Putting Your Best Foot Forward: What Does Your Form 990 Say About Your Organization?

Non-Profit and Associations Forum ACC National Capital Region

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Welcome

- Introductions
- Form 990: A Brief History
- Government Use of Form 990
- Who Else is Reading and Using Your 990?
 Perspectives—Media, Donors/Funders, Charity Watchdogs
- Putting Your Best Foot Forward:
 A Closer Look at Key Questions and Schedules
- Technical Points
- Practical Tips and Some Final Questions to Consider Before Filing
- Questions?



Form 990: A Brief History

- 1942: First Form 990 required for 1941 tax year
- 1950: UBIT and Form 990-T; Form 990 becomes publicly available (from IRS)
- 1969: Foundation Excise Taxes and Form 990-PF
- 1987: EOs required to disclose 990/990-PF
- 2008: Form 990 extensively revised
- 2006: Form 990-T subject to public disclosure



Government Use of Form 990

- Majority of states require state filing of Form 990
- Factor in enforcement by state AG, other state regulators
- Form 990 informs IRS enforcement
- IRS using data analytics to mesh Form 990 data, social media info
- Civil/Criminal enforcement: US v. Driscoll



Who Else is Reading Your 990? Media Perspective

- Nonprofit sector media often report on executive compensation and other hot button issues. (Example: Chronicle of Higher Education's periodic "highest paid university presidents" survey)
- Mainstream media headlines focus on self-dealing, related party transactions, political campaign intervention, financial mismanagement or governance/board controversy. Sometimes, government investigations follow. (Recent examples: NRA, Trump Foundation)
- Investigative reporting often starts with thoughtful study of the data and information provided by organizations on Forms 990/990-PF.
 - Example: Washington Post Oct 2013 analysis of "significant diversions of assets" (thefts, fraud) as reported by over 1,000 charities in the DC area. Compiled a "diversions database" with support from Guidestar.



Donors and Funders Care

- Individual donors don't necessarily review Form 990s. However, sophisticated donors and their counsel, absolutely do.
- Close review of recent Form 990s is part of every grantmaking foundation or funder's standard "due diligence" review.
- Needless to say, donors are influenced by media reports.
- Some look to "watchdog" organizations to provide a seal of approval, or 4-star rating.
 - Example: Charity Navigator rates charities by evaluating Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency. "Our ratings show donors how efficiently a charity will use their support, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time, and their level of commitment to accountability and transparency."



Putting Your Best Foot Forward

- Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments
- Part IV—Checklist of Required Schedules A bridge to the detailed schedules
- Part VI—Governance, Management and Disclosure (e.g., significant diversions of assets)
- Part VII —Compensation of ODTKEs

Focus on Key Schedules:

- J Compensation
- L Transactions with Interested Persons
- R Related Organizations
- O Explanations. An Invitation to Tell the Story.



Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Form 9	90 (2018)				Page 2
Part	2. 不是在10年1日	ment of Program Service	7 Prof. St. C.	ort III	
11	1110 711170 - 120 - 1311	ribe the organization's mission	esponse or note to any line in this Pa	art III	
2			ficant program services during the year		☐Yes ☐ No
3	If "Yes," des Did the org	scribe these new services on ganization cease conducting		ow it conducts, any program	Yes No
4	Describe the expenses.	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)	edule O. vice accomplishments for each of its 4) organizations are required to report or each program service reported.		
4a	(Code:) (Expenses \$	including grants of \$) (Revenue \$	1
		/ C. po	moduling granto or v	, (love) and ()	
		***************************************		***************************************	



Part IV – Checklist of Required Schedules

23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J	23		
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a	24a		
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
С	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25a		
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25b		
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II	26		
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III	27		
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filling thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28a		
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28b		
С	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28c		
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	29		
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	30		
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I	31		
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II	32		
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I	33		
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R. Part II, III,		8	



Part VI: Governance, Management, Disclosure

VIIII O	20 (20 10)			95	aye •
Part	Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Struck of Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI	Schedule O. S	ee ins	tructi	
ecti	on A. Governing Body and Management				
				Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year 1a				
	If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.				
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent . 1b				
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relation business relationship or a business relationship or a business relationship or a business relationship or a business relation business relation business relationship or a business relation business	onship with	2		
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or unde supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other per		3		
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was	as filed?	4		
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's	assets?.	5		
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6 (* C* N	6		
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect one or more members of the governing body?	or appoint	7a		
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		7b		
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions underta the year by the following:	aken during			
a	The governing body?	8 38 380 BE .	8a		
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	r is ver e	8b		
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	0 K M K	9		



"Significant Diversion of Assets" – defined

From the Instructions to Form 990:

Answer "Yes," if the organization became aware during the organization's tax year of a significant diversion of its assets, whether or not the diversion occurred during the year.

If "Yes," explain the nature of the diversion, dollar amounts and/or other property involved, corrective actions taken to address the matter, and pertinent circumstances on Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ), although the person or persons who diverted the assets should not be identified by name.

A diversion of assets includes any unauthorized conversion or use of the organization's assets other than for the organization's authorized purposes, including but not limited to embezzlement or theft. Report diversions by the organization's **officers**, **directors**, **trustees**, **employees**, **volunteers**, **independent contractors**, grantees (diverting grant funds), or any other person, even if not associated with the organization other than by the diversion. A diversion of assets does not include an authorized transfer of assets for **FMV** consideration, such as to a **joint venture** or for-profit subsidiary in exchange for an interest in the joint venture or subsidiary.

For this purpose, a diversion is considered significant if the gross value of all diversions (not taking into account restitution, insurance, or similar recoveries) discovered during the organization's tax year exceeds the lesser of (1) 5% of the organization's gross receipts for its tax year, (2) 5% of the organization's total assets as of the end of its tax year, or (3) \$250,000.



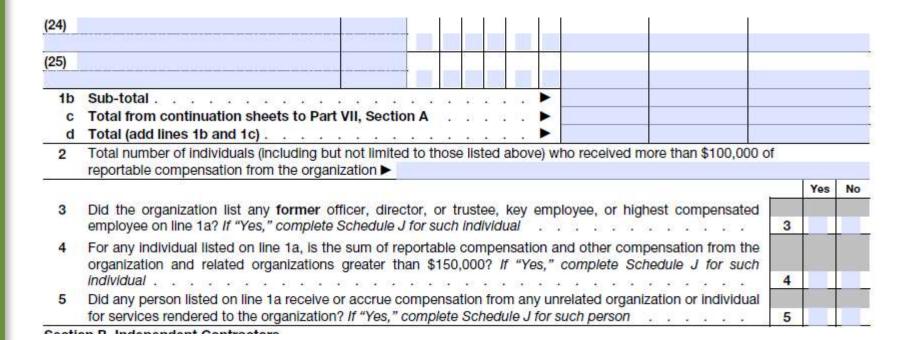
Part VII: Compensation of ODTKE's

Form 990 (201	8)								10110		Page 7
Part VII	Compensation of Officers, Dir Independent Contractors	rectors, Tr	uste	es,	Ke	y E	mple	oye	es, Highest	Compensated	Employees, and
	Check if Schedule O contains a r	esponse or	note	to	any	line	in th	nis I	Part VII	* * * * * *	
Section A.	Officers, Directors, Trustees, Ke										
	te this table for all persons require n's tax year.	d to be list	ed. F	Repo	rt c	om	pens	atio	n for the caler	ndar year ending	with or within the
	Il of the organization's current offic- tion. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and								viduals or orga	anizations), regard	dless of amount of
• List al	of the organization's current key er	mployees, if	any.	See	inst	ruc	tions	for	definition of "k	key employee."	
who receiv	ne organization's five current higher red reportable compensation (Box to an and any related organizations.										
	II of the organization's former office of reportable compensation from the									mployees who re	eceived more than
	ll of the organization's former direction, more than \$10,000 of reportable of										or or trustee of the
	ns in the following order: individ ed employees; and former such pers		s or	dire	ecto	rs;	insti	tutio	onal trustees;	officers; key er	mployees; highest
Check t	this box if neither the organization no	or any relate	d org	aniz	atio	n co	mpe	ensa	ited any curren	t officer, director,	or trustee.
	(A)				(C Posit)			(D)	(E)	(F)
	Name and Title	Average hours per	Average box, unless person is both an Reportable					Reportable compensation	Reportable compensation from	Estimated amount of	
		week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	hdividual trust or director	hstitutional tru	Officer	Key employee	Highest compe employee	Former	from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	other compensation from the organization and related organizations



(1)

Part VII: Compensation, cont.





Schedule J: Compensation

	EDULE J	Com	pensation Information	ON	AB No. 1	545-0	047
Departn	n 990) nent of the Treasury Ravenue Service	For certain Officers, Complete if the organ	Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highes Compensated Employees ization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line ▶ Attach to Form 990. Form990 for instructions and the latest informatio	23. 0:	20 en to nspe	Pub	blic
Name	of the organization		Emp	loyer identification nu	mber		- 2
				1000			
Part	Questions R	egarding Compensation				Yes	No
1a			n provided any of the following to or for a person to provide any relevant information regarding the			2 20	HU
	First-class or c Travel for comp Tax indemnific Discretionary s	panions ation and gross-up payments	Housing allowance or residence for portion Payments for business use of persons Health or social club dues or initiation Personal services (such as maid, chau	al residence fees			
b		t or provision of all of the	fid the organization follow a written policy re expenses described above? If "No," com		1Ь		
2			prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items		2		m
3	organization's CE	O/Executive Director, Check	organization used to establish the compensation all that apply. Do not check any boxes for met of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in	hods used by a			
	Committee of the Commit	committee ompensation consultant her organizations	 □ Written employment contract □ Compensation survey or study □ Approval by the board or compensation 	on committee			
4		lid any person listed on Form related organization:	990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect 1	o the filing			
a	Receive a severar	nce payment or change-of-co	ontrol payment?	n every j	4a		W.
b			elemental nonqualified retirement plan?		4b		
C			ity-based compensation arrangement?	m in Part III.	4c	- 0	



Schedule J: Compensation (cont.)

SCHE	DULE	J
(Form	990)	

Compensation Information
For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest
Gompensated Employees

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.

► Attach to Form 990.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Inspection

OMB No.: 1545-0047

Department of the Treasury Indamial Revenue Service

Name of the organization

	Questions Regarding Compensation		9	long.
			Yes	Mo
5	Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5–9. For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:	Ser		
а	The organization?	5a		
b	Any related organization?	5b		- 1
6	For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:			
8	The organization?	6a	100	
b	Any related organization?	6Ь		
7	For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III	7		
8	Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III	8		
9	If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9		



Schedule J: Compensation

Schedule J (Form 900) 2018

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that aren't listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note: The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

When he is the second respectively and the second		(B) Breakdown	of W-2 and/or 1099-MIS	C compensation	(C) Retrement and	(D) Nortaxable	(E) Total of columns	(F) Compensation
(A) Name and Title		(I) Base compensation	(B) Bohus & Incentive compensation	(M) Other reportable compensation	other deterned compensation	benefits	(B)(I)-(D)	in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
	(i)						4	
1	(ii)							
Ī	(i)							
2	(ii)							
	(i)		1					
3	(ii)							
7	(i)							
4	(ii)							
	(1)							
5	(ii)							1
44	(i)							
6	(ii)							
	(i)							
7	(ii)							
	(i)							
8	(ii)		1					
	(i)							
9	(ii)							
	(i)							
10	(ii)		2 2					



Form 4720

- What is it? Return used to report and pay excise taxes...
 - ... arising from violations of Chapter 42, including acts of self-dealing, excess benefit transactions, excess lobbying expenditures, and failure to self-dealing/EBIs, must describe the violation and identify the DPs involved.
 - ... on excess remuneration and excess parachute payments to covered employees (IRC 4960)

Who files?

- PFs, PCs for excess lobbying or political expenditures (not EBTs)
- DPs who owe tax under Chapter 42 (e.g., for EBTs/self-dealing)

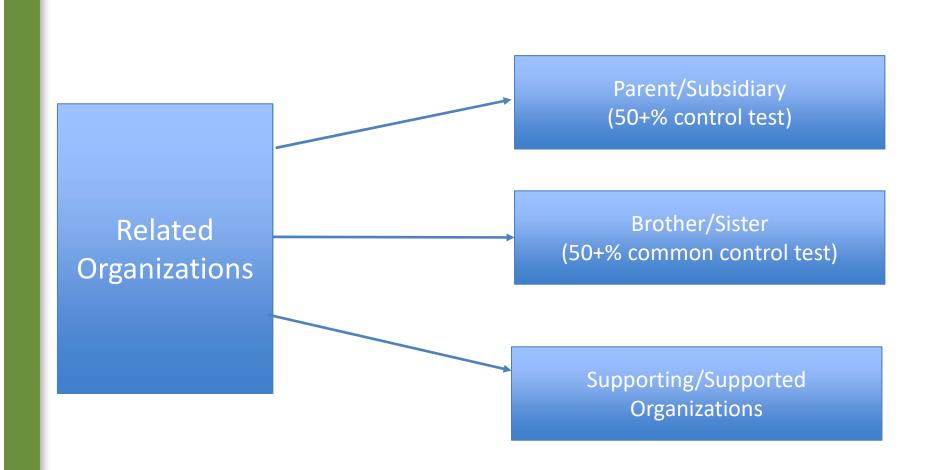
Public disclosure?



SN1 Is CHNA needed for this audience?

Sharon Nokes, 9/23/2019

"Related" Organizations for Form 990 Reporting





Schedule R: Related Organizations

- Must disclose the following information re: "related organizations" on Schedule R:
 - Identity (name, address, EIN)
 - Nature of relationship (e.g., % ownership of a taxable sub)
 - Details regarding the ownership interest in for-profit subsidiaries
 - Controlled Entity status under IRC section 512(b)(13)
 - Certain transactions with related organizations + amount involved (e.g., licensing arrangements, grants, loans, shared facilities, shared employees)

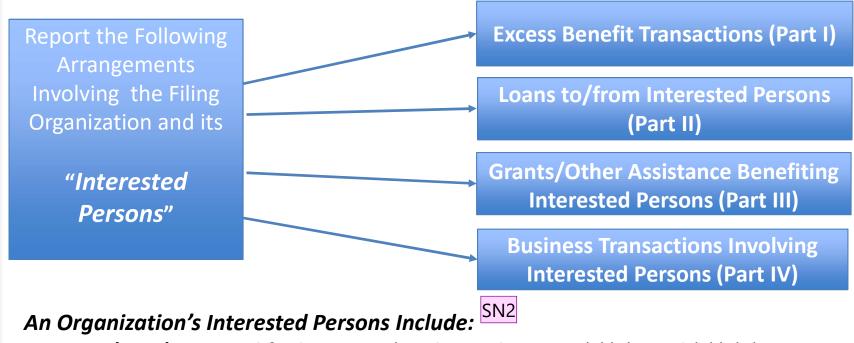


Compensation by Related Organizations

- Disclosed in detail on Part VII... and in greater detail on Schedule J.
- Includes "reportable" (W-2/1099) and "other" compensation.
- Even if your organization has a common paymaster arrangement, report compensation as if paid directly by each organization.



"Interested Persons" for Form 990 Reporting



- Part I (EBTs): Disqualified Persons (applies only to 501(c)(3)s and (c)(4)s)
- Parts II-IV:
 - Persons reported on Part VII as current/former ODTKEs
 - Creator or founder of the organization
 - Substantial contributor
 - iv. Member of grant selection committee (Part III only)
 - Family members of i-iv above
 - vi. 35%-controlled entities of i-v above



Preston and Diara, please check me on this. Sharon Nokes, 9/23/2019 SN2

Business Transactions w/ Interested Persons

- Must report certain business transactions involving...
 - any entity (other than a (c)(3) or 501(c) of the same type as the filing organization) that is "more than 35% owned or controlled, directly or indirectly by one or more current or former officers, directors, trustees, or key employees (ODTKEs) listed on Part VII, or their family members"
 - any entity (other than a 501(c) or governmental unit/instrumentality) of which a current or former ODTKE listed on Part VII was serving at the time of the transaction as (a) an officer, director, trustee, or (b) partner/member/shareholder with a greater than 5% interest (including ownership by a family member)
 - any management company of which a former ODTKE within the last 5 tax years (even if not listed in Part VII) is a direct or indirect 35% owner, or an officer, director, or trustee



Business Transactions w/ Interested Persons

- Business transactions include, but are not limited to the following (whether new or ongoing from a prior year):
 - Contracts of sale
 - Leases
 - Licenses
 - Resource-sharing agreements
 - Services arrangements (excluding any compensation reported on Part VII)
 - Joint ventures in which either the profits or capital interest of the organization and of the interested person each exceeds 10%
- "Business transactions" do not include loans, grants, EBTs reported elsewhere on Schedule L



Business Transactions w/ Interested Persons

- Not required to report transactions below the greater of 1% of your organization's total revenue for the tax year, or \$10k, unless:
 - Total payments for all transactions exceed \$100k (in which case you report all transactions, regardless of amount – multiple payments under a single contract are treated as a single transaction)
 - The transaction was the payment of compensation to a family member of a current ODTKE (in which case you report any payment of reportable compensation during the tax year that exceeded \$10k)



Schedule O

- Round off the rough edges of the questions.
 Minimize ambiguity
- Brag a little! About programs, process, oversight, etc. Tell the whole story
- Don't feel limited by the core Form



Technical Points

- Statute of Limitations
- IRC Section 7805(b) Protection
- When/Whether to Amend Form 990



Practical Tips For...

Year-round tracking of reportable developments

Information gathering...

Pre-filing review....



Some Final Qs to ask before filing

- Have we adequately explained any significant changes from prior years' Form 990s (gaps, shifts, new programs, new affiliates)?
- Is our reporting consistent with other government filings?
 (state filings, LDA (lobbying) filings, etc.)
- Is our 990 reporting consistent with our website and social media messaging?
- Are there any responses that beg further explanation?
 Anything that will make a splash (adverse or favorable)? If so, what is our Comms plan?



Q & A

Questions?

