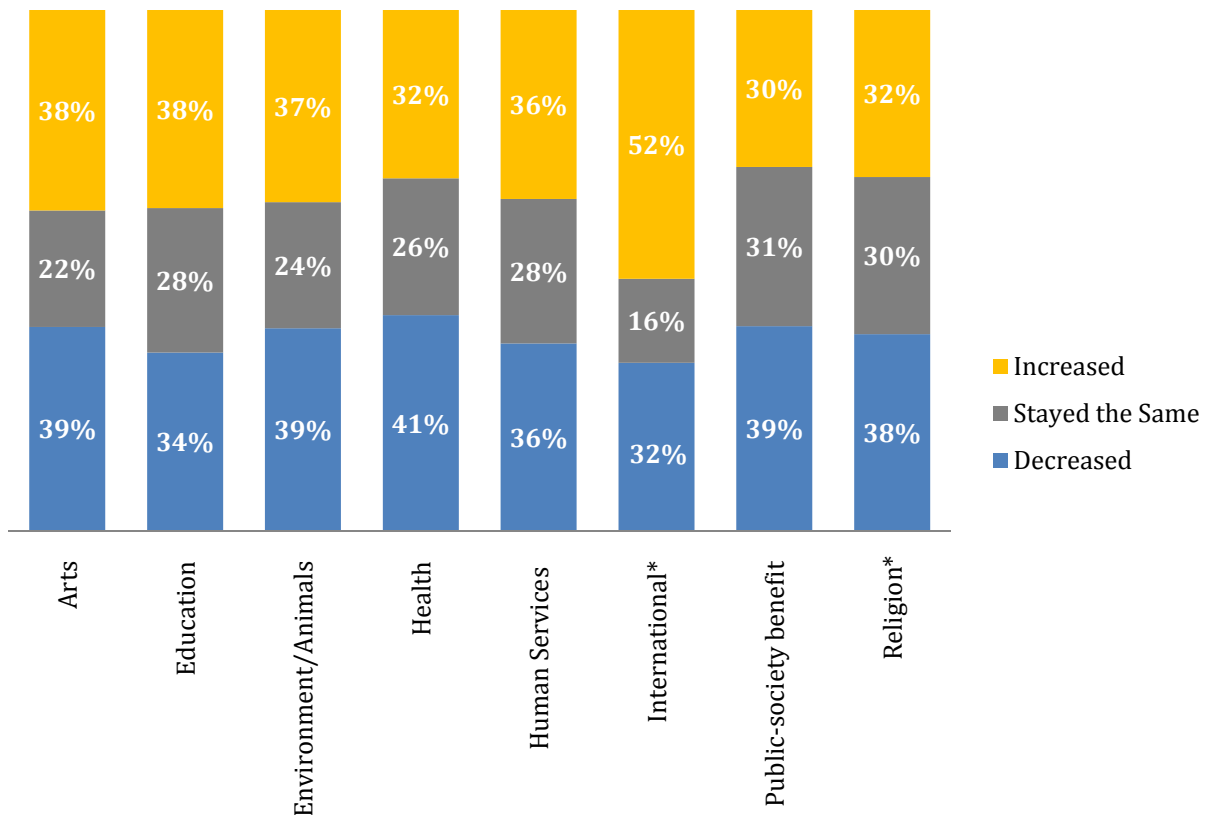
About 1 percent of respondents said they “did not know.” Those answers are not represented on the graph above.

## Changes in Contribution Levels by Type of Charity

In four of the eight subsectors, about an equal percentage of organizations reported an increase in contributions as reported a decrease: Arts, Education, Environment/Animals, and Human Services. In one subsector, International, 52 percent reported an increase in contributions, while 32 percent reported a decrease. This reflects, at least in part, donations for Haitian earthquake relief and flood relief in Pakistan.

In contrast, in the Health, Public-society Benefit, and Religion subsectors, a larger percentage of organizations reported a decrease in charitable contributions than reported an increase. In these three subsectors, there is at least a five-point gap between the percentage with a drop and the percentage with an increase in gifts received.

**Figure 2: Distribution of organizations by the type of change in total contributions and by charity type, comparing the first nine months of 2010 with the first nine months of 2009**



\* Indicates fewer than 100 respondents.

Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## **Analysis of Changes in Giving by Mission of Organization**

Respondents to this Nonprofit Research Collaborative fundraising survey were asked to identify their organizational type by selecting from a list of 26 categories, which are used by the IRS for classification. Related categories were then aggregated into subsectors (or “major groups”) to provide a broader view of the nonprofit world. Thus, the Human Services subsector includes organizations in these categories: housing/shelter, public safety, disaster relief, employment services, crime/legal-related, food and nutrition, youth development, and a category simply termed, “human services.”

### **Subsectors (Major Groups)**

- I. Arts, Culture, and Humanities
- II. Education
- III. Environment/Animals
- IV. Health
- V. Human Services
- VI. International, Foreign Affairs
- VII. Public-Society Benefit
- VIII. Religion Related
- IX. Mutual/Membership Benefit
- X. Unknown, Unclassified

Similarly, the categories for animal-related and environmental quality and protection were grouped into the Environment/Animals subsector, while the Health subsector encompassed mental health, health-general and rehabilitative, and specific diseases, disorders, or medical disciplines.

This section shows the changes in giving where there were 100 or more responses in a major category, and it is organized alphabetically by the name of the subsector: Arts, Culture, Humanities, Education, Environment/Animals, etc.

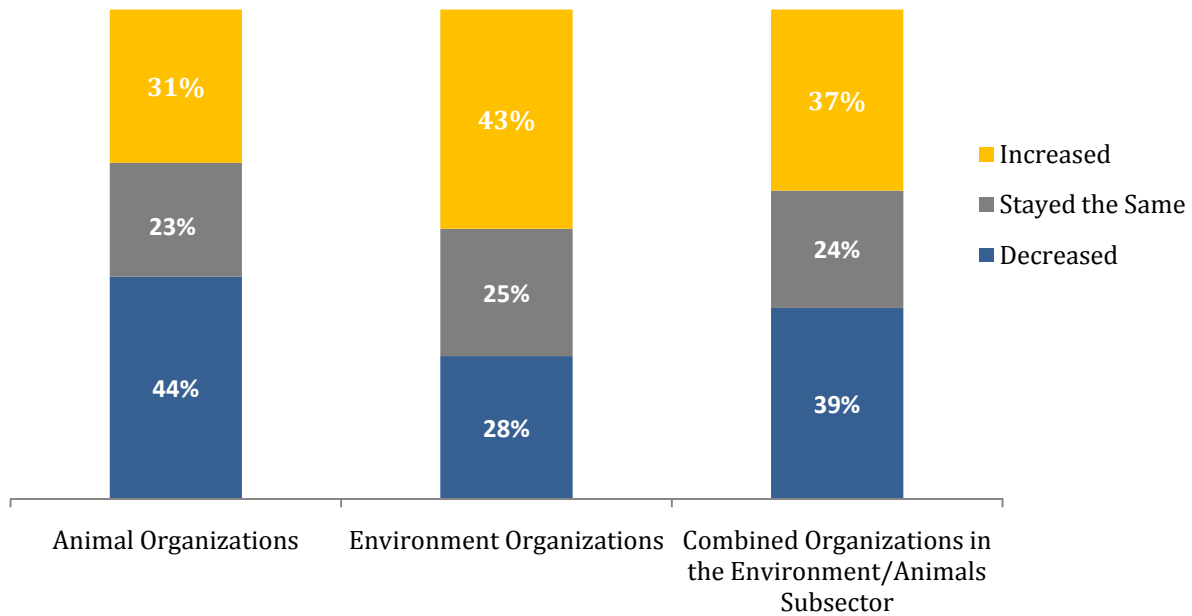
## Environment/Animals Subsector and Its Major Categories

Among organizations related to animals: 31 percent reported an increase, 23 percent reported that contributions remained the same as in the first nine months of 2009, and 44 percent reported a decline in giving.

For environmental organizations: 43 percent reported an increase, 25 percent reported that giving stayed the same, and 28 percent reported that giving declined in the first nine months of 2010.

Considered together as a subsector, 37 percent of charities coded in the Animals/Environment section of the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) reported an increase in total contributions in 2010, compared with the same period in 2009.

**Figure 3: Distribution of organizations by the type of change in total contributions, by animal organizations, environmental organizations, and the Environment/Animal subsector, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

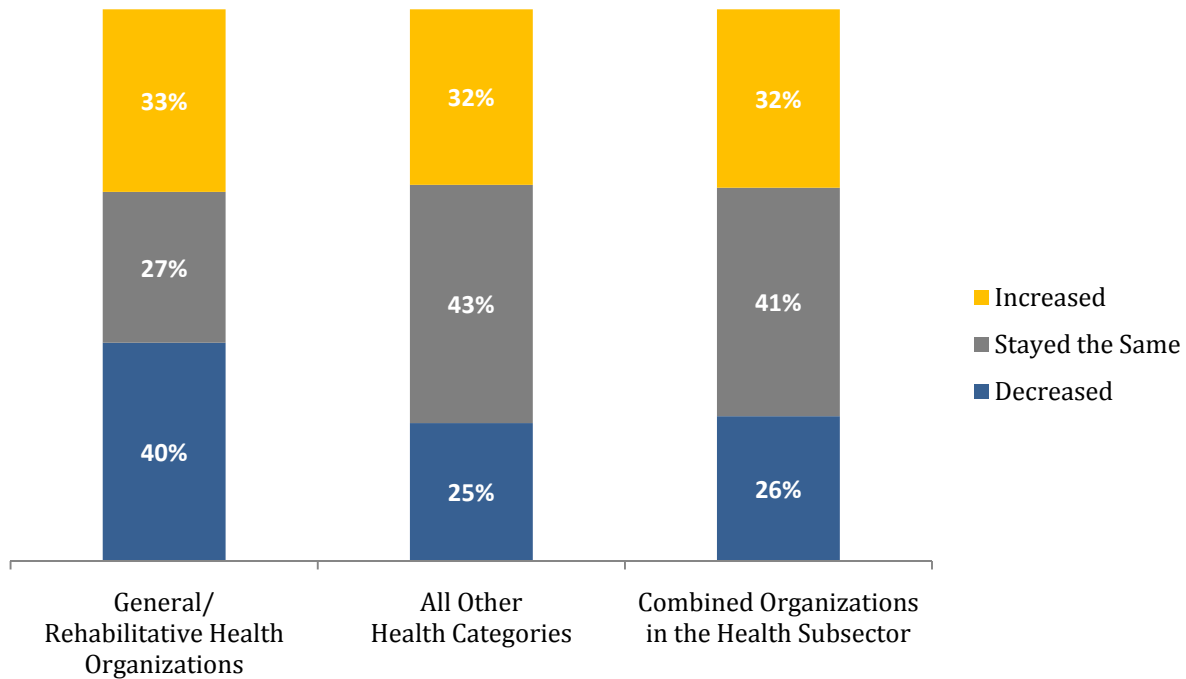


## Health Subsector and Its Major Categories

Organizations categorized under the Health Subsector fell into two groups general/rehabilitative health (health-general) and all other major categories, including disease or discipline-specific, medical research, and mental health/crisis intervention. Health-general organizations, compared with other types of health organizations, were more likely to report that total contributions declined in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period in 2009 (40 percent). The other group of health organizations was more likely to report that total contributions remained the same (43 percent) over the same period.

Considered together as a subsector, 32 percent of charities coded in the Health section of the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) reported an increase in giving in 2010, compared with the same period in 2009. In this subsector, more organizations reported a decline in total contributions, at 41 percent, compared with other types of organizations. About one-quarter (26 percent) of all Health subsector organizations reported that total contributions remained the same in the first nine months of 2010 and 2009.

**Figure 4: Distribution of organizations by type of change in total contributions, and by major health organization categories and the combined subsector, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010**



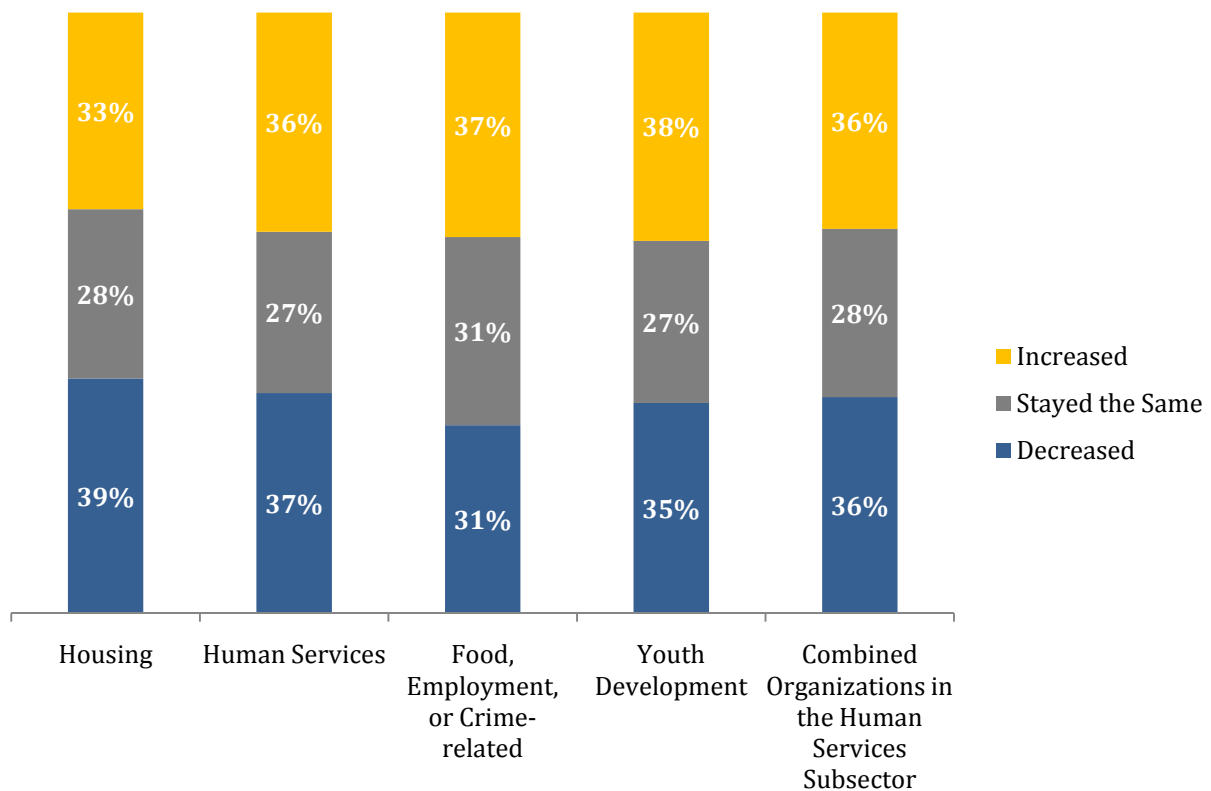
Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Human Services Subsector and Its Major Categories

Among housing organizations, more respondents saw a decline (39 percent) than an increase (33 percent) in contributions. Combining major categories including food, employment, and crime or legal-related services, more organizations reported an increase (37 percent) than a decrease (31 percent) in contributions.

Considered together as a subsector, 36 percent of charities coded in the Human Services subsector reported an increase in total contributions in 2010, compared with the same period in 2009. The same percentage of organizations (36 percent) saw total contributions drop in 2010. This result was consistent across the major categories in the Human Services subsector.

**Figure 5: Distribution of organizations by type of change, and by human services organizations, its major categories, and the combined subsector, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

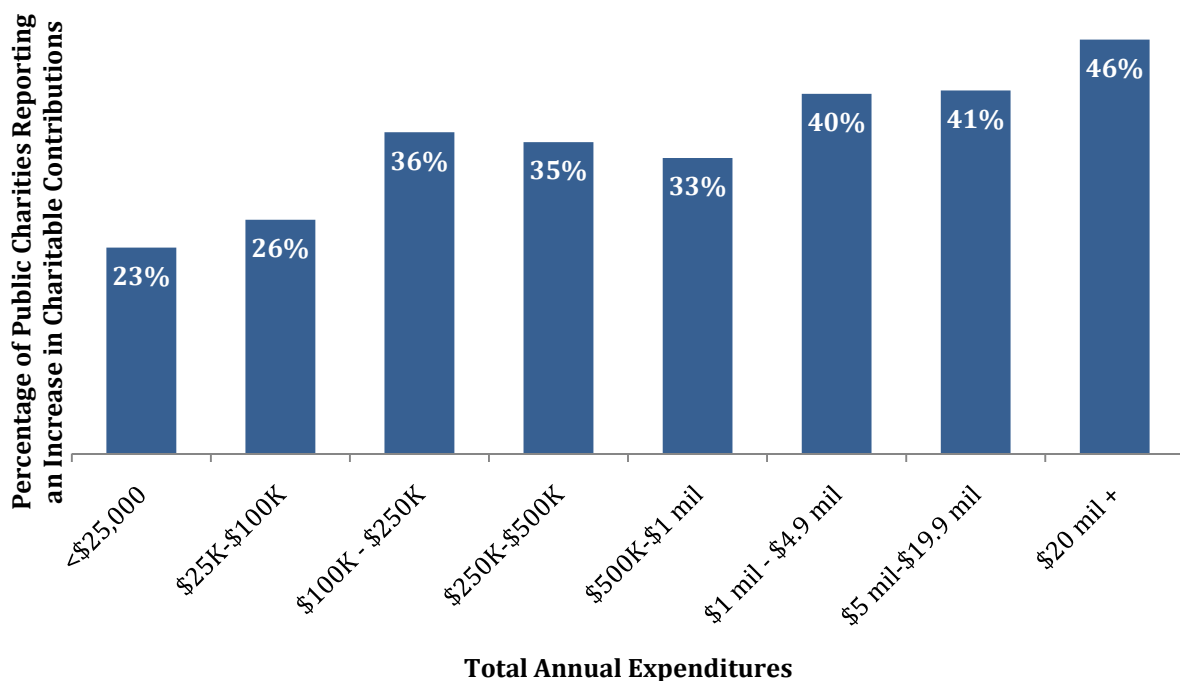
## Contribution Levels, January-September 2010, Grouped by Organizations' Total Annual Expenditures

Larger organizations, based on total annual expenditures, were more likely to report an increase in charitable contributions in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period in 2009.

Nearly half—46 percent—of organizations with \$20 million or more in total annual expenditures reported an increase in charitable receipts, compared with only 23 percent of organizations having total annual expenditures of less than \$25,000.

In all subsectors, “mid-sized” organizations (those with total annual expenditures between \$1 million and \$19.9 million) were more likely to see increases in giving than “smaller” organizations (those with total annual expenditures less than \$1 million). In most subsectors, large organizations (with budgets of \$20 million and up) were more likely to see an increase in gift dollars in 2010 compared with 2009. This was not true for education or arts organizations, where mid-sized organizations were the most likely to see an increase. However, these results are based on a limited number of respondents and should be used with caution.

**Figure 6: Percentage of public charities reporting an increase in charitable contributions comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010, grouped by organizations' total annual expenditures**

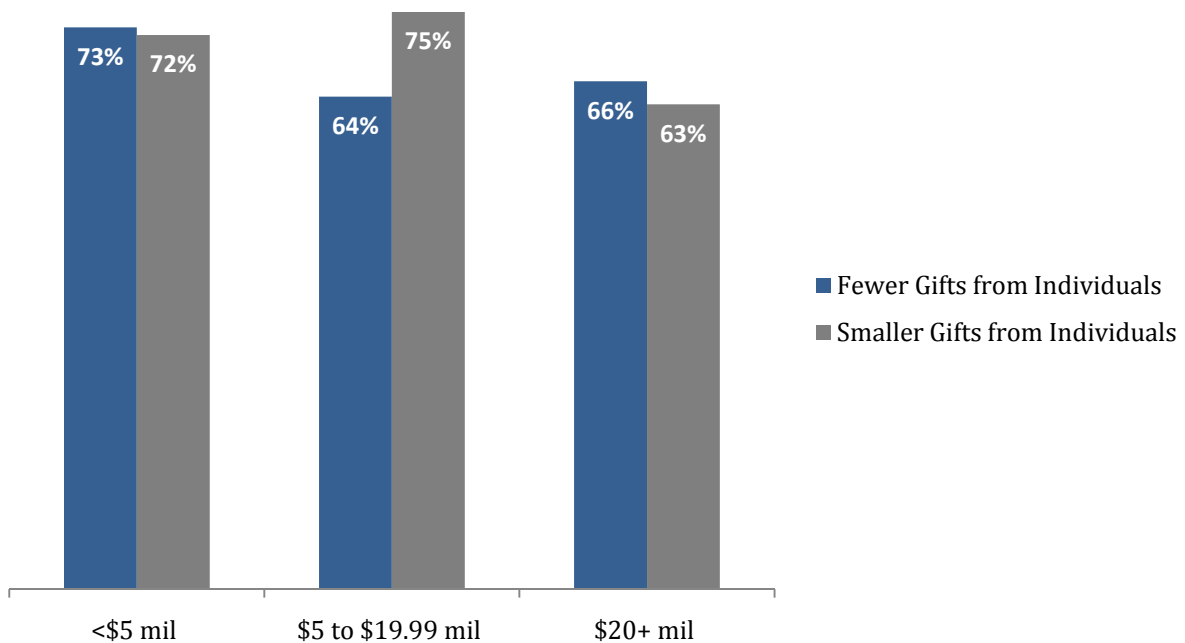


Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Details about Decreased Contributions from Individuals, Grouped by Organizations' Total Annual Expenditures

For those charities that said giving was down in the first nine months of 2010, the study asked a series of questions about the form of giving that declined. The most common reasons cited for declines in giving were that fewer individuals gave and gift amounts were lower. This was consistent across all sizes of organizations. Decreased foundation grantmaking and corporate support was the next most cited reason for declines. Further, declines in government funding—either lower grant or contract amounts, or an end to contracts or grants—affected an estimated 32 percent of the charities that saw a drop.

**Figure 7: Among public charities reporting a decline in contributions, the percentage reporting fewer gifts from individuals or smaller gifts from individuals, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010, grouped by organizations' annual expenditures**

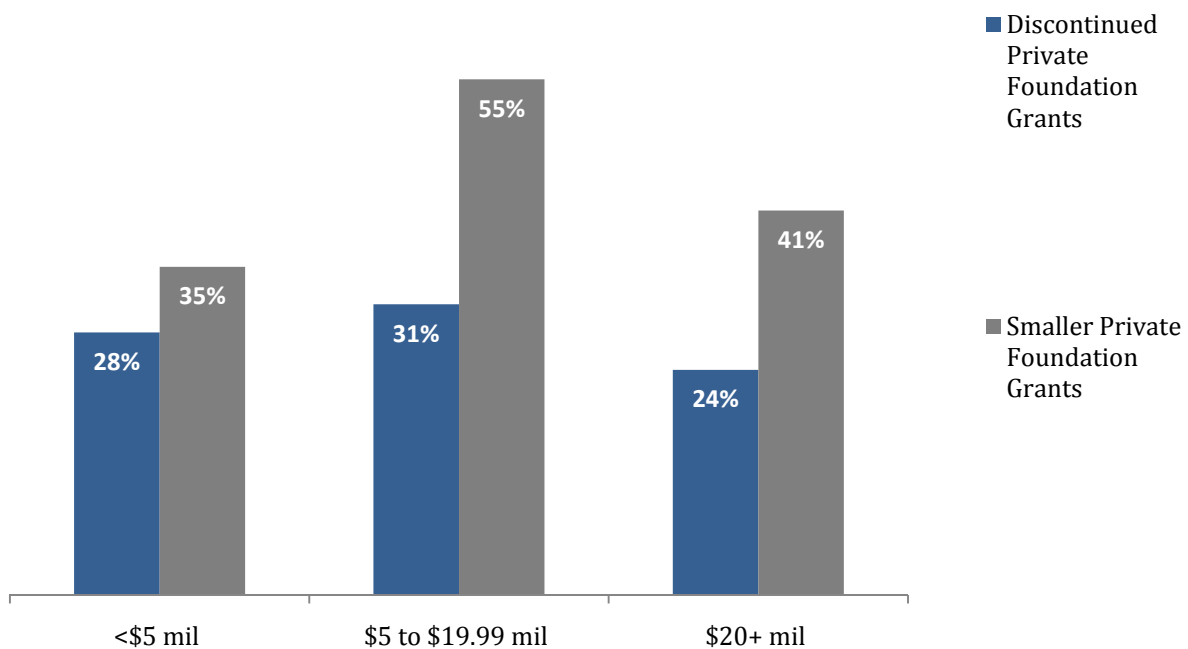


Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Details about Private Foundation Grants, Grouped by Organizations' Total Annual Expenditures

About half (53 percent) of all organizations that reported a decrease in contributions from January to September of 2010 reported drops in foundation grant dollars. Reasons cited for the decline in foundation funding include lower grant amounts and non-renewed contracts. Mid-sized organizations were most likely to see grant amounts drop, with 55 percent reporting that lower grant amounts contributed to lower overall fundraising results. The rate of discontinued foundation grant contracts was very comparable across the budget-size groups.

**Figure 8: Among public charities reporting a decline in contributions, the reporting a decrease in discontinued private foundation grants or smaller private foundation grants, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010, grouped by organizations' annual expenditures**



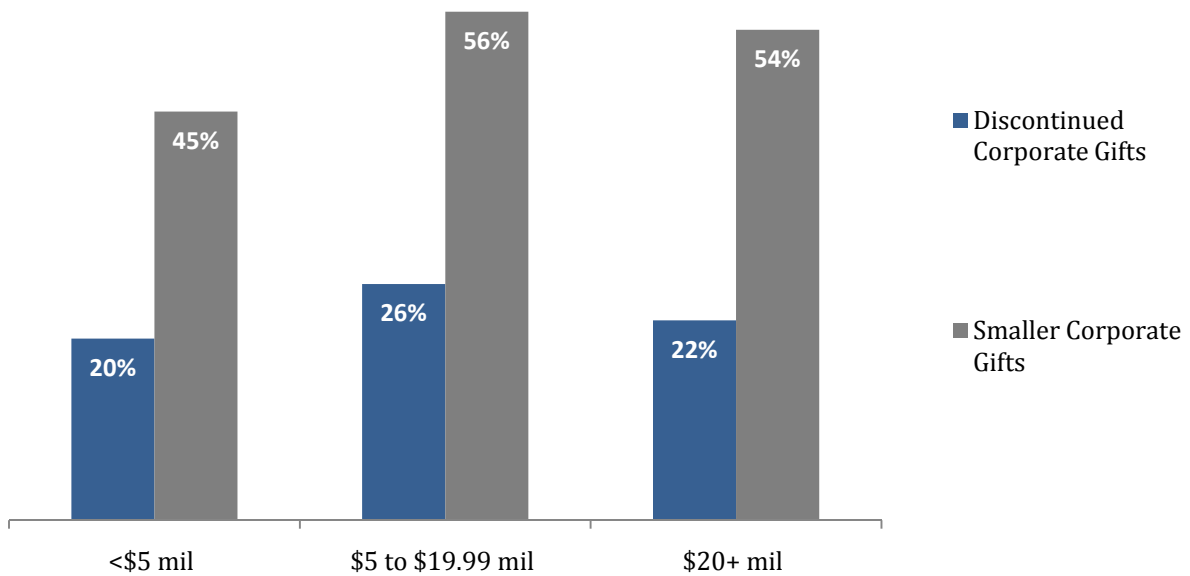
Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Details about Corporate Giving, Grouped by Organizations' Total Annual Expenditures

Corporate giving also declined in over half (55 percent) of the organizations that experienced overall drops in giving. Reasons cited for the declines include drops in amounts received and the discontinuation of corporate gifts. In every budget-size group, a decline in corporate dollars affected between 45 and 56 percent of organizations reporting an overall drop in giving.

Similar to the private foundation graph, the rate of discontinued corporate gifts was very comparable across the budget-size groups. However, organizations within the two largest budget-size categories were more likely to see amounts decline than smaller budget organizations.

**Figure 9: Among public charities reporting a decrease, the percentage reporting discontinued or smaller corporate gifts, comparing the first nine months of 2009 and 2010, grouped by organizations' annual expenditures**

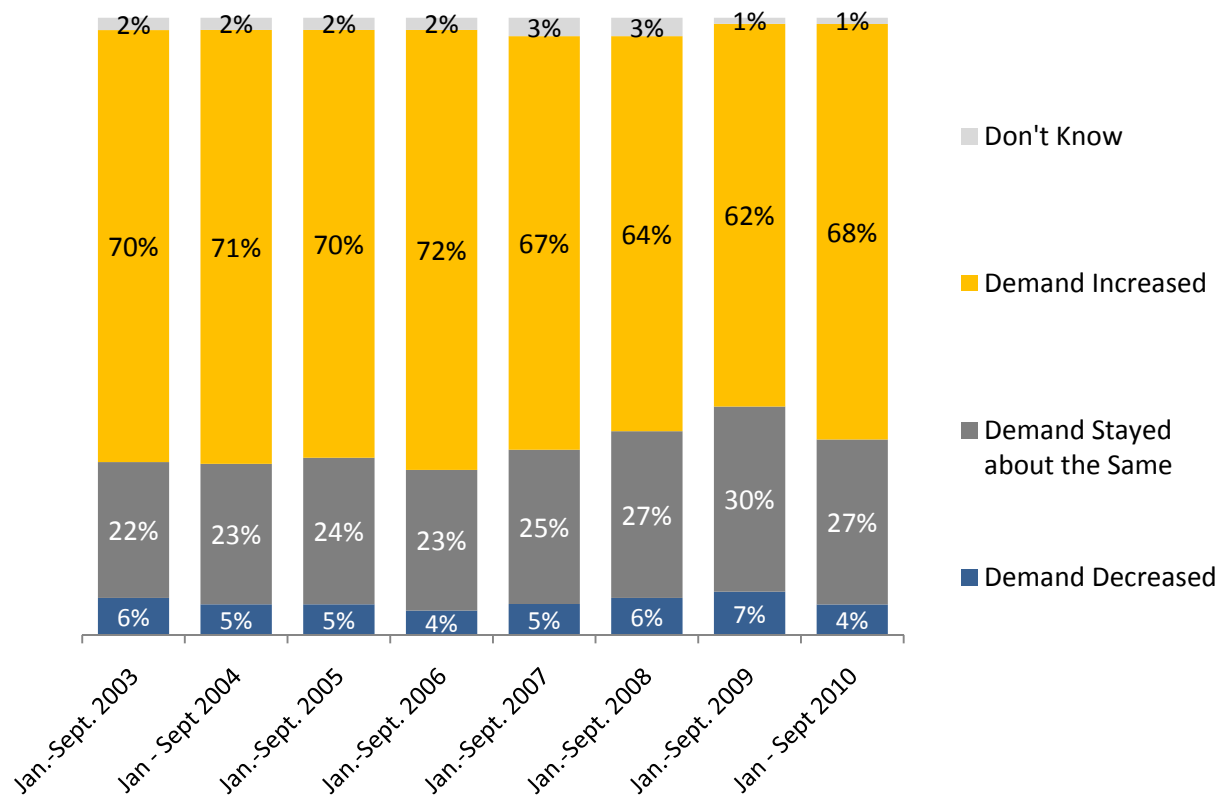


Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Demand for Services Rises Further in 2010

In the first nine months of 2010, 68 percent of respondents reported increased demand for services, compared with 62 percent reporting an increase in the first nine months of 2009. The percentage of organizations reporting an increase in demand for services began to decline in 2007. The year 2010 marks the first time since 2006 that the percentage of organizations reporting an increase in demand for services has increased over the previous year.

**Figure 10: Comparison of change in demand for services, 2010 with prior years**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

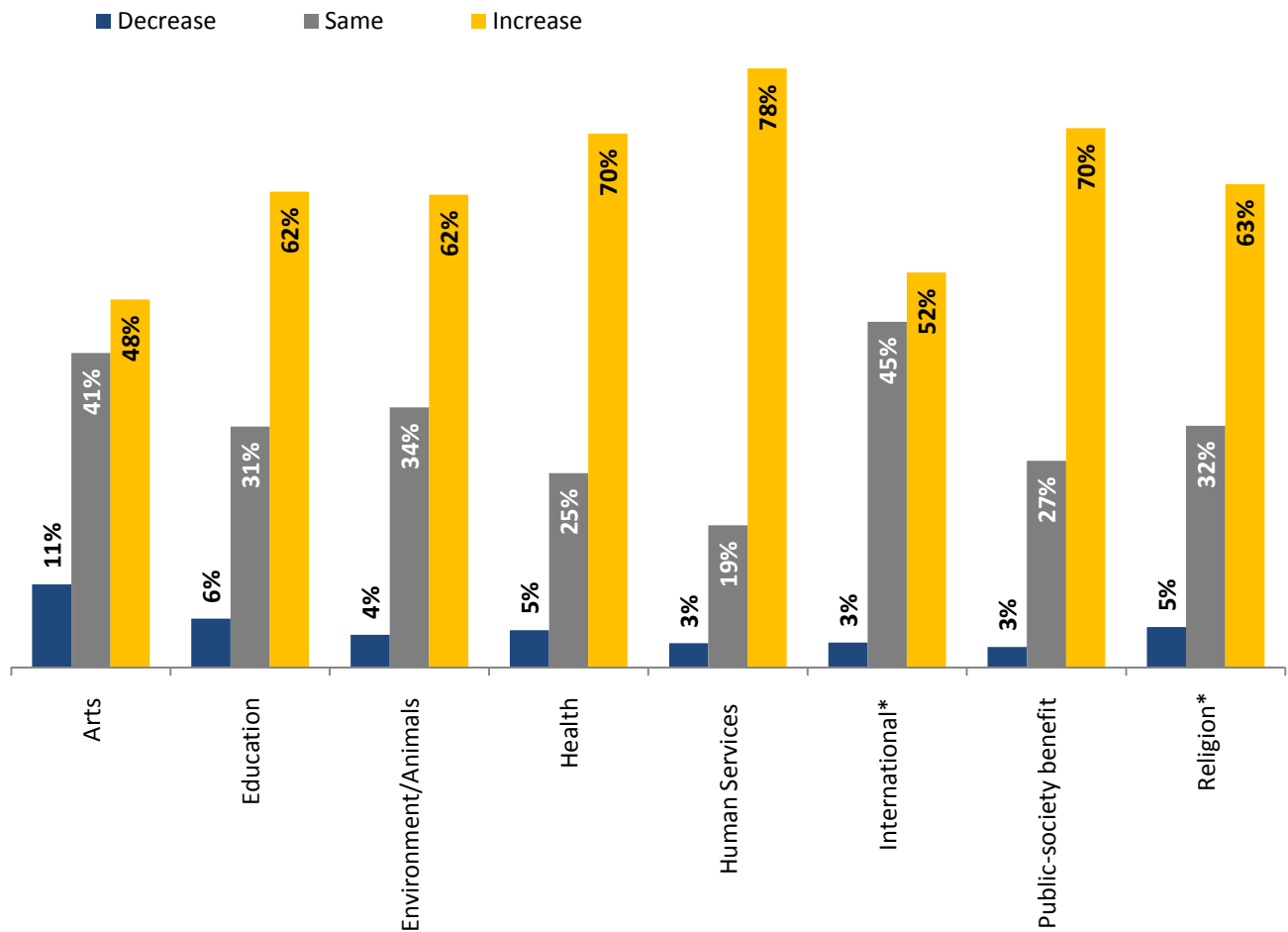
There was no variation in changes in demand based on organizational budget size. Among all sizes, two-thirds saw increased demand; approximately one-quarter saw demand staying about the same; and 4 to 6 percent saw a decrease in demand.

## Demand for Services Increases across all Subsectors in 2010

Almost one-half to more than three-quarters of organizations in each subsector reported an increased demand for services in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period in 2009.

Human Services showed the highest percentage of increase in demand, with 78 percent of more than 965 charities saying that demand has increased in 2010 compared with 2009. Two subsectors have the next largest share of respondents reporting an increase in demand: Health and Public-society Benefit, both at 70 percent.

**Figure 11: Percentage reporting change in demand for services, by subsector, first nine months of 2010 compared with same period in 2009.**



\* Indicates fewer than 100 respondents.

Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

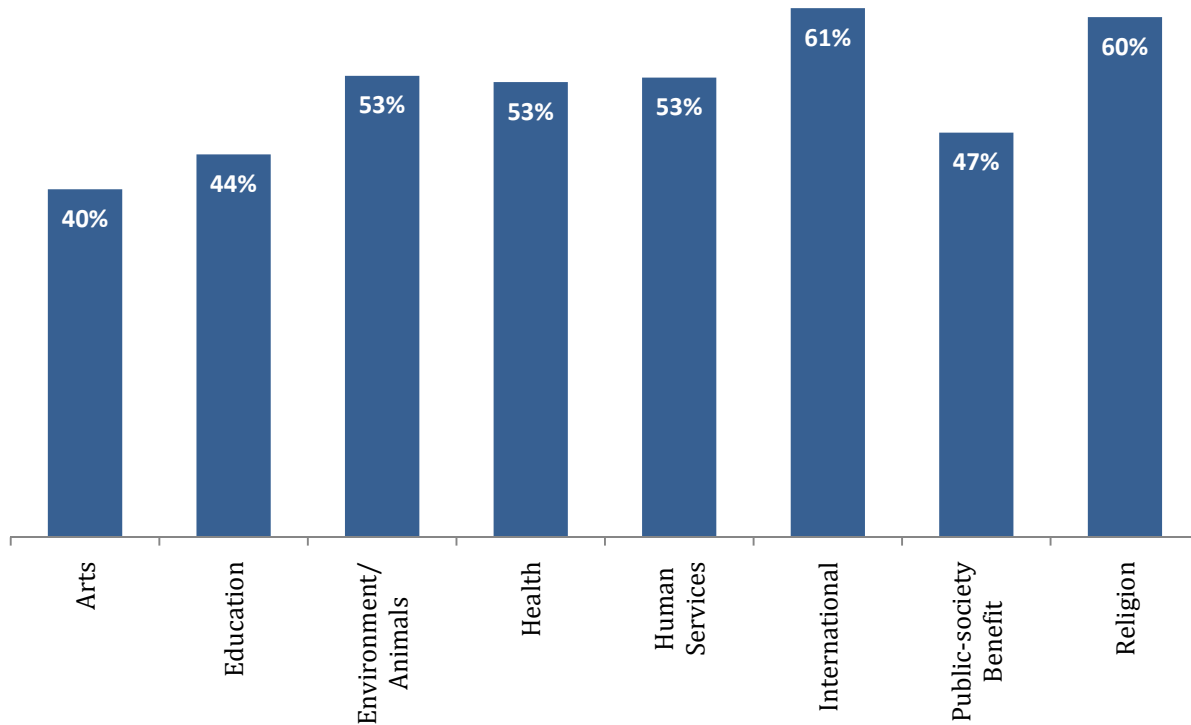
The subsector with the highest percentage of organizations reporting a decrease in demand for services was Arts, with 11 percent of organizations reporting a decrease.



## Share of Organizations Receiving the Majority of Funding in the Last Three Months of the Year

Fifty percent of organizations reported that they receive the majority of contributions in the last quarter of the year. This finding was consistent across charity types, except within the Arts, Education (where many organizations operate on a fiscal year), and Public-society Benefit subsectors (which often rely on pledge payments to United Ways that arrive in later months).

**Figure 12: Percentage of organizations by subsector reporting that they receive the majority of contributions from October through December**



\* Indicates fewer than 100 respondents.

Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

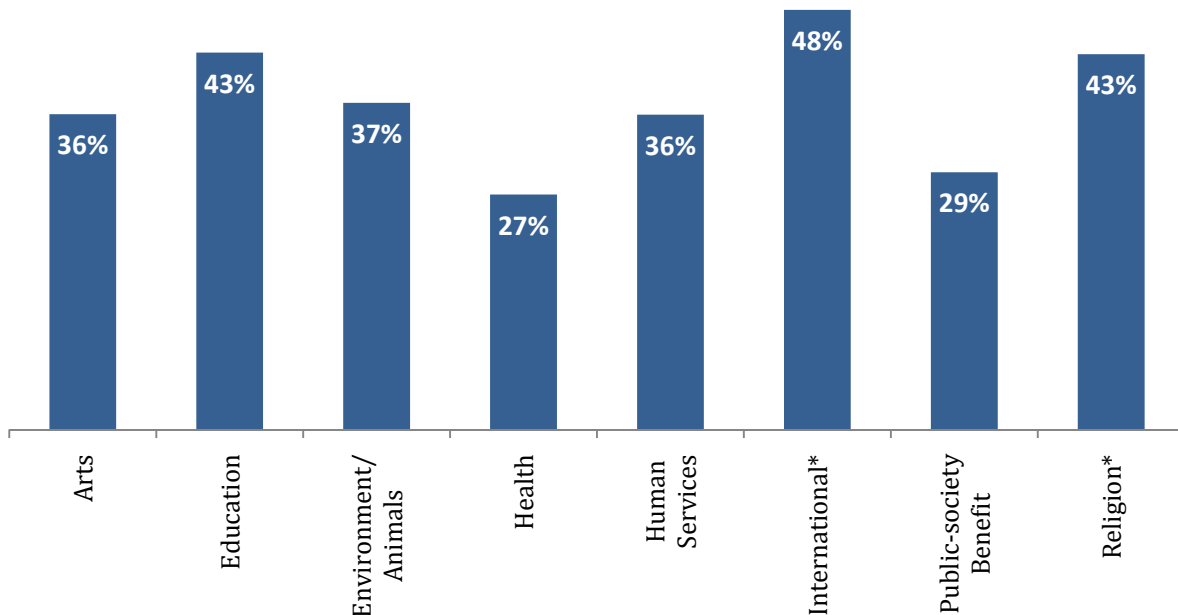
## Expected Contribution Levels, October—December 2010, by Type of Charity

More than one-third (36 percent) of charities said that their giving revenue would increase in the last quarter of 2010, compared with the last quarter of 2009. The largest share— 43 percent— expect contributions at the end of 2010 to remain about the same as those at the end of 2009. A much lower share of charities—22 percent—said giving would decrease in the last three months of 2010 compared with the previous year.

The type of charity most likely to expect giving to increase in the last three months of 2010, compared with the last three months of 2009, is International (48 percent project an increase).

The type of charity least likely to anticipate growth in the remaining months of 2010 is Health, with just 27 percent reporting that giving will increase.

**Figure 13: Percentage that anticipate giving from October—December 2010 will increase, compared with the same period in 2009**



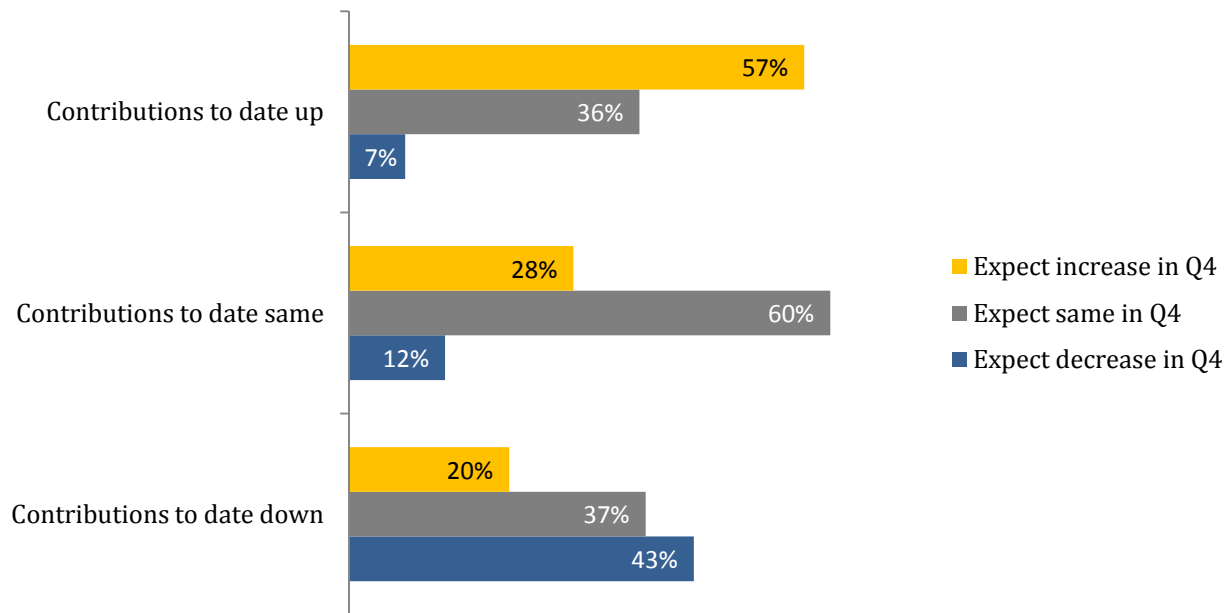
\* Indicates fewer than 100 respondents.

Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Expected Contribution Levels in October—December 2010 are Driven by Experience to Date in 2010

In general, groups that had already seen an increase in contributions were most likely to anticipate continued increases, compared with 2009, in October, November, and December of 2010. Similarly, organizations that experienced a decrease in the first nine months of 2010 were more likely to anticipate a decline in the last three months of 2010, compared with the same quarter in 2009.

**Figure 14: Prediction for direction of change in giving in Quarter 4, compared with Q4 2009, based on experience to date in 2010**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

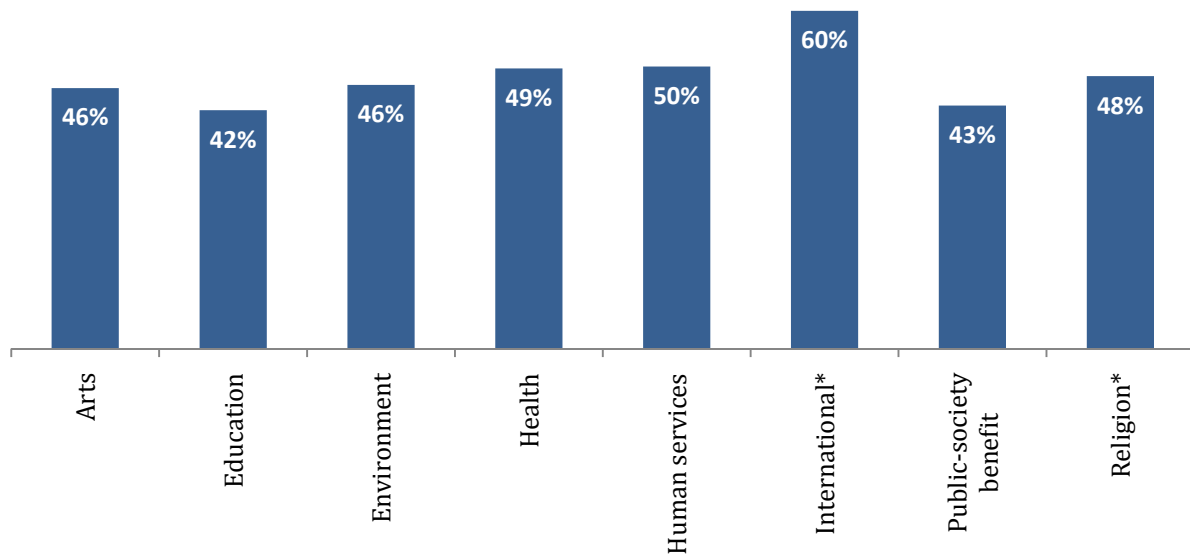
### Findings about Changes in Giving, October—December, by Budget Size

Since larger organizations are more likely to have seen an increase to date, it follows that larger organizations (43 percent) are more likely to expect an increase in the last three months of 2010, compared with the last three months of 2009. For smaller organizations: 33 percent expect an increase, 43 percent anticipate that giving in the last three months will remain the same as in the prior year, and 25 percent expect a decline. For mid-sized organizations: 38 percent project an increase, 43 percent anticipate no change, and 19 percent anticipate a decline in gifts received in the last three months of 2010 compared with the same period in 2009.

## Expected 2011 Budget Compared with 2010 Budget, by Subsector

Between 40 and 50 percent of responding charities in each subsector, except International, estimate a budget increase for 2011. For the responding organizations in the International subsector, 60 percent expect an increased budget.

**Figure 15: Percentage of responding charities projecting a budget increase for 2011, by subsector**



\* Indicates fewer than 100 respondents.

Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

Among all subsectors except International, between 17 to 28 percent of responding organizations predict a lower budget for 2011. The balance anticipate no budget change.

### Findings about Changes in Budget, by Budget Size

There are no material differences in predictions for 2011 budget increases across the three budget sizes created for this analysis:

- 46% of small organizations (less than \$1 million budget);
- 49% of medium-sized organizations (\$1 million to \$19.99 million budget); and
- 51% of large organizations (\$20 million or more budget).

Across all three size groups, roughly one-third of responding organizations expect things to stay the same and one-fifth anticipate having a lower budget for 2011.

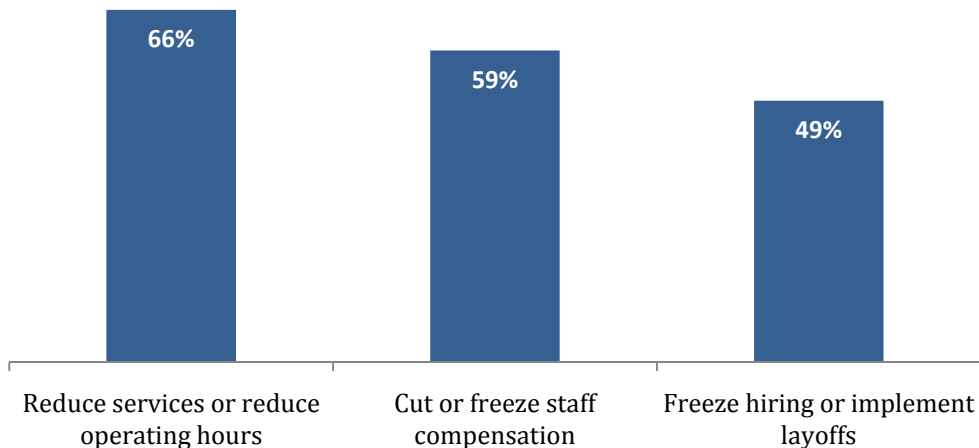
## Twenty Percent of Charities See Budget Declines in 2011; 7 percent Fear Closure Due to Financial Pressures

There are some signs that charitable giving is in less dire straits than it was last year at this time. Yet, one-fifth (20 percent) of survey respondents reported that their budgets for 2011 will be lower than their 2010 budgets. Seven percent reported that their organizations are at risk of folding next year because of finances.

There are few differences in the percentage of organizations facing budget drops when based on budget size or subsector. The two subsectors that differed were: International, with only 12 percent projecting a drop in the 2011 budget, and Religion, with 29 percent projecting budget declines next year.

When organizations predicted budget cuts, the most frequently cited measures to reduce expenditures were cutting program activities, services, or operating hours. These measures were planned by two-thirds (66 percent) of the organizations anticipating a budget reduction. A majority (59 percent) indicated that staff compensation, either salaries or benefits, would be cut, and nearly half (49 percent) reported that their organizations were implementing layoffs or hiring freezes. Note that organizations could choose more than one response.

**Figure 16: Percentage of organizations taking measures to reduce expenditures, from the 20 percent of organizations that anticipate a budget drop for 2011 compared with 2010**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2011

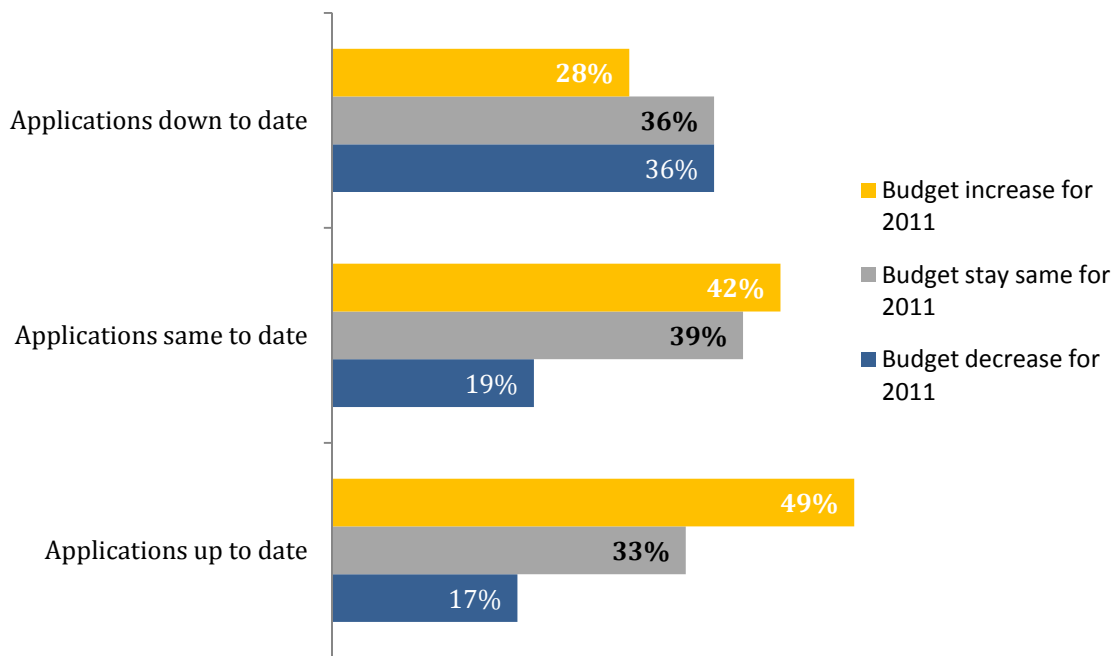
Organizations facing budget cuts were more likely than others to use volunteers instead of paid staff in 2010. Overall, 20 percent of organizations reported having volunteers do work that paid staff formerly did. For the organizations facing budget cuts next year, the percentage using volunteers to replace staff in 2010 is 28 percent. For those with budget increases, 18 percent are using volunteers in 2010 instead of staff. Where budgets remain the same for next year, 19 percent have volunteers to do work that paid staff used to do.

## Grantmakers' Experiences in 2010 and Predictions for 2011

Of all grantmakers, not just foundations, 52 percent reported an increase in applications in 2010, compared with same period in 2009.

There is a strong relationship between those anticipating a budget increase and those reporting increased applications received. Among grantmakers receiving more applications, 49 percent intend to increase their budgets in 2011.

**Figure 17: Anticipated change in grantmakers' budgets for 2011, based on changes in application submissions in 2010, compared with 2009**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

## Disaster Giving Focused on a Small Share of Charities

### A majority of those passed the money along

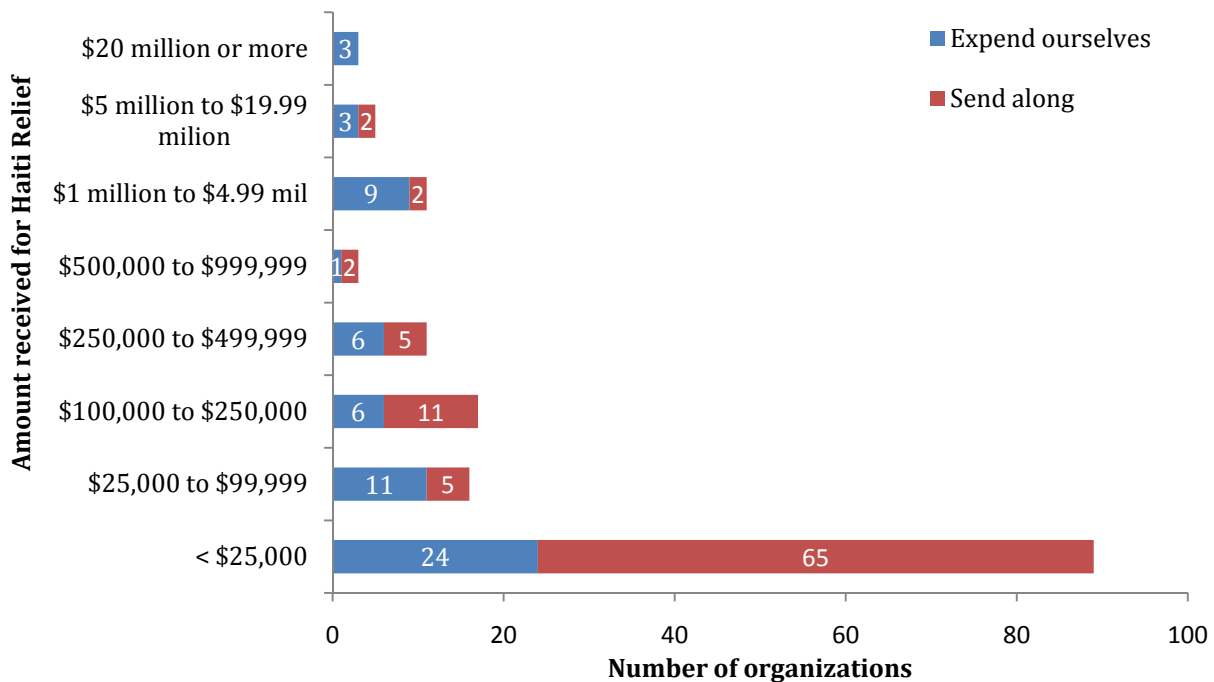
Seven percent of organizations received contributions for the Haitian earthquake relief, and three percent received donations for Pakistan flood relief.

Of the organizations receiving gifts for Haiti, the majority (59 percent) passed the donation along to another organization and 41 percent funded their own relief efforts. For the organizations receiving gifts for flood relief, 61 percent forwarded the donations and 38 percent planned to use them.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University surveyed relief agencies receiving funds and estimates a total of \$1.8 billion in total giving for Haitian earthquake relief.

Interestingly, 24 of the 89 organizations (27 percent) that received less than \$25,000 intended to expend the funds themselves. This includes organizations with budgets less than \$1 million in the Human Services and International subsectors, as well as one each in the Environment, Education, and Religion subsectors.

**Figure 18: Number of charities that will use contributions received for Haiti relief compared with number that passed the contribution along, based on amount received**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010

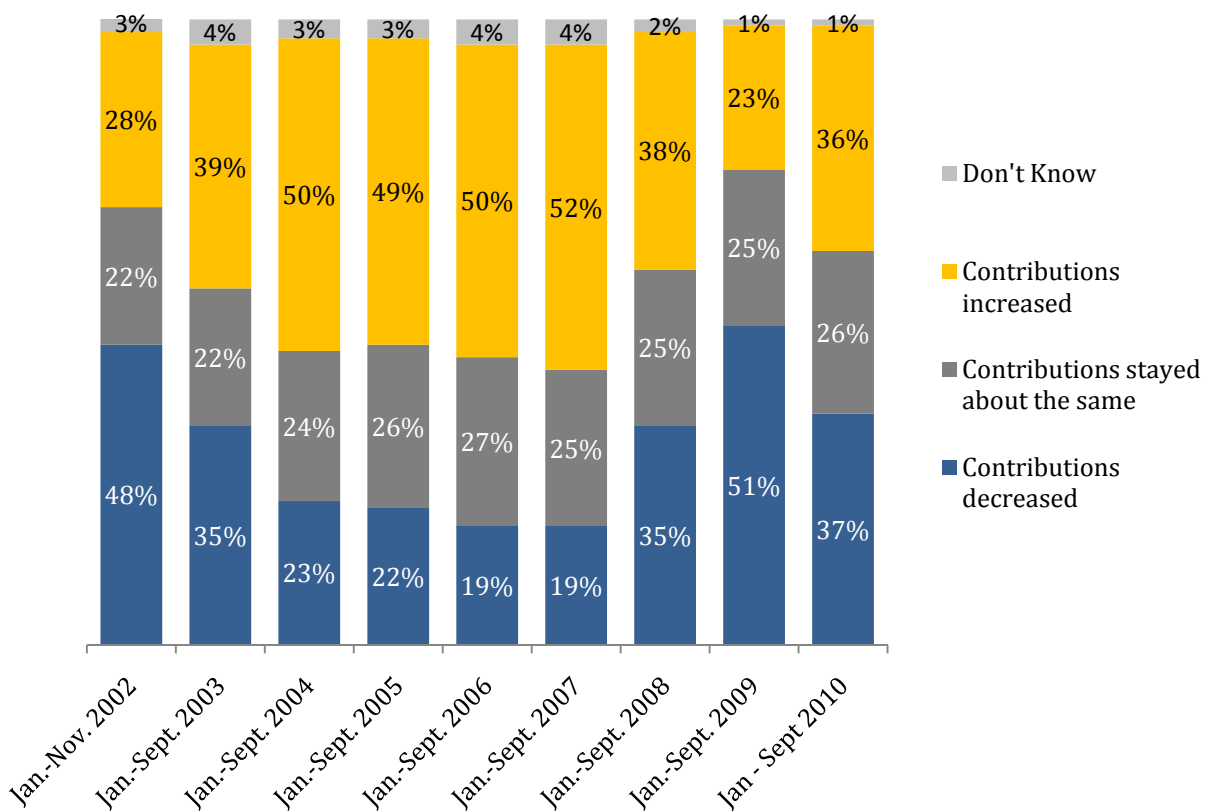
## Prior GuideStar Surveys Compared with the Nonprofit Research Collaborative Survey for 2010

GuideStar began surveying nonprofit organizations in 2002, asking the same questions that the Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey asked in October—November 2010. The findings for 2010 show a lower percentage of charities reporting declines in donations than in 2009 (37 percent compared with 51 percent a year ago).

The 2010 results compare favorably with one other year—2002—when 28 percent saw an increase (compared with this year’s 36 percent) and 48 percent reported that giving fell (compared with this year’s 37 percent).

This year’s findings are somewhat close to the results for two prior years: 2003 and 2008. In 2003, 39 percent saw an increase and 35 percent saw a decline. In 2008, very similar percentages of respondents reported that giving was up, the same, or down, as what we see this year.

**Figure 19: Comparison of changes in total contributions, 2010 with prior years**



Data: Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, November 2010



## Comparing the GuideStar-NRC Results to *Giving USA*

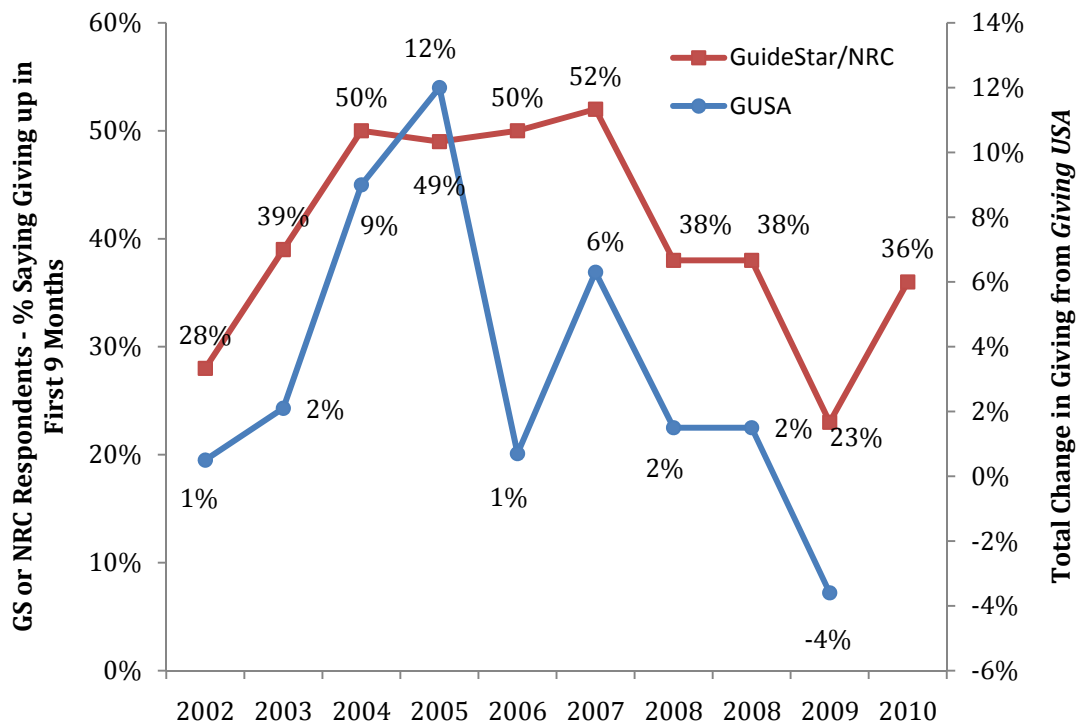
The GuideStar and Nonprofit Research Collaborative surveys take the pulse of charities and their perspective on giving as the fourth quarter of the calendar year begins. However, as seen, a large share of charities receive a significant portion of their total charitable receipts between October and December.

The survey of the first nine months is a fairly good indicator – except in one or two years of unusual events – of how the year will end. We see this when we compare the GuideStar studies from prior years with the final estimates from *Giving USA*.

In general, the percentage of respondents reporting that giving went up in the GuideStar survey (squares on the red line, left vertical axis) moves in the same direction as the change in giving reported by *Giving USA*.

The exceptions are 2005, when giving rose according to *Giving USA*, reflecting more than \$11 billion donated under the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act. Giving then slowed its rate of growth considerably in 2006, from the unusually high rate reached in 2005 (12 percent).

**Figure 20: Historical relationship between end-of-year survey results and *Giving USA* estimates for charitable giving**



Data: GuideStar, Nonprofit Research Collaborative survey, *Giving USA 2010*

## Relationship between this Survey and Other Studies

Blackbaud, a provider of software and services for nonprofits, issues [The Blackbaud Index](#) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The Index compares the most recent three months of revenue to the same period the previous year and is the most comprehensive and timely source of charitable giving available. The November 15<sup>th</sup> release shows that overall giving for the three months ending in September 2010 is up 4.3 percent from the prior year, with online giving up 19.5 percent. Like the NFRC survey, the Index reports that the recovery is uneven across organizations, with some sectors and sizes of organizations faring better than others. Blackbaud issues a monthly index of charitable giving that compares receipts at more than 1,300 organizations compared to the same month last year. That index shows strong growth in charitable revenue for all responding organizations in March through May of 2010 and slow growth or declines in the months since then. These results fit the pattern found in the NFRC survey, in which some organizations are seeing more giving in the first nine months of 2010 and about the same number are seeing declines.

Since late 2008, the Foundation Center has released numerous analyses of the impact of the economic crisis on foundations. Results in the NFRC survey are generally consistent with giving trends and estimates reported in this ongoing series of research reports, which can be accessed at <http://foundationcenter.org/focus/economy/>. This site includes an interactive map detailing \$440 million in economic crisis response funding.

## The Nonprofit Research Collaborative

Six organizations have formed the Nonprofit Research Collaborative. Each of these entities has, at a minimum, a decade of direct experience collecting information from nonprofits concerning charitable receipts, fundraising practices, and/or grantmaking activities.

The collaborating partners to date are:

- Association of Fundraising Professionals, which provides education, ethical guidance and other programs, including a variety of surveys and reports, to charitable fundraisers around the world;
- Blackbaud, Inc., which publishes The Blackbaud Index and prepares a report about the State of the Nonprofit Industry;
- The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, which conducted the Philanthropic Giving Index from 1998 through 2009;
- The Foundation Center, which provides services to nonprofit organizations and documents trends in foundation giving worldwide;
- GuideStar USA, Inc., which has issued annual reports about the impact of the economy on the nonprofit sector since 2002; and
- The National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute, which tracks the finances and activities of nonprofit organizations and prepares the *Nonprofit Almanac* and other publications and resources.

The collaboration streamlines the process for charities, which will receive fewer surveys will respond to questions once instead of repeatedly. Survey participants will form a panel over time, allowing for trend comparisons among the same organizations. This approach provides more useful benchmarking information than repeated cross-sectional studies.

## Methodology

The first Nonprofit Research Collaborative fundraising survey was fielded between October 19 and November 3, 2010. This study was fielded online through a site constructed by the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS). Invitations to participate in the survey were sent by the six partner organizations to their constituents.

It received 2,519 responses. Of those, 2,489 were eligible participants from nonprofit charities, foundations, or grantmakers. A total of 2,349 charities completed the questions, as did 163 foundations. The analysis for grantmakers includes responses from charities that make grants, but are not foundations. These include United Ways, Jewish federations, congregations, and a number of other types of organizations. There were responses from 386 grantmakers.

The respondents form a convenience sample.<sup>1</sup> There is no margin of error or measure of statistical significance using this sampling technique, as it is not a random sample of the population studied. However, given the long-running nature of GuideStar's economic surveys and the strong relationship between findings in those studies in prior years and actual results once tax data about charitable giving are available, the method employed here is a useful barometer of what charities experience and what total giving will look like.

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<sup>1</sup> In statistics, a convenience sample occurs when the study invites participants who are not drawn from a random sample that forms an accurate representation of some larger group or population. This study was sent to organizations that had registered to receive emails from the sponsors. No effort was made to form a random sample of nonprofit organizations.

## **Appendix A: The Nonprofit Fundraising Survey**

November 2010

Questions and the number and percentage of responses for each.

	Number	Percentage
<b>1.0 What type of nonprofit is your organization?</b>		
Public charity	2,356	92.40%
Private foundation/grantmaker	163	6.40%
I am not associated with a nonprofit organization*	30	1.20%
Total	2,549	

\* excluded from all further analysis

**2 Does your organization accept contributions?**

Yes	2487	98.80%
No	32	1.30%
Total	2519	

**2.1 Did total contributions to your organization increase, decrease, or stay about the same during the first nine months of this year, compared to the first nine months of 2009?**

Total contributions increased greatly	196	7.90%
Total contributions increased modestly	681	27.40%
Total contributions stayed about the same	644	25.90%
Total contributions decreased modestly	577	23.20%
Total contributions decreased greatly	345	13.90%
Don't know	44	1.80%
Total	2487	

No response\*

\* not included in analysis about contributions

**2.1.1 What factors caused total contributions to decrease?**

Asked only of respondents where contributions decreased

Fewer individuals gave	643	69.70%
Gifts from individuals were smaller	669	72.60%
Private foundation grants were smaller	383	41.50%
Private foundation grants were discontinued	257	27.90%
Corporate gifts were smaller	449	48.70%
Corporate gifts were discontinued	209	22.70%
Government grants were smaller	183	19.80%
Government grants were discontinued	94	10.20%
Government contracts were smaller	89	9.70%
Government contracts were discontinued	34	3.70%
Other (please specify)	96	10.20%
Don't know	9	1.00%
Total with decline in revenue	922	

**2.2 Many charities report that they receive the majority of their contributions in October, November, and December. Is this true for your organization?**

Asked only of charities that receive contributions

Yes	1248	50.20%
No	1087	43.70%
Don't know	152	6.10%
Total	2487	

**2.3 How do you think contributions to your organization during October, November, and December 2010 will compare to contributions received during the same period last year?**

Asked only of charities that receive contributions

We expect contributions to increase greatly	108	4.30%
We expect contributions to increase modestly	735	29.60%
We expect contributions to stay about the same	1009	40.60%
We expect contributions to decrease modestly	378	15.20%
We expect contributions to decrease greatly	132	5.30%
We have no idea	125	5.00%
Total	2487	

**3 Did demand for your organization's services increase, decrease, or stay about the same during the first nine months of this year, compared to the first nine months of 2009?**

Demand for our services increased greatly	779	30.90%
Demand for our services increased modestly	909	36.10%
Demand for our services stayed about the same	670	26.60%
Demand for our services decreased greatly	22	0.90%
Demand for our services decreased modestly	97	3.90%
Don't know	42	1.70%
Total	2519	

**4 Does your organization award grants?**

Yes	382	15.20%
No	2137	84.80%
Total	2519	

**4.1 Did the number of funding applications/grant requests increase, decrease, or stay about the same during the first nine months of this year,**

Asked only of charities that make grants

Applications increased greatly	64	16.70%
Applications increased modestly	125	32.60%
Applications stayed about the same	147	38.30%
Applications decreased modestly	18	4.70%
Applications decreased greatly	7	1.80%
Don't know	23	6.00%
Total	384	

**4.2 Did the total amount of money your organization awarded increase, decrease, or stay about the same during the first nine months of this year, compared to the first nine months of 2009?**

Asked only of charities that make grants

Total money awarded increased greatly	32	8.30%
Total money awarded increased modestly	94	24.50%
Total money awarded stayed about the same	157	40.90%
Total money awarded decreased modestly	63	16.40%
Total money awarded decreased greatly	28	7.30%
Don't know	10	2.60%
Total	384	

#### 4.2.1 Which measures did you take to reduce the total money you

Asked only of charities that make grants

We cut back on the types of programs we funded	33	36.30%
We reduced the amount of payouts we had committed to	28	30.80%
We stopped accepting grant applications	16	17.60%
We only accepted applications from organizations that we have funded	11	12.10%
We did not make payouts we had committed to	2	2.20%
Other	23	25.30%
Total	91	

#### 5 How does your budget for next year (2011) compare to your 2010

Budget will increase greatly	173	6.90%
Budget will increase modestly	982	39.00%
Budget will stay about the same	805	32.00%
Budget will decrease greatly	160	6.40%
Budget will decrease modestly	330	13.10%
Don't know	69	2.70%
Total	2519	

#### 5.1 What measures will you use to reduce your budget?

Asked only where organization said budget in 2011 would decrease.

Reduction in program activities/services	307	62.60%
Reduction in employee benefits	121	24.70%
Reduction in operating hours	54	10.90%
Salary reduction	95	19.10%
Salary freeze	212	42.90%
Hiring freeze	151	31.00%
Layoffs	149	30.00%
Other (please specify)	109	22.30%
Total	490	

#### 6 Do you feel your organization is at serious risk of folding in the coming year, due to financial reasons?

Yes	181	7.20%
No	2223	88.30%
Don't know	114	4.60%
Total	2518	

#### 7 During the first nine months of this year, did you use volunteers in positions that were formerly paid positions?

Yes	509	20.20%
No	1841	73.10%
We do not have volunteers	145	5.80%
Don't know	24	1.00%
Total	2519	

**8 For classification purposes, what is your primary responsibility with your**

CEO/Executive Director/President	1088	43.20%
Chief Financial Officer/Organization Treasurer	176	7.00%
Executive Officer (other than CEO/Executive Director or CFO/Treasurer	157	6.20%
Fiscal/Finance (Other than Chief Financial Officer or Organization Treasurer)	71	2.80%
Board Member/Board Director/Trustee	86	3.40%
Development/Fundraising	758	30.10%
Programs and Services	58	2.30%
Communications	31	1.20%
Marketing	21	0.80%
Technology	3	0.10%
Volunteer	11	0.40%
Other	59	2.30%
Total	2519	

**9 What is the main subject category in which your organization works?**

Animal Related	151	6.00%
Art, Culture, Humanities	310	12.30%
Civil Rights, Social Action, Advocacy	55	2.20%
Community Improvement, Capacity Building	74	2.90%
Crime, Legal Related	13	0.50%
Diseases, Disorders, Medical Disciplines	48	1.90%
Education	263	10.40%
Employment, Job Related	26	1.00%
Environmental Quality, Protection, Beautification	105	4.20%
Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition	45	1.80%
Health-General and Rehabilitative	136	5.40%
Housing, Shelter	116	4.60%
Human Services	516	20.50%
International, Foreign Affairs, National Security	24	1.00%
Medical Research	17	0.70%
Mental Health, Crisis Intervention	59	2.30%
Mutual/Membership Benefit	8	0.30%
Philanthropy, Voluntarism, and Grantmaking Foundations	46	1.80%
Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness, Relief	15	0.60%
Public, Societal Benefit	61	2.40%
Recreation, Sports, Leisure, Athletics	32	1.30%
Religion	76	3.00%
Science and Technology Research Institutes, Services	9	0.40%
Social Science Research Institutes, Services	5	0.20%
Unclassified	17	0.70%
Youth Development	162	6.40%
Don't know	1	0.00%
Other	129	5.10%
Total	2519	



**10 What is the size of your organization, based on total annual**

Less than \$25,000	162	6.50%
\$25,000 to \$99,999	268	10.60%
\$100,000 to \$249,999	313	12.50%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	296	11.60%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	336	13.10%
\$1 million to \$4,999,999	622	24.70%
\$5 million to \$19,999,999	347	13.80%
\$20 million or more	147	6.00%
Don't know	28	1.20%
Total	2519	

**11 How much in contributions, if any, did your organization receive for relief or rebuilding in response to the earthquake in Haiti?**

\$0 (None)	2346	93.10%
Less than \$25,000	89	3.50%
\$25,000 to \$99,999	16	0.60%
\$100,000 to \$249,999	17	0.70%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	11	0.40%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	3	0.10%
\$1 million to \$4,999,999	11	0.40%
\$5 million to \$19,999,999	5	0.20%
\$20 million or more	3	0.10%
Don't know	18	0.70%
Total	2519	

**11.1 Did/will you expend Haiti earthquake funds yourself or did/will you direct them to another agency?**

Asked only of organizations reporting contributions for Haiti relief

Expend ourselves	63	40.60%
Send along to another agency	92	59.40%
Total	155	

**12 How much in contributions, if any, did your organization receive for relief in response to the floods in Pakistan?**

\$0 (None)	2462	97.70%
Less than \$25,000	29	1.20%
\$25,000 to \$99,999	1	0.00%
\$100,000 to \$249,999	3	0.10%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	2	0.10%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	0.00%
\$1 million to \$4,999,999	5	0.20%
\$5 million to \$19,999,999	0	0.00%
\$20 million or more	1	0.00%
Don't know	15	0.60%
Total	2519	

**12.1 Did/will you expend Pakistan floods funds yourself or did/will you direct them to another agency?**

Asked only of organizations reporting contributions for Pakistan flood relief

Expend ourselves	16	38.10%
Send along to another agency	26	61.90%
Total	42	