

NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONTRACTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 28, 2025

1pm - 2:30pm

Via Zoom Webinar, and In-Person (NYC, Albany)

Meeting Minutes

The Not-for-Profit Contracting Advisor Committee (NFPCAC) met In-Person *and* via Zoom (aka “Hybrid”).

The meeting commenced at 1:11pm.

NFPCAC Board Members in Attendance -

- Wayne Ho, Chinese American Planning Council, Board Chair
- Fred Shack, Urban Pathways
- Grace Bonilla, United Way of New York City
- Juanita Lyde-Brooks, Council of Agency Executives
- Stephen Papas, United Way of Rockland County
- Megan Allen, New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON)
- Melody Goetz, State Comptroller’s Office (OSC)
- Michelle Heaslip, Division of the Budget (DOB)
- Edward Lenart, NYS Education Department (NYSED)
- Jan Fisher, Nonprofit Westchester (remote)*
- Hanna Rubin, State Attorney General’s Office (OAG)*

**A member who is participating from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance by the public shall not count toward a quorum of the Not-for-Profit Contracting Advisory Committee meeting, but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of members at a physical location(s) open to the public.*

Nonprofit Unit Staff in Attendance -

- Fran Barrett
- Lillian Padilla
- Liam Jackson

Introductory remarks were made by Fran Barrett, Interagency Coordinator for Nonprofit Organizations, Executive Chamber, Office of Governor Kathy Hochul. Mentioned in her remarks were the Governor’s State of State Address, the announcement of the Executive Budget, and how these two documents are relevant to the nonprofit sector. Fran Barrett also stated that the State government is very committed to the nonprofit sector and will be making sure that as little damage is done to the sector from happenings at the federal level.

Further comments were made by Wayne Ho, President/CEO, Chinese-American Planning Council and Committee Chair, and he also acknowledged the OMB pause on federal grants and loans.

Board attendance was sufficient to constitute a quorum, so business was conducted (November 19, 2024 meeting minutes were voted on and adopted) by Wayne Ho.

Discussions began with Michelle Heaslip (DOB) about the DOB Bulletin referencing a change made to the Contract for Grants, where the contract language regarding the confidentiality of client data has been removed. As of January 19, 2025, all contracts that have not been executive will be under the new terms. Amendments will not be made on existing contracts at this time. Some conversations have been had between the Grants Management team and some state agency reps to make sure they are aware of the bulletin. It was agreed, collectively, that the nonprofits should be made aware through some kind of mass broadcasting, though it is also available for access on the Grants Management website.

Following, there was a presentation by speaker Robert Rodriguez, President & CEO of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) on their upcoming Nonprofits Grants Webinar, in collaboration with the NYS Grants Management team, with a focus on prequalification. DASNY has two-dozen capital grant programs for nonprofits, including NICIP. 81% of the grantees have received grant disbursements in 9 months from the NICIP. Additionally, there are a couple of new DASNY programs contained in the new budget proposal. The Unplug and Play initiatives establish NY BRICKS, NY PLAYS and expands NY SWIMS. Significant capital for childcare projects is also on their agenda. Getting people through the grant disbursement process can take much longer when organizations applying for grants are doing so for the first time. That is the reason for their webinars. On the subject of the OMB's memorandum placing a pause on federal grants/loans, Robert Rodriguez clarified that DASNY's grant programs (or at least the ones mentioned) are not funded with federal dollars, but with state dollars, so they will not be affected at the time of this meeting.

And finally, the NYS Chief Customer Experience Officer, Tonya Webster, presented and explained the role of what the office of customer experience (CX) does. Nonprofits have long faced hardships due to late payments of their state-funded contracts. Tonya's office informed the audience that they are in the process of bringing on a consultant to look into the matter of late contract payments and are currently in the procurement phase. This means that the contract is out for bid and they are responding to vendor questions. They do have in mind a person that has a wealth of experience working for the City and will be able to bring that expertise. In response to a question from an audience member about whether feedback is being gathered from the nonprofit sector: They DO have some info that's been provided from the sector but the project hasn't yet been kicked off. They will be conducting focus groups and other surveys to give the customer a "voice" once the consultant is on board. Tonya shared her contact information at NYX-info@ny.gov. Their website can be found at www.experience.ny.gov.

Questions revolved around the late payment process, and where does the investigation start? Is it just the payment process itself or does it start once the contract has been awarded? The CX website will provide updates on this project, and the CX team will continue to attend these quarterly meetings to provide further updates as the process moves forward.

As per the DOB representative in attendance, regarding the OMB memo, the current understanding is that this will not affect "formula grants". It was agreed that it would be good to share information regarding the effects of this memorandum with members of the board once it becomes available.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.