

PRINCIPLES OF NON-PROFIT SUSTAINABILITY

Endorsed by the Council of Agency Executives

October 12, 2009

1. Rochester's non-profit human service providers are a major contributor to our community's overall quality of life and enrich the quality of life for the individuals and families served. Everyone involved – agencies, funders, board members, business leaders, and governmental agencies – must be committed to working in partnership to achieve greater service integration, a higher level of service, improved outcomes, and enhanced organizational viability.
2. The administrative, financial, regulatory, and leadership challenges facing non-profits today are of greater magnitude than in the past and are both structural and systemic in nature.
3. Choices as to which services will continue to be delivered, how, and to whom increasingly will be made based on program performance and the measurable outcomes achieved.
4. The stewardship responsibility of board members will require that they put the agency's mission and the needs of those served ahead of the organization's needs.
5. In all sectors of our community, there are opportunities for streamlining, consolidating, collaborating, partnering, and merging. Successful methods in one sector should be shared with other sectors; the Rapid Cycle Improvement Process is a good example.
6. The mission, goals and objectives of public and private funders of non-profit human service providers are dependent on these providers having the governance, administrative, and program capacity to perform at the highest level, given the resources available.
7. Funders have the responsibility to help grantees increase and strengthen their organizational capacity.
8. Voluntary sector and public funders can act on this responsibility by helping ensure that nonprofits have the resources needed to achieve the intended results and necessary accountabilities; by ensuring that their own grant application and reporting processes are simple, efficient, and appropriate to the time and effort required; by communicating and advocating on key issues that affect the non-profit sector; and by collaborating and leveraging resources where mutual and community interests warrant.