Wildfire Workforce Fund

ANALYSIS OF FIVE LEGAL STRUCTURES

Five Models

1. New private foundation
2. New public foundation
3. Utilization of an existing public community foundation
4. Utilization of an existing nonprofit organization
5. Utilization of an existing state grant-making agency

Model Characteristics

	NEW PRIVATE FOUNDATION	NEW PUBLIC FOUNDATION	EXISTING PUBLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	EXISTING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION	EXISTING STATE AGENCY
FUNDING SOURCES	Typically derives all financial support from a single source, such as an individual, family, or corporation.	Receives donations from individuals, corporations, public or private foundations, and/or government.	Receives donations from individuals, corporations, public or private foundations, and/or government.	Receives donations from individuals, corporations, public or private foundations, and/or government.	Primarily receives state, federal, other, and state lottery funds, depending on the agency. May receive moneys from individuals, corporations, or public or private foundations.
FUNDING LIMITATIONS	No limitation on amount of funds that may be given by the donor individual, family, or corporation.	No one donor can give more than 50% of total assets.	No one donor can give more than 50% of total assets.	No one donor can give more than 50% of total assets.	No general limitations; specific limitations may be prescribed via legislation.
FUNDRAISING	Does not fundraise and does not solicit funds from the public.	Fundraising is common. Must demonstrate that it receives at least one-third of its contributions from small donors.	Fundraising is common. Must demonstrate that it receives at least one-third of its contributions from small donors.	Fundraising is common. Must demonstrate that it receives at least one-third of its contributions from small donors.	Typically does not engage in traditional fundraising, though an agency may fundraise from the public.
USE OF FUNDS	Typically makes grants to other nonprofit organizations.	May either make grants to other nonprofit organizations or provide direct service activities that are consistent with tax-exemption requirements.	May either make grants to other nonprofit organizations or provide direct service activities that are consistent with tax-exemption requirements.	May either make grants to other nonprofit organizations or provide direct service activities that are consistent with tax-exemption requirements.	May either make grants to other nonprofit organizations or provide direct service activities, depending on the agency's articulated authority.

Methodology

- Descriptive Model Characteristics

- Literature Review

- In-Depth Interviews

- Analysis of benefits and drawbacks of each model based on value-criteria

Study Findings

Model	Benefits	Drawbacks
New Private Foundation		- Maximum start-up time and $ - No known single donor - Does not solicit $ from public
New Public Foundation	+ Private & public donors + Diversified board of directors	- Maximum start-up time and $
Existing Public Community Foundation ⭐	+ Division of responsibilities plays to strengths + Diversified advisory committee + Leverages existing structure, expertise, and networks	- Cannot make grants to non-501(c)(3) entities
Existing Nonprofit Organization	+ Leverages existing structure, expertise, and networks	- Perceived neutrality of the convening nonprofit - Coalition set-up time
Existing State Agency	+ Leverages existing expertise	- Challenges to secure public or private funding

Contact

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