



# Internship and Career Services Industry Guide: Nonprofits, NGOs, and Social Enterprises

## OVERVIEW

Are you interested in building a career that is focused on the public good? Are you driven by a passion for a particular social cause? If so, you may want to consider a career working for a nonprofit organization, an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) or a social enterprise. These three types of organizations are the most prevalent among the fast-growing industry that includes serving the public good at the core of their mission. But what exactly do these terms mean?

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS** are the most widely known among those operating for the social good, which includes various groups or organizations that do not focus their work on making a profit or financial gain.

- Their income is derived mostly from individual and corporate donations, foundation grants, government contracts, and fees for services.
- Although some nonprofits may sell goods and services, all income goes toward the cost of providing other services to a community or some segment of the public.
- In addition to community-based, national, and international service organizations, other types of nonprofits include advocacy groups and professional and trade organizations.

**NGOs OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS** are a specific type of nonprofit organization, first designated formally as such by the United Nations to differentiate between IGOs or inter-governmental organizations.

- NGOs are voluntary citizens' groups and can be focused locally, nationally, or internationally.
- Typically, NGOs focus on global issues in areas such as human rights, the environment, workforce development, housing, community and economic development, education, and health.
- Top NGOs include BRAC, Wikimedia Foundation, Acumen Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Partners in Health, Ceres, and CARE.

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**, like nonprofits and NGOs, operate with the primary purpose of serving the public good.

- By selling goods and services in the open market, social enterprises reinvest the money they make back into their business or the local community. This allows them to tackle social problems, improve people's life chances, support communities and help the environment.
- What distinguishes social enterprises from both nonprofits and for-profit businesses is their use of business models, principles, and methods both to drive profits and gains and to advance a social cause.
- Top social enterprise companies include Groundswell, Comprenurship, Arsenic Absorbent, Biolite, and TCK Learning Centre.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR CAREER

There are many things to consider when jump-starting your career in nonprofits! It's important to focus on being a well-rounded individual. It's also important to have knowledge on exactly how a nonprofit organization works. Additionally, narrowing down what you are passionate about will help identify a potential organization of interest to you. You can also follow this [10 Step Guide to Finding a Nonprofit Job \(nonprofitpeople.monster.com\)](http://nonprofitpeople.monster.com)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO RIGHT NOW?

Volunteer: Nonprofit organizations recognize and appreciate demonstrated commitment to a cause. Hires often happen from within an organization, and full time staff members are often pulled directly from volunteer pools. Volunteer in the area you want to work and in the position/or department you want obtain.

Off campus federal work study: ICS offers off campus federal work study positions to undergraduate students. These federally-funded part-time positions provide opportunities to get paid to work in organizations that are affiliated with Butler University.

Service programs: Public service programs offer amazing opportunities to gain experience in your field of interest. Some of the nation's largest service programs include AmeriCorps, Teach For America, City Year, and AVODAH.

Fellowships: Fellowships provide opportunities to gain experience over a relative short amount of time, typically a year or less. Some popular fellowships are offered by Youth Service Opportunities Program, American Jewish World Service, CORO, and New Sector Alliance.

## Online Resources:

[Butler University Nonprofit Agency Directory](#)

[Butler University Volunteer Center](#)

[Internship & Career Services: Guide to Professional Success PDF](#)

[National Council of Nonprofits Job Board \(councilofnonprofits.org\)](http://councilofnonprofits.org)

[Guidestar: Nonprofit Organization Information \(guidestar.org\)](http://guidestar.org)

[What is a Non-Governmental Organization? \(staff.city.ac.uk\)](http://staff.city.ac.uk)

[Non-governmental Organizations \(libguides.com\)](http://libguides.com)

[Social Enterprise Alliance \(socialenterprise.org\)](http://socialenterprise.org)

[Nonprofit Job Postings \(idealist.com\)](http://idealist.com)

[Great Nonprofits – Job Postings in Indiana \(greatnonprofits.org\)](http://greatnonprofits.org)

[Charitable Advisors-Job Postings in Indiana](#)

[Nonprofit Job Board \(bridgespan.org\)](http://bridgespan.org)

[NGO Job Board \(ngojobboard.org\)](http://ngojobboard.org)

[Jobs and Internships Board \(netimpact.org\)](http://netimpact.org)

[Indiana Internships \(indianaintern.net\)](http://indianaintern.net)

[Nonprofit Fellowships \(profellow.com\)](http://profellow.com)

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