# Monitoring of Nonprofits that Contract with the City

Rules Committee – November 27, 2023 File #230973



### **CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Office of the Controller City Performance Unit

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# **Background and Rationale**

- The City funds \$1.7 billion in services delivered by 600+ nonprofit providers annually.
- City departments are responsible for monitoring the delivery and quality of contracted services.
  - The City has standardized and coordinated fiscal and compliance monitoring practices but does not currently have standardized or coordinated programmatic and performance monitoring.
- Many nonprofits deliver high quality services; yet there are some that are not performing adequately, and there is a lack of clarity among nonprofits and City departments regarding appropriate escalation processes and tools for underperforming nonprofits.
- There is a need to enhance oversight of nonprofits to ensure the City is receiving high quality results from nonprofit contractors.

# Overview of the Ordinance: Monitoring Policy

The ordinance directs the Controller's Office to:

- Establish standards for how departments should establish measurable performance objectives within contracts with nonprofit organizations.
- Establish standards for how departments should carry out consistent and regular monitoring of contract performance, including:
  - Expected elements for regular monitoring (e.g., site visits).
  - Requirements for regular reporting processes and timeframes.
  - Considerations regarding ongoing oversight, including regular engagement and communication with contractors.

#### **Current State**

Most contracts include performance measures, and most departments have standard practices for contract monitoring.

Practices for establishing measures and conducting monitoring vary both within and across departments.

Many departments focus on compliance, with less attention on performance due to pressures from external funders and limited staff capacity.

## Overview of the Ordinance: Corrective Action

The ordinance directs the Controller's Office to:

- Update the existing Citywide Corrective Action Policy to:
  - Establish clear procedures for identifying issues of poor performance.
  - Institute multi-departmental coordination and/or escalation protocols.
  - Ensure connections to technical assistance are available.

#### **Current State**

The existing Citywide Corrective Action Policy has primarily been used to address **financial** concerns with nonprofit contractors.

There is a strong link between programmatic poor performance and financial concerns.

Over 50% of nonprofits receive funding from 2 or more departments, which speaks to a need for coordination.

Currently, there are **no central technical assistance resources** focusing on
programmatic performance.

## Overview of the Ordinance: Transparency

The ordinance directs the Controller's Office to:

- Conduct a review of publicly available information about nonprofit contracted services including spending, performance, and types of services provided.
  - Issue a report to the Mayor and Board recommending policy changes to improve public access to this information.
  - Develop a directory webpage documenting where and how to access existing public information.
- Following implementation of program monitoring policies, perform an annual review of departments' compliance with the program.

#### **Current State**

SF Open Data shares robust information about contracted services but this **information can be confusing** to the general public and does not tell a clear story about the results of \$1.7 billion in contracts.

Recent legislation mandates new compliance reporting for nonprofits and City Administrator is developing procedures for making that information publicly available now.

The Controller's Office issues an annual report of nonprofit fiscal monitoring results, but the scale and breadth of contracts means reporting about program monitoring may be limited.

## Overview of the Ordinance: Audits

The ordinance directs the Controller's Office to:

 Develop policies and procedures to ensure that nonprofit organizations receiving at least \$750,000 in funding from the City submit audited financial statements.

#### **Current State**

City departments gather and review CPA audits as part of fiscal monitoring.

- The State requires any nonprofit with \$2 million in annual revenues to conduct a CPA audit.
- The Federal government requires any recipient of at least \$750,000 in Federal funds to participate in the "single audit."
- By internal policy, some departments require CPA audits of nonprofit contractors at lower thresholds, e.g., \$500,000 in department funding.

Of 600+ nonprofits, approximately 80 received between \$750,00 and \$2 million last fiscal year and may be subject to this change (though a portion likely already conduct a CPA audit).

# Implementation Plan

In anticipation of the ordinance, the Controller's Office launched background research and policy development, in coordination with a policy group of departmental and nonprofit leadership.

By September 1, 2024, the Controller's Office will:

- 1. Develop and distribute a **new policy** setting standards for contract performance monitoring.
- Update and distribute existing Citywide Corrective Action Policy to outline escalation paths for underperforming contracts and nonprofits.
- Publish a report and webpage outlining currently available public information about nonprofit services, including spending, performance, and types of services provided.
- 4. Develop a program implementation plan to ensure adoption of the policy and outline the roles and duties of the Controller's Office in ongoing oversight of the process.

Thank you.

Any questions?