

THE SHARED POWER NONPROFITS' DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

Today, it has become necessary to declare that our nonprofit organizations depend on the people who use our programs and services, just as they depend on us.

It is obvious that all people have the right to live full, healthy, prosperous lives.

The only legitimate purpose for nonprofit organizations is to further the wellbeing of others. The only legitimate way to achieve such an aim is for us to ask people and communities what they need from our organization, and then work to keep their priorities at the center of every decision we make, and every action we take.

Nonprofit organizations haven't always centered the priorities of the people who use our programs and services. Our sector has a longstanding practice of centering donors, funders, board members and staff, placing the power to shape our organizations in their hands. Their perspectives are important, too, but they must not come before those of our constituents.

Strong nonprofit organizations can only exist when donors, funders, board members and staff listen and respond to the needs and desires of the people their organizations exist to serve. And it is through strong nonprofits that we will build a better world, for the good of all.

Therefore, we, as representatives of our respective nonprofits, do declare that we will strive to share the power to shape our work with our constituents, recognizing that the success of our organizations depends on our ability to listen and respond to the priorities of our constituents, and the success of our society depends on the success of our organizations.

As champions for sharing power, we will work to help our nonprofits:

- Commit to centering the priorities of our constituents in all that we do
- Show great respect for our constituents as we work together to shape our organization
- Offer a range of opportunities for our constituents to engage in shaping our programs, services and approaches
- Take action based on what we learn from our constituents

We know that recognizing our true interdependence and sharing power will be a journey, but we commit to helping our organizations begin where they are, and failing forward when mistakes are made.

In support of this declaration, we pledge that we will do the work, together with our organizations' constituents, to build better nonprofits and a better world for all.

Signed,

Shared Power Nonprofits