Nonprofit Charitable and Other Tax-Exempt Organizations, Tax Year 2019

The Statistics of Income Division (SOI) conducts annual studies on nonprofit charitable and other tax-exempt organizations. Analysts derive estimates of tax-exempt sector financial activity from a sample of Forms 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, and the corresponding short forms (Forms 990-EZ), filed by these organizations. Organizations covered by the SOI sample include those exempt under Internal Revenue Code sections 501(c)(3) through 501(c)(9).

Highlights of the Data

- Public charities exempt under section 501(c)(3) represent most of the tax-exempt organizations, and account for the bulk of the financial activity for the tax-exempt sector.
- Of the 1,365,744 nonprofit charitable organizations recognized by the IRS in 2019, some 304,231 filed Forms 990 and 990-EZ for that tax year. (Nearly all the remaining organizations were required to report only minimal information on an "e-postcard.")
- For Tax Year 2019, public charities reported \$4.8 trillion in assets and \$2.4 trillion in revenue, a 12-percent increase in assets over the previous year, but only a 5-percent increase in revenue over that year.
- Close to 71 percent of revenue (\$1.7 trillion) reported by public charities on Forms 990 came from program services, which include payments to organizations in the form of tuition, patient charges, admission fees, etc.
- Contributions, gifts, and grants (\$551 billion) comprised the other major sources of charitable revenue. Over half of all contributions were from the public (either directly or through federated campaigns); the next largest source of revenue came in the form of government grants.
- Large organizations, especially hospitals and universities, dominated the financial activity of the charitable sector. Public charities with assets over \$10 million filed only 9 percent of the returns for Tax Year 2019, but they accounted for 94 percent of the assets and 90 percent of revenue reported. While small public charities filed nearly 56 percent of returns, they represented a negligible amount of the sector's financial holdings and activity.





Public Charities' Sources of Revenue, Tax Year 2019



Public Charities: Selected Data, by Size of Total Assets, Tax Year 2019







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