

RETHINKING OVERHEAD

THE NONPROFIT CENTERS
NETWORK

Discussion Questions: Management Support Organizations (MSOs)

Management Support Organizations (MSOs) that specialize in working with nonprofit organization can be a great addition to your team of back office advisors. However, they aren't in every market. Is joining an MSO the right strategy for your organization?

- 1.) Is there an MSO in your community or in your program area?
 - These kinds of organizations can be hard to Google, so connect with your state nonprofit association, local nonprofit capacity building entity, or local funders to see who they know of. Be sure to look for groups that specialize in nonprofit organizations.
- 2.) What services areas does your organization seek support for? What is your timeline and budget for support?
 - Are you interested in working with the MSO's team of experts?
 - Are you able to invest the time, money and resources needed to complete the purchase, installation, and training related to new systems and procedures?
- 3.) If there is not an MSO in your area, should one exist?
 - Think about who you would trust as an MSO. Are there known capacity building nonprofits that could serve this function? Would this need to be a new entity?
 - Is your organization the right one to host this service?
 - It is important to think about your core capacities, strengths, and your mission as you evaluate what role to play in this effort?
 - Is this something you might help initiate?
 - Could you speak with local leaders (funders, public officials, major donors) about starting an MSO or alternative shared service program?

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