


UP, UP & AWAY!
 PREPARING YOUR NPO TO SOAR
 2ND ANNUAL SUMMER SYMPOSIUM
 JUNE 27, 2019


SUSAN HOFF
 Chief Strategy, Impact and Operations Officer
 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas







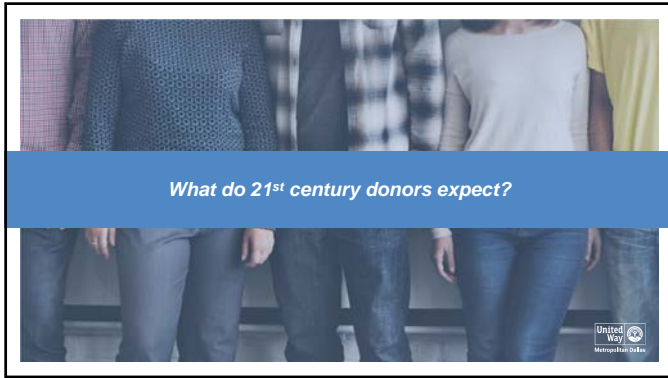
Objectives

- Learn how donors/investors identify high performing organizations
- Understand key attributes of top-performing NPOs
- Identify ways to drive improvement



Who is your customer?



Goal Move 250,000 people out of poverty by 2020.

Progress 250,689 fewer people in poverty than projected.

United Way's poverty prevention and income placement programs across Metro DC. We invest in the most economically vulnerable so they can do more. And we tackle the toughest problems that aren't being addressed and finding innovative solutions for them. Our focus on financial stability covers three distinct areas:

Area	Need	Progress
Lower Poverty \$2.9 million to provide with housing and transportation that lead to better paying jobs	130,000 people in poverty are employed	4,200 people found new or better jobs, 2,200 returned for 30+ days
Financial Stability \$2.3 million to help people get savings and help with credit and budgeting issues	27% people with savings	9,000+ people received financial education, 7,000 will save \$1,000, 200+ will save \$1,200
Job Readiness \$1.4 million to provide job training, counseling, and emergency assistance	13% people with job training	12 new program developments, 2.7 million people of food to shelter 89,000 people

UNITED WAY PROGRAMS
Financial Stability, Financial Empowerment, Job Training, Job Readiness, PATHWAYS TO WORK

UnitedWay.org | LocalDirect

Mission realization

- Assurance that investment is making a difference
- Confirmation that investment is furthering mission
- Tangible results

Efficiency


- Financial stewardship
- Effective management



Transparency


- Increased expectations
- Visibility of:
 - Financial management
 - Expense reporting
 - Program execution






Accountability

- Responsive
- Accurate
- Specific





Key attributes of high-performing NPOs





Effective nonprofits

- Create transformational change
- Engage people in their cause
- Grow, innovate, and adapt to a rapidly changing environment
- Stay inspired and inspire others
- Run their organization in accordance with their mission and principles
- Are thought leaders in their field
- Sustain their operations






Set & work toward high-level goals


- Process is thorough, thoughtful and focused on creating impact
- High-level goals are guiding light for organization
- Goals are proposed, discussed, written down and a metric to evaluate success is assigned to each and every goal.
- Organizational goals encompass:
 - Long-term
 - Short-term
 - Programmatic
 - Financial






Proactively engage donor base


- Relationship management
- Retention
- Pipeline development
- Segmentation






Build relationships

- Establish and grow networks
- Stewardship






Meet constituents where they are

To help effectively, they must understand:

- What drives the community to serve and act?
- What's important to them?
- What prevents them from acting?


Meet the community at their knowledge level:

- Avoid the use of jargon and "inside baseball" talk.
- Speak to everyone in universal language that everyone can understand.
- Proactively tweak messaging so it's accessible for everyone — especially people who are not familiar with your cause.






**GIVE
BIG
DFW**



Collaborate and build coalitions

- Find like-minded nonprofits and community groups
- Meet to discuss partnering to further your shared cause
- Brainstorm ideas
- Create "win-win" situations for all involved
- Set and work on goals





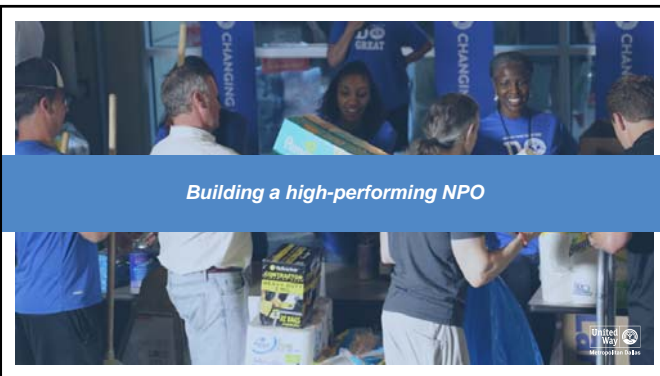



Table talk

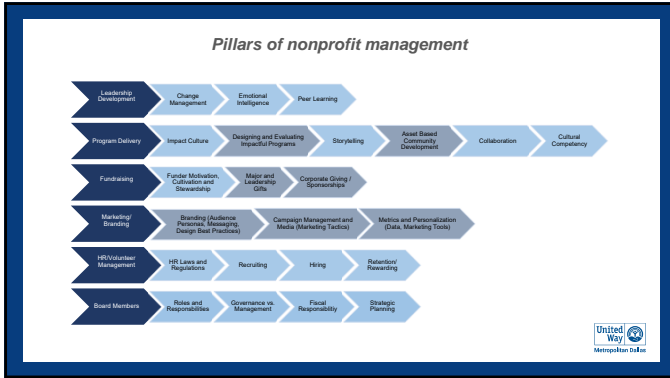
- What are you doing well?
- What are opportunities for growth?





Building a high-performing NPO

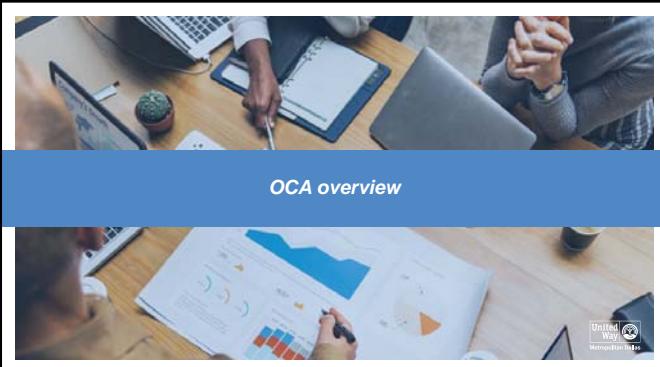






Organizational capacity assessment

- Structured tool for a facilitated self-assessment followed by action planning for capacity improvements.
- Self-assessment approach increases ownership of the action plan.
- OCA format helps organizations reflect on processes, functions, and benchmarks.
- Based on the discussions and the scoring, the organization shapes and sets priorities for actions it can take to strengthen its capacity.



OCA overview

Organizational Capacity Assessment Grid (OCAG)

Local community presence and involvement	Organization's presence either not recognized or generally not regarded as positive by members of local community (e.g., academics, other nonprofit leaders) constructively involved in the organization	Organization's presence somewhat recognized, and generally regarded as positive within the community; some members of larger community constructively engaged with organization	Organization reasonably well known within community, and perceived as open and responsive to community needs; members of larger community (including a few prominent ones) constructively involved in organization	Organization widely known within larger community, and perceived as actively engaged with and extremely responsive to it; many members of the larger community (including many prominent members) actively and constructively involved in organization (e.g., board, fund-raising)
Public relations and marketing	Organization makes no or limited use of PR/marketing; general lack of PR/marketing skills and expertise either internal or accessible external or expertise	Organization takes opportunities to engage in PR/marketing on their own; some PR/marketing skills and expertise within staff or via external assistance	Organization considers PR/marketing to be useful, and actively seeks opportunities to engage in these activities; staff possess internal expertise and experience in PR/marketing or access to relevant external assistance	Organization fully aware of power of PR/marketing activities, and consistently and actively engages in them; broad pool of expert PR/marketing expertise and experience within organization or efficient use made of external, high-quality resources
Management of legal and liability matters	Organization does not anticipate legal issues, but finds help and addresses issues individually when they arise; program/insurance includes liability	Legal support resources identified, readily available, and employed on "as needed" basis; major liability exposures managed and insured (including property liability and workers' compensation)	Legal support resources available and consulted in planning; routine legal risk management and occasional review of insurance	Well-developed, effective, and efficient internal legal infrastructure for day-to-day legal work; additional access to general and specialized external expertise to cover major and extraordinary cases; continual legal risk management and regular adjustment of insurance
Organizational processes use and development	Limited set of processes (e.g., decision-making, planning, reviews) for ensuring effective functioning of the organization; use of processes is variable, or processes are seen as too requirements (paperwork excessive); no monitoring or assessment of processes	Better set of processes in core areas or essential functions in organization; processes known, used, and held accepted by entire portion of staff; limited monitoring and assessment made in consequence	Good, well-designed set of processes in place in core areas to ensure smooth, effective functioning of organization; processes known and accepted by many; often used and contribute to increased impact; occasional monitoring and assessment of processes, with some improvements made	Robust, clear, and well-designed set of processes (e.g., decision-making, planning, reviews) in place in all areas to ensure effective and efficient functioning of organization; processes are widely known, used, and accepted, and are key to ensuring full impact of organization; continual monitoring and assessment of processes, and systematic improvement made

Organizational Capacity Assessment Grid (OCAG)

Staffing levels	Many positions within and peripheral to organization (e.g., staff, volunteers, board, senior management) are unfilled; high turnover and/or poor attendance	Most critical positions within organization (e.g., staff, volunteers, board, senior management) are filled; no unfilled positions; limited turnover or attendance problems	Positions within and peripheral to organization (e.g., staff, volunteers, board, senior management) are almost all filled (no vacancies); low turnover or attendance problems	Positions within and peripheral to organization (e.g., staff, volunteers, board, senior management) are all filled (no vacancies); no turnover or attendance problems
Board - composition and commitment	Membership with limited diversity of fields of practice and expertise; drawn from a narrow spectrum of constituencies (from among nonprofits, academia, corporate, government, etc.); little or no relevant experience; low commitment to organization's success, vision and mission; meetings infrequent and/or poor attendance	Some diversity in fields of practice; membership represents a few different constituencies (from among nonprofits, academia, corporate, government, etc.); moderate commitment to organization's success, vision and mission; regular, periodic meetings are well-attended and attendance is good overall	Good diversity in fields of practice and expertise; membership represents most constituencies (nonprofit, academic, corporate, government, etc.); good commitment to organization's success, vision and mission; behavior to both regular, periodic meetings are well-planned and attendance is consistently good; occasional subcommittee meetings	Membership with broad variety of fields of practice and expertise, and drawn from the full spectrum of constituencies (nonprofit, academic, corporate, government, etc.); includes functional and program content-related expertise, as well as "high-profile" names, high affiliations and prestige; track record of investing in learning about the organization and addressing its issues; outstanding commitment to the organization's success, vision and mission; frequent meetings of focused subcommittees
Board - involvement and support	Provide little direction, support, and accountability to leadership; board not fully informed about "real" and other major organizational matters; largely "feel-good" support	Provide occasional direction, support and accountability to leadership; fully informed about "real" matters in a timely manner and responses/decisions actively solicited	Provide direction, support and accountability to programmatic leadership; fully informed of all major matters; input and responses actively sought and valued; full participant in major decisions	Provide strong direction, support, and accountability to programmatic leadership and engaged as a strategic resource; communication between board and leadership reflects mutual respect, appreciation for roles and responsibilities, shared commitment and valuing of collective wisdom

Organizational Capacity Assessment Grid (OCAG)

CEO/ Executive Director	Low energy and commitment; has difficulty balancing the social impact and financial imperatives of the organization; micromanages does not effectively develop team; operates in a self-protective - preventing effective interpersonal relationships; relies on intuition rather than strategic analysis; is uncomfortable with ambiguity	Good energy level and visible commitment; prioritizes social impact to the detriment of making financially responsible decisions; promotes teamwork and expresses confidence in ability of others; able to earn respect and build relationships over time; able to cope with complexity and analyze strategy, but not generate strategy; understands basic financial concepts and applies them to major decisions	Flooding energy and commitment - excites others around vision for the organization; recognizes financial realities is essential to a high-impact organization; has a sense of urgency to address issues and move from decision to action; empowers team to succeed in their own ways; easily builds rapport; is respected and has a strong presence; able to use multiple approaches to gain buy-in; able to quickly distill complex information to core issues; comfortable dealing with the unknown; develops robust strategies; has sound financial judgment	Continuously energetic and lives the organization's mission; able to inspire others to visualize the vision for the organization; successfully guides organization to a dual mission of impact and financial efficiency; articulates problems and seeks opportunities to improve; constantly establishing successful win-win relationships with others; motivates people through consistent, positive messaging; seen as an understanding "family person"; uses diverse communication styles to engage and achieve impact; particularly self-aware; has been able to synthesize complex information and develops multi-layered strategies; has experienced financial judgment - and almost always sense of financial decisions
Management team and staff - dependence on CEO/ executive director	Very strong dependence on CEO/ executive director; organization would cease to exist without his/her presence	High dependence on CEO/ executive director; organization would continue to exist without his/her presence, but likely in a very different form	Limited dependence on CEO/ executive director; organization would continue to exist without his/her presence but areas such as fundraising or operations would likely suffer significantly during transition period; no member of management team could potentially take on CEO/ED role	Resilient and not dependent on CEO/ executive director; smooth transition to new leader could be expected; fund-raising and operations likely to continue without major problems; senior management team can fill in during transition time; several members of management team could potentially take on CEO/ED role
Senior management team	Team has no or very limited experience in nonprofit or for-profit management; team represents few constituencies (nonprofit, academic, government, etc.) and has no or very limited track record of learning and personal development; mostly energetic and committed	Team has some experience in nonprofit or for-profit management; team represents some constituencies (nonprofit, academic, corporate, government, etc.); some relevant capabilities and track record from other fields; good track record of learning and personal development; energetic and committed	Team has significant experience in nonprofit or for-profit management; team represents most constituencies (nonprofit, academic, corporate, government, etc.); significant relevant capabilities and track record from other fields; good track record of learning and personal development; highly energetic and committed	Team highly experienced in nonprofit or for-profit management; drawn from full spectrum of constituencies (nonprofit, academic, corporate, government, etc.); outstanding capabilities and track record from other fields; outstanding track record of learning and personal development; contemplatively energetic and committed



