

# Catalyze Nonprofit Innovation

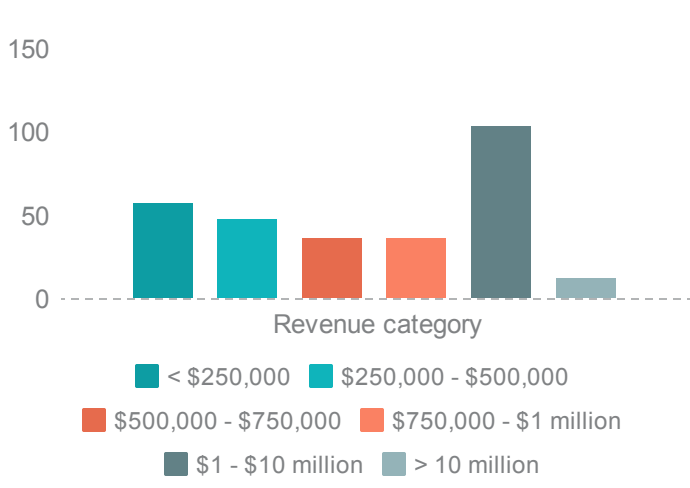
A nationwide study on how United States nonprofit organizations created innovations to address social problems in 2017



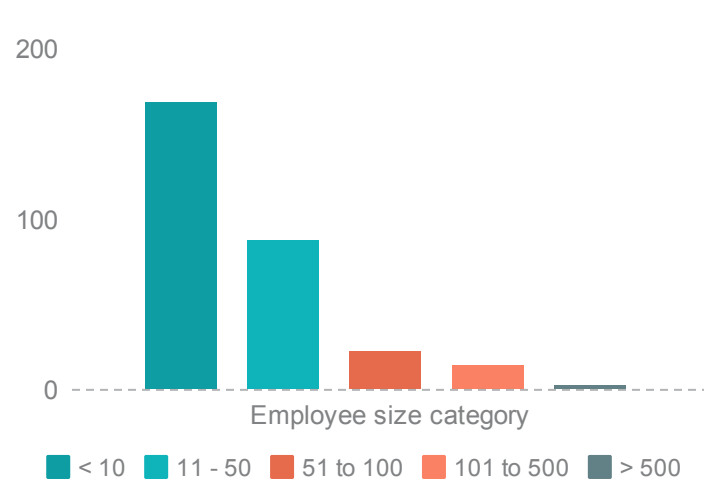
## Study Background

- A random sample of **2,000** U.S. nonprofit organizations
- Executive director or equivalent participated from April to August **2017**
- **306** nonprofit organizations from **38** states responded
- Average organizational age: **41** years

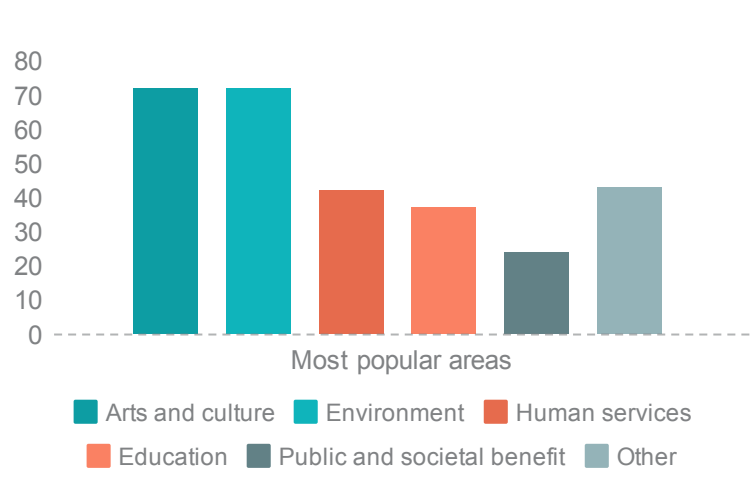
Revenue



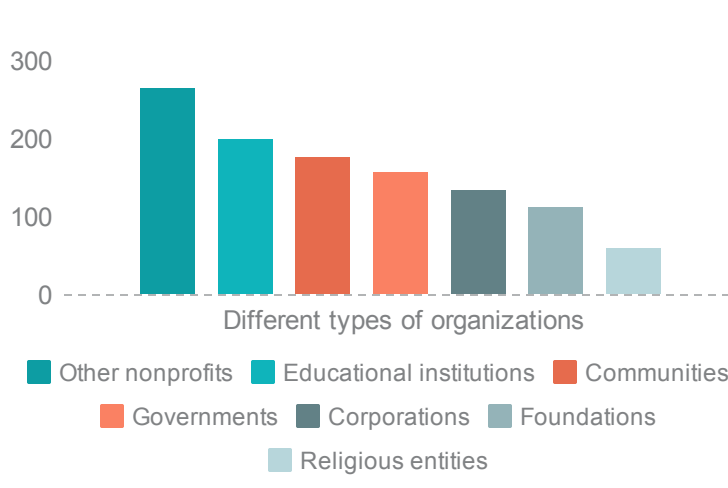
Employee Size



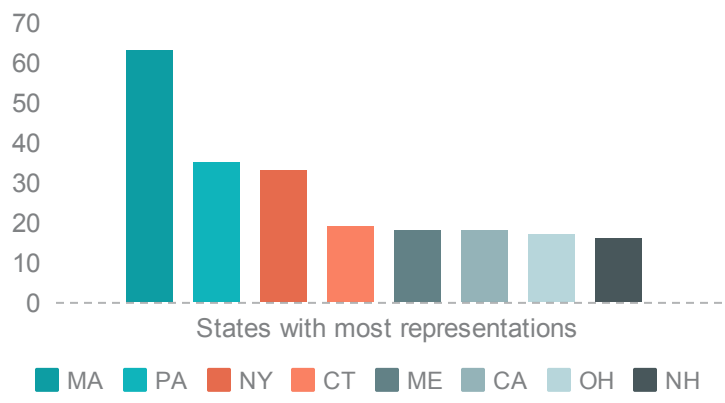
Social Mission



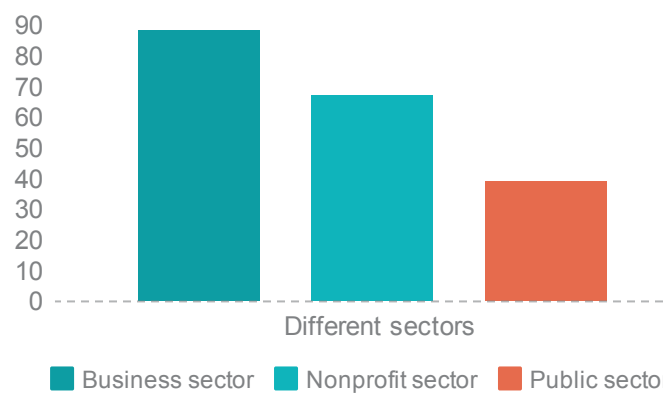
Partnerships



Geographic Location

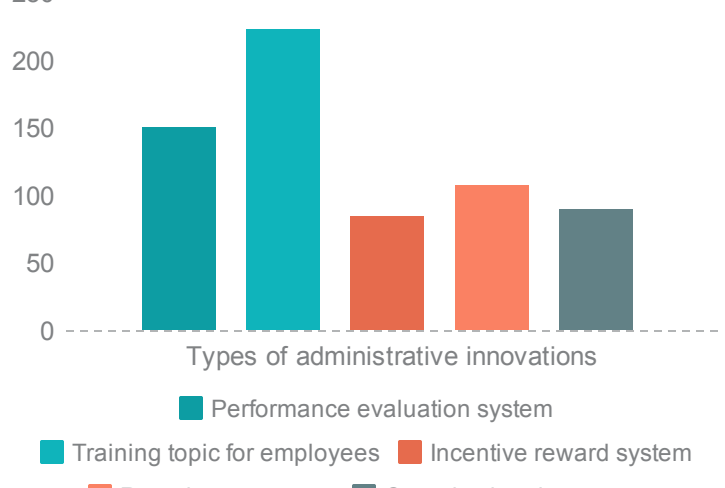


Founder Background



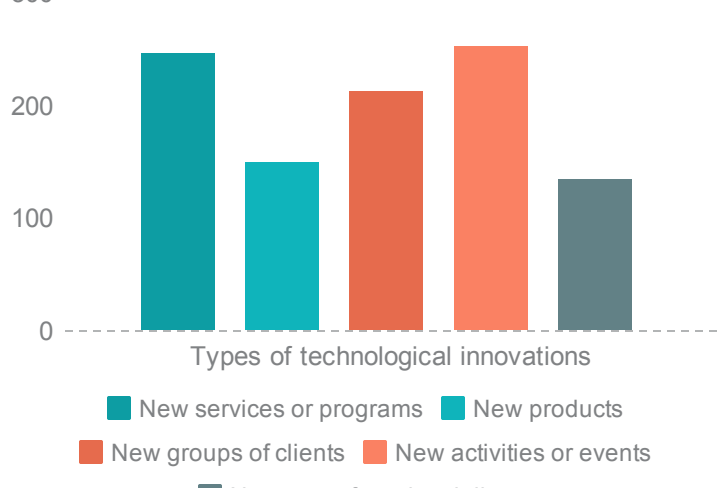
During the survey, we asked each participant to indicate whether their organization had engaged in creating, adopting, or implementing any of the following types of innovations in the past 3 years:

Administrative Innovations



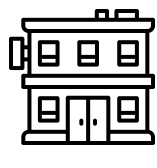
Types of administrative innovations for each organization on average: **2.63** (min = 0, max = 5)

Technological Innovations



Types of technological innovations for each organization on average: **3.45** (min = 0, max = 5)

## Key Findings from statistical models



### Key factors influencing administrative innovation

- Organizational size (-)
- Percentage of government funding (-)
- Diversity of partnerships (+)
- Proactiveness (+)



### Key factors influencing technological innovation

- Organizational age (-)
- Diversity of partnerships (+)
- Using information communication technologies (ICTs) for knowledge sharing (+)
- Proactiveness (+)

- negative influence + positive influence

## How could nonprofits enhance innovation?



**Develop diverse partnerships**



**Leverage ICTs for knowledge sharing**



**Foster a sense of proactiveness**



**Seek diverse funding**

## Main Takeaways

## Technology for knowledge sharing

Use technologies to share knowledge with members in your organization and partners outside the organization, including:

- work reports and official documents
- manuals, methodologies, and models
- experience or know-how
- know-where or know-whom
- expertise from education or training

## Foster proactiveness

- Be among the first organizations to introduce new products or services, administrative techniques, or operating technologies
- Actively exploit changes in the field
- Provide the lead for similar service changes rather than follow the lead



Grant number: #1730079