

Keynotes for Nonprofits April 2009



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Workshops & Conferences

Northwoods Nonprofits: Smart Survival Guide for Nonprofit Boards and Staff – What you can do starting NOW

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

9:00AM – 12:00PM

Central Lakes College, Brainerd

Presenter: Carter McNamara

Experts warn that this recession will be one of the toughest challenges that nonprofits will ever have to face. You'll need to get the most out of every resource that you have! Two of the most precious assets to any nonprofit are its Board members and staff (paid or volunteer). In this workshop you will learn how to engage your Board and staff to do what's necessary to survive. You will receive suggestions for guidelines, tips and tools to:

- Quickly assess if your Board is prepared for the recession.
- Ensure a strong working relationship between your Board and Executive Director.
- Carry out the kinds of tough conversations and decisions that your Board will need to do.
- Maximize revenues where you can, while cutting expenses to minimize impacts to clients.
- Cultivate collaborations to maximize impact and efficiencies for your programs.
- Know what Board committees to have, and how can you focus and fully engage them.
- Keep Board members, staff and yourself sane during these very tough and challenging times.
- Utilize technology and its resources to maximize effectiveness and efficiencies in your nonprofit.

Note: this session is designed to complement (rather than duplicate in any way) the MN Council of Nonprofits workshop that is scheduled in Brainerd on May 13, 2009.

\$55 Staff / \$35 Board & volunteers / \$5 discount if registered by April 23rd

For more information or to register visit <http://northwoodsnonprofits.org> or call 800-370-9882.

MAVA Volunteer Resources Leadership Training

April 28 and May 5, 2009

8:30AM – 12:00PM

Boy Scouts of America Building, Sartell

Earn your Certificate in Volunteer Leadership in St. Cloud! St. Cloud Area Volunteer Coordinators, United Way of Central Minnesota and Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration present the Volunteer Impact Leadership Training Series. This 8-topic series includes trainings on Managing Risk, Recruiting Volunteers, Positioning Your Volunteer Program for Success, Supervising Volunteers, Capturing Volunteer Motivation, Recognizing Volunteers and more!

Cost varies based on membership status and session choice.

For more information and to register, visit www.MAVANetwork.org/VRL

Lunch & Learn: Weathering the Recession

Thursday, April 30, 2009

10:00AM – 12:00PM

St. Cloud Public Library, Bremer Room

Nonprofit organizations are finding that current economic conditions require them to make difficult choices and changes in order to continue delivering services to core constituents. What has your organization done, so far, to adjust to the dramatic changes in investment values, contributed and personal income, and general business conditions? How have other nonprofits in the area responded, and what are some of the successful strategies they have implemented to date? At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Assess your financial situation and develop smart strategic actions in response to the economic downturn.
- Apply practical tools and approaches to respond to changes in income.

This session is tailored for executive directors and presidents of nonprofit organizations, but will also be informative for CFOs and others in financial management positions. Nancy Lee, Managing Consultant, LarsonAllen will be presenting.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Janelle Steil at 320-203-5617 or jsteil@larsonallen.com.

Human Resources Management for Paid & Volunteer Staff

Friday, May 1, 2009

9:00AM – 12:00PM and 12:45PM – 3:15PM (companion sessions)

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Presenter: Ellen McVeigh (AM) and Chris Fastner (PM)

The morning session focuses on **Human Resources Legal Issues**, which includes both paid and non-paid/volunteer staff. The companion afternoon session, **Mobilizing and Managing Your Volunteers**, will delve into organizational capacity to work with volunteers to further your mission and implement programs. You can register for these separately, but are encouraged to attend both as a set. These workshops are free to all nonprofit groups and organizations in our region, thanks to our partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches! Your only cost, if here for lunch, will be \$12/person to cover your meal and snack costs. Current Compassion Capital Fund awardees can register at no charge.

FREE for current Compassion Capital Fund awardees / only \$12 lunch cost for non-awardees (if staying for lunch). For more information and to register please download the [workshop flyers and registration form](#).

Engaging Male Volunteers: Recruiting from the ‘Good Ole Boys Club’

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

1:00PM – 4:30PM

CentraCare Health Plaza - Windfelt Room, St. Cloud

Katie Elden, Volunteer Director, Bolder Options will discuss research on motivations and obstacles that encourage and discourage men to volunteer, along with solutions to overcoming barriers. Following the presentation, a panel of male volunteers from the St. Cloud area will share why they volunteer and provide tips on how to recruit males.

Free to SCAVC members / \$10 MAVAs members / \$20 general public

See [brochure](#) for more information and to register or contact Kelly Troska-Johnson at 320-240-1900 x218.

Fund Development for Nonprofits

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

9:00AM – 2:00PM

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Presenter: Reid Zimmerman

This workshop covers many aspects of planning and implementing a variety of fund development strategies and will provide you with practical tips to:

- Understand your current income and support position.
- Fine tune your case for support.
- Consider policies and procedures for efficient fundraising.
- Develop a plan for fund development that will help sustain your organization in difficult economic times.

This workshop is free to all nonprofit groups and organizations in our region, thanks to our partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches! Your only cost, if here for lunch, will be \$12/person to cover your meal and snack costs. Current Compassion Capital Fund awardees can register at no charge.

Register soon so that you won't be disappointed and turned away if the space fills early. These opportunities for quality workshops at no cost are a tremendous benefit to the nonprofits in our central MN region!

FREE for current Compassion Capital Fund awardees and HOP grantees in rounds 11-15 / only \$12 lunch cost for non-awardees. For more information and to register please download the [workshop flyer and registration form](#).

Recession Year Financial Leadership – rescheduled due to weather

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

1:00PM – 4:30PM (registration begins at 12:30PM)

Central Lakes College, Brainerd, 501 West College Drive, Room E203, 56401

You are invited to **Brainerd** for a special workshop on Recession Year Financial Leadership hosted by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the Initiative Foundation. This workshop recognizes that the next two years will test even the sturdiest organizations -- compelling managers and boards to:

- Clearly understand the organization's current situation.
- Develop and evaluate the actual options available to the organization.
- Engage the support base and constituency of the organization about these options.
- Promptly make decisions, communicate them and take action.

Recession-Year Financial Leadership will illuminate the key decisions, choices and strategies that you should consider and provide you with analytical tools, templates and talking points to lead your organization, and join forces with partner organizations, in this most difficult year.

Presented by Kate Barr, executive director, Nonprofits Assistance Fund and Jon Pratt, executive director, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, this workshop will emphasize the practical and realistic realities nonprofits are facing across Minnesota.

\$45 for MCN members / \$65 for nonmembers * *Initiative Foundation grantees can register at the MCN member rate - to do this please download and mail or fax a registration form indicating that your organization is a partner of the Initiative Foundation.*

- Click here to Register online
- Register by mail or fax - download and complete the registration form (including credit card information) and mail to: Minnesota Council of Nonprofits; 2314 University Ave. West, Suite 20; St. Paul; MN; 55114-1802 or fax the form to 651-642-1517.

The 2009 Minnesota Conference on Volunteer Administration – Impacting our Future: Connect, Strengthen, Inspire

May 18 – 20, 2009

Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN

Don't miss Minnesota's largest volunteer leadership conference.

- Treat yourself to learning and networking!
- Three Keynote Sessions, including "Applying Hollywood Methods to Inspiring and Influencing Others"
- More than 40 educational sessions!
- Explore and have fun!

Register NOW to receive the early bird rate! Visit www.mavenetwork.org/newsconference for more information and to register.

Lunch and Learn: Dissect the Frog

Thursday, June 11, 2009

11:45AM – 1:15PM

Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Presenter: Brian Myers, ING Direct

This is a process by which an organization dissects its operations. The process encourages staff to talk about certain procedures and explore if efficiencies can be gained by changing the way business is done. Dissect the Frog makes organizations take a serious look at how to do business better and more productively. Brian Myres has led the Dissect the Frog process in many local organizations along with divisions within ING Direct.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Janelle Steil at 320-203-5617 or jsteil@larsonallen.com. Cost: \$10 if having lunch; otherwise no charge.

Funding Opportunities

Foundations to Host Health Funding Forum

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

1:00PM – 2:30PM

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Please join us for an informational forum with, JoAnn Birkholz, manager of the Medica Foundation, to review the Medica Foundation's 2009 funding priorities for Greater Minnesota nonprofit organizations, local units of government and school districts. The Medica Foundation *provides seed money for community-based programs that address the underlying causes and factors inhibiting optimal health.* These programs demonstrate measurable improvement in the availability, access and quality of health care in the communities we serve.

For more information or to register contact Heather Craig at foundation@medica.com, 952-992-2060.

From Fieldstone Alliance...

The Stimulus Package in a Nutshell

The ARRA, more commonly known as the "stimulus package," provides new spending and tax cuts totaling \$787.2 billion. It's the largest single appropriation bill in U.S. history. It aims to:

- Preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery.
- Assist those most impacted by the recession.
- Provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.
- Invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.
- Stabilize state and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

Stimulus monies are designated as temporary, one-time funding. Recipients are encouraged to see the money as helping them through the recession and not as an ongoing governmental assistance program. (However, many predict that Congress will find it difficult to rescind some of the assistance—particularly for programs like Medicaid and special education.) All stimulus money is scheduled to expire in fiscal year 2011.

Funding Available to Nonprofits

From our review of ARRA, we found that many of the Act's funding components will be available to nonprofits. Major categories of eligible programs that have strong nonprofit applicability include:

- Arts and humanities
- Education and internet access
- Employment and job training
- Energy
- Housing and community development
- Human and social services
- National service

In addition to direct funding for nonprofit organizations, ARRA contains many provisions to help individuals and families who are served by nonprofits. Examples include unemployment compensation, supplemental nutrition assistance (food stamps), and Medicaid.

How the Money Will Be Distributed

Some of the stimulus funds will be redistributed by federal agencies. Most, however, will first go to state and local government agencies for redistribution to governmental, business, and nonprofit entities in their jurisdiction.

Some money will be distributed according to existing formulas and contracts. In other cases, qualifying applicants must apply through a competitive grants process. In some instances, the receiving agency is placing limits on who can apply. For example, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has reportedly said that they will only consider requests from arts organizations that already have received an NEA grant.

Act Now!

Federal legislation calls for quick distribution of the stimulus money. Unless nonprofits act quickly, these one-time funds will go to entities better able to use the resources right away. And, as mentioned earlier, all stimulus money is scheduled to expire in fiscal year 2011. To help you act fast, see the web sites listed below.

Other Legislation

Congress and some state legislatures are enacting additional laws that can benefit nonprofits and the people they serve. For instance, on March 11, President Obama signed legislation related to the normal federal budgeting process. The omnibus spending bill appropriated another \$410 billion, this time directed at traditional federal spending programs. The bill also contains some 8,500 earmarks, totaling more than \$7 billion, many of which will benefit individual nonprofits.

Within the next few months, Congress is also expected to pass targeted budget bills which include funding for affordable housing, energy, and natural resource protection.

In these tough times, we need to remember that Americans have always stepped up to help each other. Those of us who work in nonprofits really are doing the work that makes a difference in our communities. As the year progresses, Fieldstone Alliance will continue to publish updates and helpful information on legislation that can help you sustain your organization and your community.

Helpful Web Sites

By now, most states and even some local agencies have created their own web sites to publicize the availability of stimulus dollars. An excellent catalogue of these sites has been developed by the National Council of Nonprofits (NCN) as part of their helpful series of reports on stimulus funding.

Overall Stimulus Fund Information Sources

[Recovery.gov](#)

[National Council of Nonprofits](#)

[Independent Sector](#)

State Information Sources

[Recovery.gov](#)

[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

[State Recovery Sites](#)

[State Nonprofit Associations](#)

Grantor Agency Recovery Sites

Listing of federal agency informational websites about their participation in the Recovery Act.

Grant Opportunities Related to ARRA

Opportunities Related to Specific Interests

- [Arts and humanities](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Employment and job training](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Housing and community development](#)
- [Health and human services](#)
- [National service](#)
- [State fiscal stabilization](#)
- [Transportation](#)

From the MN Council of Nonprofits...

Making Sense of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Minnesota's Nonprofits

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law on February 13 and we are now beginning to understand how some of this \$11.4 billion is going to flow into Minnesota. The State of Minnesota has set up an official Web site to coordinate efforts related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. At this Web site you can find a very detailed description of each of the funding streams, anticipated amounts, the state agency responsible for administering the funds and contact people at each of the state agencies. The summary table "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Estimated Allocation for Minnesota" does not include the details of how the funds will be distributed at the state agency level, so we have provided what we know as of this date here.

Be aware that not all of the funding programs are in place at this time and for many of the categories the amounts listed are anticipated amounts. The vast majority of resources flowing to Minnesota will be disbursed through a formula process, but there will be some competitive grant programs.

As the process for distributing these funds continues to evolve, MCN will keep you updated by and is also planning to hold a public briefing for nonprofits in mid-April on the Recovery and Reinvestment Act and what it means for Minnesota's nonprofits.

Things to Know

Kate Barr's article in the Nonprofit Quarterly E-newsletter...

For people running most nonprofits, being able to predict the course of various sources of funding is the way we keep our patched-together budgets somewhat stable. But once the potholes begin to show up in places we never expected, we have to deal with it. This can be hard because you're not just sitting on the ground alone cursing freely as you work on something mechanical for which you have instructions -- you have a board of directors, staff, and stakeholders that need to be included in decision making and it can be hard to figure exactly what needs to be done and when in order to get back on the road.

So I (NPQ editor) have included an article by one of our favorite financial management gurus, the wildly practical Kate Barr, about decision making in these times. This [article](#) will be in the spring issue (Nonprofit Quarterly) which will also include the stories of 10 nonprofits and the potholes and decisions they have encountered over the past six months.

Resources for Nonprofits

From MN Council of Nonprofits... newly released video training on the Form 990

You are invited to view a newly released video training on the Form 990 by [Eve Borenstein](#) of Borenstein and McVeigh, now available on MCN's Web site at <http://www.mncn.org/form990.htm>. Taken from one of Eve's recent and popular "990's Do Matter" trainings, the videos are broken up by section and allow you to easily access and view the content you need.

And best of all? [These videos](#) are free and viewable by everyone. No need to log in or pay to access this valuable content. Please share the videos with your colleagues, board members, and other nonprofit professionals to get current, detailed and high-quality information about the newly revised Form 990.

The newly revised Form 990 is much less of a financial document, and more of a report on the governance and management of your organization. Are you prepared for the many changes to the Form - including collecting the appropriate information, approving new policies, and understanding the business relationships of your top officers and directors? These videos will ensure that you are indeed prepared, and have the information that you need to know about to effectively report to the IRS. Enjoy!

Succession Planning Toolkit - available on the Initiative Foundation's website – these tools were provided at workshops held in St. Cloud and Brainerd. http://www.ifound.org/effective_h_additional.php

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.

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.