



The Human Services Council is excited to announce that we are in the process of establishing a 501(c)4 organization, Human Services Action.

This is a big step for the sector and is part of all of our efforts to build the collective power of the sector and to effectively demonstrate the important role nonprofit human services organizations play in ensuring strong, vibrant communities. This decision came after careful consideration and much conversation in HSC meetings, including the Human Services Recovery Taskforce. Many of you have had conversations as well about how to make real headway on the issues we care so deeply about.

Human Services Action will be designed to spotlight key issues in how human services are delivered, procured, and structured. We will elevate these issues to voters, elected officials, and candidates in new ways that emphasize the indispensable role the sector plays in supporting and strengthening communities. The Board will determine the nuance of those issues, but we can safely say that they will include equitable wages for human services workers, full cost reimbursements on government contracts, and timely payments. More on that trailblazing Board below!

Human Services Action is different from HSC in a number of ways. First, as a (c)4, Human Services Action will be empowered and legally able to endorse candidates and more directly engage in the election process by grading candidates and asking them to take specific positions. Efforts to register voters or talk about how nonprofits engage voters will not have to stop at numbers registered, as a (c)4 can share information with voters about HOW to vote on specific policy proposals and platforms; therefore, candidates are more likely to be invested and take notice. Human Services Action will not have a membership model like HSC, but will be made up of a Board of up to 15 individuals dedicated to advancing these issues, including some cross leadership, as well as with stakeholders from other sectors and those impacted by services at the table.

HSC, with you in the lead, has won key investments and grown the sector's ability to advocate. We have also seen that despite those wins and growth, the sector struggles with perpetual issues that remain even as Administrations change. Indeed, lasting, true change can feel fleeting when it comes at all. We have made progress, and HSC is committed to much more! But we need more voices, we need different voices, and we need those voices to be able to say different things. A 501(c)4 allows individuals who care deeply about our issues to push for change in new ways.

To form Human Services Action, the HSC Board formed a committee and are kicking off with an impressive, dedicated group of Changemakers: Carlyn Cowen, Maria Lizardo, Dianne Morales, and Ron Richter. This inaugural group has taken on the enormous task of getting us off the ground and adding to their ranks. Over the summer, their first mission will be to fill out the rest of the Board, and we invite you to share this [survey](#)



with your networks for those interested in joining the Board of Directors. We would like this Board to be made up of passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to improving our communities through quality services. Prospective Board Members can be active program participants, frontline staff, former government officials, nonprofit leaders, business leaders, philanthropists, and those active on community issues.

We understand that as 501(c)3 organizations, you have questions about how and if you can be involved. Please see this [FAQ](#) for some of the most common questions. This is not legal advice, just some of the most general questions we expect people may have.

As an HSC member, you can simply continue your membership with HSC and nothing changes. HSC will continue doing our policy and advocacy work as a (c)3 and will continue to retain legal representation to ensure that the 501(c)4 operates appropriately and separately from HSC. There are effective models, like that of New York Immigration Coalition and Planned Parenthood, that operate as separate but harmonious entities, and that is what we will strive for and intend to accomplish.

501(c)3 organizations can financially support 501(c)4 organizations like Human Services Action, so long as the funds are used for (c)3 purposes. Human Services Action will also be raising funds through individual donations and working with philanthropies to secure support that can be used for non-(c)3 purposes.

Human Services Action is just getting started, so you will hear much more from them over the coming months, including updates about our official “launch” and other ways for you to be involved. The first step will be securing a fantastic and diverse Board of Directors to lead our work. Please consider reaching out to your networks and sharing nominations for strong Board candidates.

Thanks so much.