

Tools for Accessing the Open 990 Data

Examples are presented in each category **in alphabetical order by host institution/program**.

Where to access the Open 990 raw data

- Prior to January 1, 2022, the Internal Revenue Service [Registry of Open 990 Data on Amazon Web Services](#) had been the official source for data released by the IRS. In 2016, the IRS began releasing e-filed 990 data, approximately 60%–65% of filers at the time, to Amazon Web Services (AWS) for public use, free of charge. It is available for years 2013 to 2021. The data has been posted as XML files.¹
- Starting on January 1, 2022, the Internal Revenue Service [Tax Exempt Organization Search Bulk Data Downloads](#) page is now the main repository for 990 downloads in both PDF and XML formats, organized by year and month, depending on the format.

How to access and use Open 990 raw data

- The [Registry of Open 990 Data on Amazon Web Services](#) has a list of tools and applications for using the raw 990 data.
- The [Nonprofit Open Data Collective](#) on GitHub.com serves as a shared repository of tools, tips, and resources for cleaning and processing 990 data, including a helpful link to the ARNOVA 2017 workshop, [Open Nonprofit Data](#), and a place where scholars and others can share research. The website also includes a [long list of other helpful websites and datasets](#) for nonprofit research, such as a [tool that can tell](#) whether a nonprofit has a recent e-filed return and a way to [classify nonprofit mission statements](#), and a way to convert the list of board member names into [a more user-friendly format](#).
- [IRSx.info](#) includes information that helps 990 data users convert raw XML files into named variables, with each data point mapped to its location on the IRS Form 990 series filings.

¹ As of December 31, 2021, this site has been replaced by the IRS bulk data download site in the second bullet. Starting January 1, 2022, the IRS site will contain historical archives as well as receive updated data, while the AWS site only maintains historical archives.

Examples of sites that use and leverage Open 990 data

- [American University — The Accountability Project](#) gives researchers and journalists tools for searching across public datasets, including 990s and more than 1.4 billion public records. In addition to 990 data, the site includes data on business ownership, public employees, medical facilities, voter registration, and government spending.
- [Candid](#) provides research on trends in the nonprofit sector and gives users the ability to look up individual nonprofit and foundation tax forms. Candid's [GuideStar](#) provides free access to individual nonprofit and foundation tax forms, and [FDO Quick Start](#) contains free profiles of grantmakers. Both platforms offer more in-depth and customized information upon subscription as well as reports on nonprofit compensation. Nonprofits may earn seals of transparency on their online profiles to help attract donors.
- [Cause IQ](#) provides tools to help a variety of businesses, nonprofits, and others grow their nonprofit client base, research organizations, and find funding. Users can search nonprofit organizations based on location (city or state) and category (colleges, nursing homes, animal organizations, etc.). This platform also contains 990-based research reports, such as a guide to COVID-19 Relief Funds.
- [Charity Navigator](#) assists donors by providing them with free access to data, tools, and resources that guide philanthropic decision-making, including advanced searches of nonprofits by issue area, rating, and more. Charity Navigator's Encompass Rating System uses open 990 data to rate a growing number of nonprofits across several key indicators, including: Finance & Accountability, Impact & Results, Culture & Community, and Leadership & Adaptability.
- [CitizenAudit.org](#) has a searchable database of Form 990s, including access to 15 years of Form 990 disclosures. Users can easily search for keywords inside the IRS filings, and more custom needs can be met, from alerts and notifications for the latest filings to the creation of tailored lists. CitizenAudit charges an annual subscription fee though basic searches are free.
- [DataLake Nonprofit Research](#) provides custom national, statewide, and regional reports and datasets for a fee. They offer access to 30 years of Form 990 data and National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) classification of most tax-exempt 501(c) organizations.
- [Foundation Mark](#) provides indices and reports on the performance of foundation investments.
- [GivingTuesday Data Commons](#) provides access to e-filed 990 data and a host of resources for analysis of 990 and other data, with free registration. The site includes data visualizations and dashboards, as well as links to code, data cleaning files, scripts, and more.
- [Grantmakers.io](#) provides foundation profiles and a tool for searching grants.
- [HospitalFinances.org](#) is a platform by the Association of Health Care Journalists that makes nonprofit hospital finances easier to access, search, and analyze. Searches can be conducted by entering the name of facilities or individuals and results will show information on finances, charity and indigent care, compensation, and more.

- The open990.org website contains nonprofit profiles as well as [resources](#) from other researchers and organizations. The site also contains [free datasets](#) on topics such as hospitals (Schedule H data) and executive compensation.
- [ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer](#) enables searches of nonprofit tax returns through a variety of filters, including state, major nonprofit category, organizational type, people, and full-text search. This site also includes PDFs of Federal Single Audits for nonprofit organizations that spent \$750,000 or more in federal grant money in a single fiscal year.
- [NAVi – Nonprofit Aid Visualizer](#) and [NAViHH - Nonprofit Aid Visualizer for Hunger and Homelessness](#) from Vanguard Charitable provides search tools using filters focused on finding nonprofits to donate to support COVID-19 pandemic relief, hunger, and homelessness. The sites include nonprofit profiles and maps of the distribution of nonprofits.

Other sources of information about the nonprofit sector

Beyond the Open 990 data, there are a number of other data sources and resources that share information about the nonprofit sector. Two of the most important are:

- The Internal Revenue Service's [Charitable and Exempt Organization Statistics](#)
 - The [Annual Extract of Tax-Exempt Financial Data](#), which includes selected financial data from all Forms 990, 990-EZ and 990-PF filed in a calendar year
 - The [Business Master File](#), updated on a regular basis, which lists all active nonprofits by state and region
 - [Exempt Organizations Form 1023-EZ Approvals](#), which provides an annual summary of all nonprofits that were created with the streamlined application for 501(c)3 status
- [National Center for Charitable Statistics at Urban Institute](#)
 - [NCCS Core Files](#), which contain selected information from all organizations filing a Form 990 or 990-EZ. NCCS also maintains an excellent [archive of historical core files](#) going back to 1989.
 - The historical archives of [Business Master Files](#) and [Statistics of Income](#) datasets

Other key nonprofit data resources include:

- Arizona State University's [Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation](#)
- Aspen Institute's [Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation](#), including the [990 e-filing guide](#)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals — [The Fundraising Effectiveness Project](#)
- The [Generosity Commission](#) published an [appendix of U.S. databases about philanthropy](#) (June 2019)
- Grand Valley State University's [Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy](#)

- [Independent Sector](#) regularly publishes reports on the [health of the U.S. nonprofit sector](#)
- Indiana University's [Lilly Family School of Philanthropy](#)
- Johns Hopkins University — [The Center for Civil Society Studies](#)
- [National Council of Nonprofits](#) publishes [reports on the economic impact of the nonprofit sector](#)
- Stanford [Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society](#)
- The University of Maryland's School of Public Policy ([Philanthropy & Nonprofit](#) focus)
- The University of San Diego's [Nonprofit Institute](#)
- The University of Texas at Austin's [RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service](#)
- The Urban Institute's [Center on Nonprofits & Philanthropy](#)