



# Oklahoma Standards For excellence

An Ethics & Accountability Program for the Nonprofit Sector

## **Program Overview**

The Oklahoma Standards for Excellence is a **training and education program** intended to give Oklahoma nonprofits the tools and knowledge to be even more effective in pursuing their missions. In partnership with the national Standards for Excellence Institute, the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits offers a series of free Introduction to the Standards sessions, and an in-depth, 4-part Clinic Series, all designed to help nonprofits implement the 8 Principles and 55 Standards of the Standards for Excellence program.

## **What are the Standards?**

- Eight guiding principles and 55 performance standards.
- Core values of honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, compassion, and responsibility.
- Basis for self-assessment.
- Model for best practices.
- Empowerment tool to help nonprofits meet the highest standards of nonprofit governance, management, and operations.
- Code for self-regulation for the nonprofit sector.
- Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits is one of only 10 organizations to be accepted as a replication partner by the National Standards Institute

## **Organizations attending the Standards Clinic Series:**

- May send two representatives to each of the 4 Clinic Series classes.
- Receive a copy of the Oklahoma Standards for Excellence Educational Resource Package Manual which contains 22 educational resource packets. The packets contain information, sample policies, forms, and other resource information to help an organization implement the Standards.
- Receive a copy of the Oklahoma Standards for Excellence Model Employee Handbook.
- Each session will feature hands-on breakout sessions.

## **What are the benefits?**

- Assurance that a nonprofit organization is operating in a highly ethical and accountable manner.
- Opportunities for capacity building and strengthening of infrastructure through training and development.
- Increased credibility with funders.
- Increased self confidence within the organization due to clarifications of policies and procedures.
- More knowledgeable and effective governing board.

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## **Programs and Initiatives:**

**Center Consulting** – The Center provides preliminary diagnostic, guidance and referral assistance free-of-charge to nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Oklahoma. It also provides consultation and facilitation services on a modest fee basis to support a variety of capacity building and organizational development goals, including board development, resource development, grant research, grantwriting, capital campaign efforts, human resource management, financial management and outcome measurement. Consulting services are customized to suit the needs of your organization. Consultants are available to: be a guest speaker for that special gathering; facilitate strategic planning sessions; or develop a team-building retreat for your staff.

**Center Training** – The Center provides quality training and development programs through two major sources – the ongoing delivery of workshops, which are provided on an open-enrollment basis, and the delivery of on-site seminars, which are provided on a contractual basis to individual organizations. Our trainers are highly credentialed and experts in their fields. General enrollment workshops address the major areas of nonprofit management and board development. A wide variety of computer training classes are also available at significant “nonprofit” discounts through the Center. This year we are offering several grantwriting opportunities, event planning, human resources workshops and more.

**Center Membership** – A subscription-based membership program designed specifically for nonprofits. For an annual fee, organizations gain access to many benefits including Center training and consulting discounts, book purchase discounts, access to insurance programs and much more.

**Standards for Excellence** – The Center is now offering the nationally-renowned Standards for Excellence program for Oklahoma nonprofits. Originally developed by the Maryland Association of Nonprofits, the Standards for Excellence is composed of eight guiding principles and 55 underlying standards - aimed at providing nonprofit organizations with the information and skills needed to be more effective and transparent entities. The Center’s Standards program includes an introductory workshop and a four-part clinic series that will lead participants on an in-depth journey through the 55 standards and how to address them in their own organizations.

**Center Conferences** – The Center offers four top-quality conferences each year, designed to focus on particular subject areas and provide nonprofits with unparalleled educational and networking opportunities. Upcoming conferences, which usually feature a nationally-known keynote speaker, include LEAD (Leadership Education & Arts Development), Power Marketing, Board Development and Volunteer Management.

**O.N.E. - Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence Awards** – This one-of-a-kind evening, with cocktails, a seated dinner, special awards ceremony, video presentation highlighting the winning nonprofit organizations, and a noted master of ceremonies, is intended to bring together the best nonprofits in the state to honor them for their organizational excellence and inspiration to other nonprofits who strive for the same consistently outstanding performance. This brand-new event debuts April 12, 2008, at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel.

**Statewide Nonprofit Help Line**  
**1-800-338-1798**

**[www.oklahomacenterfornonprofits.org](http://www.oklahomacenterfornonprofits.org)**

# OKLAHOMA CENTER

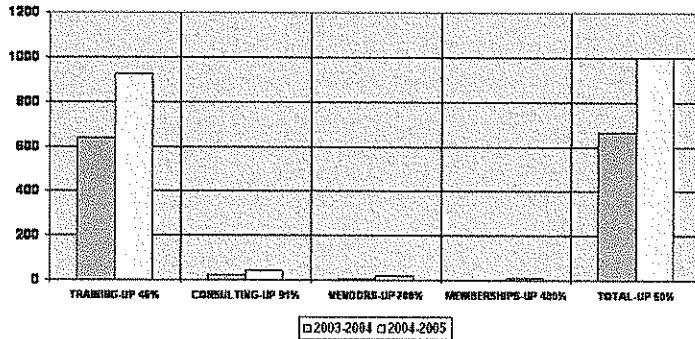
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## Fact Sheet Autumn 2007

### The Vital Center of the Nonprofit World

Stakeholder Growth is up 50%!



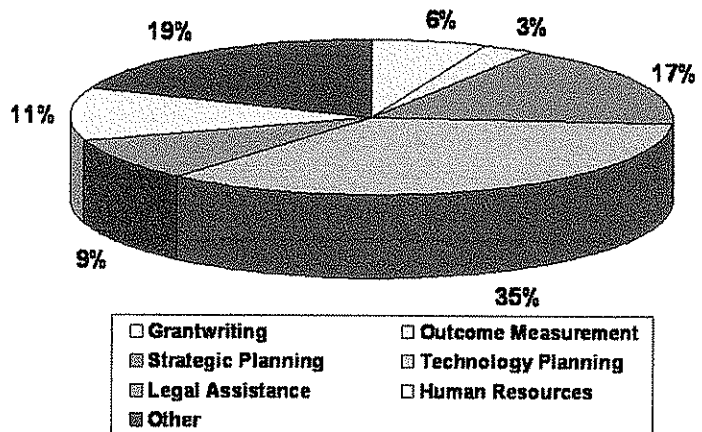
In 2005-2006: 944 staff members from 426 nonprofit organizations benefited from the Center's career enhancement seminars. 83 nonprofit organizations were provided with consulting services.

While continuing to offer training opportunities in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, the Center uses videoconference technology to reach across the state on a regular basis.

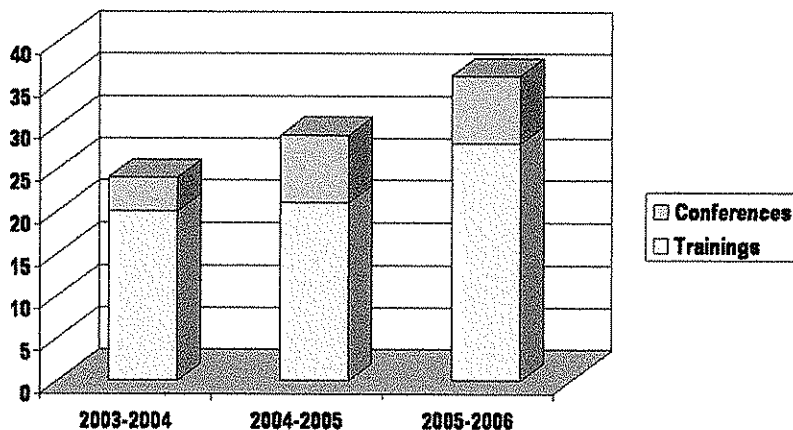
\*The Center continues its partnerships with the Tulsa Area United Way and the United Way of Central Oklahoma to provide Outcome Measurement training to their agencies.

\*The Center collaborates with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Leadership Oklahoma City, Leadership Tulsa, Junior League of Oklahoma City, Junior League of Tulsa and other organizations to present statewide conferences on fundraising, board development and marketing.

Consulting Contracts 2005



Increase in number of Center LEARNING Network offerings



\*The Center worked with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Oklahoma Arts Council and others to present the LEAD (Leadership Education & Arts Development) conference statewide, with Oklahoma City and Tulsa programs drawing participants from across Oklahoma.

\*Center website averages more than 1,500 hits per day.

[oklahomacenterfornonprofits.org](http://oklahomacenterfornonprofits.org)

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## Center CONSULTING Network

### ***Partial Scholarships are available!***

The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits offers contracted consulting, training and facilitation as a capacity building service to Oklahoma nonprofits. Time is available from Center staff to assist nonprofits in diagnosing and addressing general issues. More in-depth and formal assessment services may be provided, followed by service from our corps of highly skilled adjunct consultants to address the needs of an organization. Along the way, the Center provides comprehensive case management and oversight.

Training, customized to suit the needs of your organization, is available from our adjunct staff. If you require the services of a facilitator for a strategic planning session, or you are looking for a guest speaker for that special gathering, our staff and adjunct consultants can help to tailor your message for any setting.

For information about how the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits may be of assistance to your organization, submit the online request at [www.centerfornonprofits.org](http://www.centerfornonprofits.org) or call (405) 236-8133 ext 212 in Oklahoma City or (918) 579-1900 in Tulsa.

The following is a list of topics available through the Center Consulting Network:

- Grantwriting
- Fundraising
- Facilitation: Group Process-Planning
- Organizational management
- Strategic Planning
- Board Development
- Marketing
- Human Relations
- Personnel Development
- Volunteer Management
- Computer Skills
- Technology Planning
- Team Building
- Outcome Measurement
- Conflict Resolution
- Leadership Development
- Customized Workshop