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Not-for-Profit
SYMPOSIUM

Shaping the Future

BONUS!
Half-Day Post Conference
See inside for details.

4
June 2025

IN-PERSON ONLY!
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, Illinois
Time: 8:25AM - 5:00PM **Code:** C67719
Credits: 8 CPE, 3.75 CLE (pending)

Register by April 18 and SAVE!
Cost: $395 M | $495 NM
Cost after April 18: $425 M | $525 NM

Register today at www.icpas.org/nfps

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Gain relevant insights, enhance your expertise, and connect with peers to thrive in the evolving not-for-profit landscape.

June 4, 2025 | Full-Day Conference Schedule

7:45AM - 8:25AM

Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast

8:25AM - 8:30AM

Welcome Remarks

8:30AM - 9:20AM

General Session

Exempt Organizations: Insights From the IRS

Explore hot topics facing exempt organizations from the IRS' perspective, with a focus on recent changes and current initiatives.

TBA

9:30AM - 10:20AM

Concurrent Sessions A-C

A Avoid These Common Legal Mistakes

Internal and external accountants for not-for-profits are often the first to see red flags and prevent legal mistakes and illegal behavior. Review some common legal mistakes and discuss how to avoid them in endowments, scholarships, member discipline, codes of conduct, royalties, and more.

Paula Cozzi Goedert, JD
Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Jeremy Lewin, JD
Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

B Expanding Your Portfolio With Hedge Funds and Complex Investments

Not-for-profits continue to look for ways to diversify investment strategies while staying true to their underlying missions. Alternative investments and hedge funds are among these strategies. Hear how the Shedd Aquarium launched an ESG investment portfolio to further advance their mission and how an investment consulting firm advises not-for-profits on their portfolios.

Gary Gordon
Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Shedd Aquarium

Anthony M. Novara, CFA
Partner, Research Director, Marketable Alternatives & Capital Markets, Fiducient

C AI Solutions and Risks in A&A

Explore the evolving world of artificial intelligence (AI) and dive into the risks and challenges Deloitte encountered while implementing AI solutions in their audit and assurance practice. Additionally, learn how AI can be leveraged to enhance operations, mitigate risks, and achieve goals across various sectors, including not-for-profit organizations.

Seth Nicolai, CPA, CFE
Senior Manager, Deloitte

10:30AM - 11:20AM

General Session

Human Capital Management: How to Best Engage and Retain Top Talent

Turn the tide on decreasing employee retention trends by building a culture that proactively drives engagement and productivity. Learn how to spot, and prevent, employee burnout to keep your organization profitable and effectively moving forward.

TBA

11:30AM - 12:20PM
Concurrent Sessions A-C

A The Unintended Impacts of UBI

Delve into how unrelated business income (UBI) can be triggered in retirement accounts, charitable trusts, social clubs, and other areas, presenting unique challenges for tax-exempt entities. Explore uncommon scenarios where UBI can affect investment returns, jeopardize the tax advantages of charitable remainder trusts, and create compliance concerns for social clubs engaging in non-member activities. Walk away equipped to identify potential UBI pitfalls, implement proactive strategies, and ensure compliance for your organization.

Bernadette Zita, CPA, MST
Senior Vice President Finance, College of Healthcare Information Management Executives

B Risk Management and Litigation Avoidance

Managing risk and avoiding litigation are both regularly on the minds of not-for-profit executives. Hear how one organization manages risk and learn how you can protect your own organization with effective legal practices, policies, and procedures. Plus, develop risk management strategies that will minimize liability and explore organization indemnification obligations and best practices.

Kimberly Pendo, JD
Founding Member & COO, Chicago Law Partners

Angelica Stapert
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Brightpoint

C Reimagining Benefits: Modern Compensation Frameworks

Explore innovative approaches to benefits and compensation within the not-for-profit sector. Discover creative solutions to align organizational mission with employee needs, helping your organization compete effectively in today's challenging talent market.

Dr. Lynn Burks, Ph.D.
Chief Associate, HYA Higher Education Collaborative and Chief Strategy Officer, Brent Sopel Foundation

12:20PM - 1:10PM

Networking Lunch

1:10PM - 2:00PM
General Session

Hope Is Medicine

Dive into the mission and inner workings of Make-A-Wish Illinois, a not-for-profit that grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. Discuss the struggles of the COVID years, the current challenges it faces, and how it works to fund life-saving operations and wishes.

Moderator:
Christine Torres, CPA
Partner, Crowe LLP

Panelists:
Jason Maslan, CPA
Partner, Protiviti

Stephanie Springs
CEO, Make-A-Wish Illinois

2:10PM - 3:00PM
Concurrent Sessions A-C

A Executive Compensation Tax Issues

Hear the ins and outs of excise tax on excessive executive compensation, deferred compensation rules, and compliance with the latest regulations. Gain a deeper understanding of how to navigate these tax challenges while ensuring fair and reasonable compensation for executives.

Andy Bridgman, JD
Counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP

B The Shifting Funding Landscape: Strategies for Success

In an era of evolving funding landscapes, not-for-profits must adapt to changes in federal, state, and private funding sources to sustain their missions. Discover practical strategies to navigate these shifts effectively and receive an update on the current landscape.

Deirdre Hodgson, CPA
Managing Principal of Industry-Higher Education, CLA

Melissa Struck, CPA
Nonprofit Principal, CLA

C Strategic Planning: Process to Execution

Learn the importance of periodic strategic planning procedures for your organization. Examine the various stages of the strategic planning process through the eventual implementation and execution of the plan.

Moderator:
Scott Steffens, CPA
Principal, O'Connor Consulting Services, LLC

Panelists:
Jim Croft, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Nonprofit Financial Management, The University of Nebraska and Northwestern University, and Former Executive Vice President and CFO, Field Museum

Patricia Lawson
Vice President for Finance and Operations/CFO, Erikson Institute

3:10PM - 4:00PM
Concurrent Sessions A-C

A NMTC 101: The Basics of a Valuable Financial Tool

Explore the basics of using the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) resource. Discover who qualifies and the key roles. Learn how to determine if this can be a valuable resource for you and your project.

Debbie Kleban, JD
Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen, P.C.

Kandace Lenti
President and Managing Director, Government, Non-Profit, Healthcare and Education Banking, Wintrust Commercial Banking

B Unlocking Profit Potential

Not-for-profits are constantly challenged to do more with less. Hear how you can get creative and implement new revenue sources and programs to unlock the profit potential at your organization.

Moderator:
Kimberly Marshall, CPA
Managing Director, Forvis Mazars LLP

Panelists:
Jon Assell, CPA
CFO, Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Dorri McWhorter CPA, CGMA, CIA, MBA
Former President and CEO, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Ask the A&A Experts

Bring your burning questions to get clarity on a variety of accounting and auditing topics relevant to not-for-profit organizations from our panel of experts.

Moderator:
Jennifer Culotta, CPA
Partner, Plante Moran

Panelists:
Moises Sanchez, CPA, MBA
Partner, Grant Thornton LLP

Craig Wories, CPA
Nonprofit Audit Partner, RSM US LLP

Andrea Wright, CPA
Partner, Johnson Lambert LLP

4:10PM - 5:00PM
Closing Session

Obama Presidential Center: Creation, Programming, Preparation

The Barack Obama Foundation will open the Barack Obama Presidential Center in the Spring of 2026, which will join a distinguished list of world-class cultural institutions in the Chicagoland area. Hear about the creation of the foundation, the development of the programming, and the preparation for the opening of this innovative presidential center.

Moderator:
Scott Steffens, CPA
Principal, O'Connor Consulting Services, LLC

Panelist:
Ammar Rizki
CFO, The Barack Obama Foundation

5:00PM - 6:00PM | Please join us for a Networking Reception immediately following the Closing Session.

June 5, 2025 | Virtual Half-Day Post Conference Schedule (Separate Registration Required)

Purpose Meets Precision:
Not-for-Profit Accounting in Practice

8:25AM - 8:30AM
Welcome and Administrative Details

8:30AM - 9:20AM
SAS 145: Practical Considerations in Your Risk Assessments

Through the lens of SAS 145, explore risk assessment strategies for managing outside IT services, including identifying potential vulnerabilities and mitigating risks. Discuss the expectations surrounding documentation processes and gain insights from a peer review perspective.

Moderator:
Heather Lindquist, CPA
Assistant Director, Peer Review and Professional Standards, Illinois CPA Society

Panelists: TBD

9:30AM - 10:20AM
The Basics of Unrelated Business Income Tax

Understand the common types of transactions that generate unrelated business income taxes (UBIT) and the basic exclusions from it, such as dividends and interest, revenue from activities using volunteer labor, and revenue from unrelated activities that are not regularly carried on. Plus, discover best practices for reporting UBI revenue and the expenses that can offset it to reduce tax liability.

Katherine Kurtzman, CPA
Managing Director, EY

Voula Spyridis, CPA
Senior Manager, EY

10:30AM - 11:20AM
Accounting for Special Events and Other Exchange Transaction Considerations

Delve into the accounting and reporting requirements for special events, including the complexities of recognizing and measuring revenue, expenses, and other financial elements associated with these activities. Gain practical insights and strategies to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with Form 990 reporting.

Sarah Eddy, CPA
Manager, Mann Weitz & Associates LLC

David Lowenthal, CPA, J.D., LL.M.
Partner, Plante Moran

11:30AM - 12:20PM
Trivial Pursuit With an NFP Twist!

Test your knowledge while learning new concepts in this fun, interactive game of not-for-profit trivia.

Game Master:
Nancy Gonsiorek, CPA
Nancy L. Gonsiorek, CPA

VIRTUAL ONLY!
Time: 8:25AM - 12:20PM
Credits: 4 CPE **Code:** C67718
Cost: $270 M I $355 NM
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Special thanks to the Not-for-Profit Symposium Content Advisory Group:

Megan Angle, CPA
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College of Healthcare Information Management Executives

Monica Funk, CPA
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

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