

July 2009 Issue

[Ask Your Colleagues This BIG Question](#)

[Six Ways to Weather the "Perfect Financial Storm"](#)

Quick Links

[Are you SURE those funds are unrestricted?](#)

[Transparency: A must internally, too.](#)

["Friends" for life? Think again.](#)

["Is Your Cash Safe?" \(PDF\)](#)

[Looking for a job?](#)

Subscribe

[Subscribe](#)

WORD TO THE WISE

Ask Your Colleagues This BIG Question

"Knowing what you know, and concerning any topic, if you were a consultant to our organization, what three recommendations would you make right now?" Now THAT will get you some valuable feedback! Try as we might, sometimes we can't see the forest for the trees.



ON YOUR SIDE

Six Ways to Weather the "Perfect Financial Storm"

New regulatory, filing and disclosure requirements... then economic downturn... now fierce competition: it's a "perfect financial storm" that may leave you struggling to keep your financial house in order.



So what can you do to weather the storm?

1. **Make sure all your numbers say the same thing.** Grantmakers compare several reports to make sure they agree and provide the same answers.
2. **Prove your financial competence.** If you can streamline expenses to adjust for lower revenue while simultaneously planning for the long-term, you'll prove you're viable and worth investing in.
3. **Make sure your new 990s are accurate and complete.** If they're not, which can be common for smaller organizations, you risk losing donors.
4. **Jump on a cash crisis before it gets worse.** Take these steps now:
 - o Create an internal finance committee to assess the situation.
 - o Call in experts to evaluate options and find solutions.
 - o Develop a checklist to improve controls to better manage expenses.
5. **Cut the fat.** (Yes, you probably do have some fat left.) Do you see duplication? Mission creep? Sacred cows? It's time for laser-focus on your core mission.
6. **Strengthen donor relationships.** Don't take a single donor for granted. Keep in touch and keep asking!

And how can you be better prepared for future surprises? Develop a solid Plan B based on today's new economic realities. [See complete article.](#)

TAKE OUR FINANCIAL FITNESS TEST

Is your organization financially fit?

In about three minutes of your time you can find out your organization's financial strengths and weaknesses, and identify any misperceptions about your overall financial health. Go ahead. See if you agree - or not - with these [15 insightful statements](#).

[Beyond the Bottom Line \(BTBL\)](#) helps nonprofits and social enterprises take control of their numbers so they can achieve greater financial success. Through accounting, interim CFO and executive search services, BTBL operates as an objective, hands-on financial partner on an as-needed basis. Since 1988, our executive-level professionals have filled leadership and advisory roles for more than 50 nonprofit organizations. Please call us at **888-358-5353** for more information.