

90 Years of Progress

A History of the New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc.

1927 - 2017



THE YOUNG COUNCIL

Developed alongside the Community Chest, the *Albany Council of Social Agencies* was created by delegates from 23 social agencies to reduce duplication of services and to analyze unmet needs and determine ways to meet them. Convening Meeting – March 3rd / Formalized - June 27th.

1927

CONTINUING DEPRESSION

Due to the lack of resources and increased population of transient and homeless men in Albany, a new constitution was approved in 1935 to reflect the Council's growth and the new & more complex demands. The name was changed to *Council of Community Services*.

1930's

THE WAR YEARS

Heavy push for progressive social legislation; established a Child Guidance Center; changed public welfare voucher system; and provided a channel of communication between schools and social agencies.

1940's

THE COUNCIL IN TRANSITION

The Council's name changed to the *Council of Community Services of the Albany Area, Inc.* under the direction of the 1st director who believed the Council's role was to "mobilize all community forces for preserving and promoting human values." The Council was the "planning arm" of what is now the United Way and was part of the national UW system.

1950's

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PLANNING

In these turbulent social times, the Council became a critical convener, planning entity and catalyst for local community change and problem solving, and developer of community-based nonprofits. The Council served as the umbrella organization for a variety of public, private and quasi-private agencies and concerned citizens. Also started the health insurance program for nonprofit members. In 1968, the Community Foundation of Albany, Inc., currently known as the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region was founded with the Council's assistance.

1960's

STAYING AHEAD

Facing funding cutbacks, impoundment of grant funds and the onset of revenue sharing and community development, the Council aimed to stay a step ahead of the community – analyzing relevant needs in the light of social patterns and seeking social integration. Once again, to reflect the demand to help more, the Council's name changed to the *Council of Community Services of Northeastern New York, Inc.*

1970's

REDEFINING THE COUNCIL

The Council focused on expanding the range, depth and geographic scope of its community planning activities, strengthened its membership benefit infrastructure, offered statewide group purchasing products including the first statewide D&O product in the state, and formally developed a Development and Management Assistance Program for nonprofits.

1980's

EXPANSION

The Council left the UW system and expanded to become truly statewide in its provision of technical assistance and training, and began a period of rapid growth under the new name the *Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc.* CCSNYS became an early member of what was then the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. During this period, our service division and corporate infrastructure evolved with the creation of the Legal Assistance Program, Nonprofit Accounting Services Program, and two subsidiaries – Council Services Plus and Innovative Charitable Initiatives.

1990's

BUILDING ONWARD & UPWARD

The Council opened 4 regional offices; developed & implemented the State Board Training Consortium (SBTC); partnered with Foundations to support Capacity Building efforts; Increased Membership to over 1,100 throughout NYS; and acquired the historic Menands Manor as our corporate headquarters. In 2009, our name changed to the *New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. (NYCON)* to coincide with the name of our national organization and reflect our commitment to all types of charitable nonprofits.

2000's

STRENGTHENING. EXPANDING. SUSANTAINING.

NYCON's membership rapidly grew to over 3,100, the largest of all nonprofit state associations in the nation. We developed a partnership with the New York State Council for the Arts, and acquired and merged NYC-based Governance Matters and VCG, and in the process acquired boardnetusa.org. A "family brand" evolved.

2017