



Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations

Representing and Advocating for the Nonprofit Sector of Texas

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State-Nonprofit Partnerships: Working for Texas

Community groups are in the news today, as all levels of government look for ways to provide services faster, better, and more cheaply. Here in Texas, many state agencies realized long ago that nonprofit organizations are often the best choice for delivering services. Partnerships between state agencies and nonprofits have been enriching the lives of Texans for years, and not just in the human service arena. Working with state agencies, nonprofits also contribute to housing, environmental protection, the arts, and historical preservation. Their partnerships range from formal agreements to small grants to large long-term contracts, but they all have one goal: improving the quality of life in Texas.

Why are nonprofits such good partners? They are in touch with local communities across the state – their needs, their strengths, and effective ways of mobilizing volunteers. Their location, staff, and board membership give them perspective that a state agency can't match. Long experience with the limitations of tight budgets forces nonprofit organizations to be creative, flexible, and efficient with their resources, so they can often deliver services at a lower cost than can a state bureaucracy.

Why do nonprofits partner with state agencies? The obvious benefits are financial – these partnerships bring resources that enhance the nonprofits' capacity to serve. Additional support means nonprofits can do more for their communities, through new projects, expanding and improving existing services, or both. But there are other benefits as well. Relationships with state agencies help legitimize a nonprofit to other funders and prospective partners. And though state reporting requirements can be challenging, they can also motivate nonprofits to continually improve data collection and focus on quality and results.

The profiles below highlight current examples of successful state/nonprofit partnerships. Each example demonstrates a unique alliance between a Texas state agency and their nonprofit partners, and reflects some of the many innovative ways that Texas' public and nonprofit sectors work together address a specific need and promote public good.



[Protecting the Unprotected](#): Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and Texas CASA



[Accessing the Outdoors](#): Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Community Outdoors Outreach Program



[Changing Futures](#): Texas Youth Commission's Residential Contract Care



[Protecting our Environment](#): Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's SEP Projects



[Clean, Safe Water](#): Texas Water Development Board and the Self-Help Grant Program for Colonias

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This article was researched and written by Skye Kilaen, TANO's summer 2002 intern. Ms. Kilaen will receive her Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs in May 2003.