



# HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

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EIN: 15-6024061  
Report Generated on: 03/28/2021

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# HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY



aka The History Center in Tompkins County, fka DeWitt Historical Societyfka The DeWitt Historical...  
Ithaca, NY  
www.thehistorycenter.net  
(607)273-8284

[View GuideStar Profile](#)

## MISSION

THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY HELPS PEOPLE USE THE TOOLS OF HISTORY TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST, GAIN PERSPECTIVE ON THE PRESENT, AND PLAY AN INFORMED ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION WE: -PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE ACCESS TO THE HISTORY CENTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTIONS; -SEEK OUT THE DIVERSE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITY; -DESIGN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND PROVIDE SERVICES THAT RESPOND TO THOSE NEEDS; -CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD; AND -PROVIDE A NEUTRAL ENVIRONMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS THAT BRING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO CURRENT ISSUES.

## EIN

15-6024061

## RULING YEAR

1972

## IRS SUBSECTION

501(c)(3) Public Charity

## FOUNDING YEAR

1863

## MAIN ADDRESS

110 North Tioga St  
Ithaca, NY  
14850

## AFFILIATION TYPE

Independent Organization

## CONTACT

Tompkins History  
(607) 273-8284  
community@thehistorycenter.  
net

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ben Sandberg

## SUBJECT AREA

History museums

History

Historical activities

Academic libraries

Archives and special collections

## NAICS CODE

712120 Historical Sites

## SIC CODE

8412 Museums and Art

Galleries

## NTEE Code

(Historical Societies, Historic Preservation) (A82)

## PROGRAMS

### 1. Thaler/Howell Archives

Population(s) served:

### 2. Exhibit Hall

Population(s) served:

---

## POPULATIONS SERVED

### 1. Age groups

### 2. Ethnic and racial groups

### 3. Retired people

### 4. Academics

### 5. Artists and performers

## COMPLIANCE

- ✓ IRS Pub 78 Verified as of March 2021
- ✓ IRS BMF 509(a) (1) as of March 08, 2021
- ✓ A-133 Audit Required/Performed?
- ✓ Conflict of Interest Policy
- ✓ Written whistleblower policy

Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

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## TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

- ✓ Board Practices Reported?
- ✗ Diversity Data Reported?
- 17** Number of Independent Board Members

# Programs & Results

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## PROGRAMS

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, March 2021

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### Thaler/Howell Archives

**Population(s) Served:** n/a

**Budget:** n/a

Whether for genealogical research, or to learn about your house, or any other aspect of local history, you will probably find something, in the Cornell Local Research Library and Thaler/Howell Archives.

We have over 2,000 family genealogy files, over 100 oral history interviews, 250 bound ledgers, 440 scrapbooks, 1,200 maps, more than 3,000 local history books, extensive manuscript collections, newspapers dating back to 1819, and dozens of regional photographic collections from as early as 1865.

Contact our archivist at [archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions about our holdings.

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### Exhibit Hall

**Population(s) Served:** n/a

**Budget:** n/a

Our Exhibit Hall on the Ithaca Commons is a state of the art museum highlighting the history of Tompkins County and the Finger Lakes region thorough interactive displays with artifacts from our extensive physical archival collections.

Our Passage Through Time walkway begins with a video representation of the Gayogohó:n' (generally known by the mispronunciation Cayuga) creation myth. This video was made in collaboration with local representatives of the Gayogohó:n' Nation. We

collectively acknowledge that Tompkins County is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. All Native American items currently on display in our museum are on loan from the Cayuga Nation.

The timeline highlights snippets of Tompkins County history from the building of the famed Clinton Hotel, to the election of Svante Myrick in 2011, Ithaca's first African-American Mayor.

Our six P.L.A.C.E. (People, Land, Architecture, Culture, and Enterprise) Exhibit Towers each explore two local aspects of history. Digital displays, and pull out drawers with additional artifacts are present at each tower. The tower displays within the Exhibit Hall change twice a year, while the tower display in the Tompkins Center atrium changes every 3-4 months.

Our main attraction is our permanent exhibit of the 103 year old Tommy Plane, which visitors see as soon as they enter the hall. Tommy is a Thomas Morse Scout S4-B which was manufactured in Ithaca by the Thomas Morse Aviation Corporation in 1918. The plane was painstakingly restored by the Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation over 14 years, and took its centennial flight over Ithaca on September 29th 2018. The plane is still flight worthy, however we don't have plans to fly it again...yet.

Explore our Story Vault, housed in one of the original bank vaults of the Tompkins Trust Company, and listen to oral histories from residents and visitors to Tompkins County. You can even take the time to record your own!

Smaller exhibits change on a rotating monthly basis, with museum wide exhibit changes twice a year.

# Financials

FISCAL YEAR START: 07/01

FISCAL YEAR END: 06/30

✓ Financials audited by an independent accountant

## FINANCIALS QUICK VIEW

Surpluses in last 5 years 4

Negative Net Assets in past 5 years 0

## Financial Trends Analysis

### Business Model Indicators

Created in Partnership with



Profitability	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Unrestricted surplus (deficit) before depreciation	\$103,543	-\$69,033	-\$45,392	-\$25,874	\$1,363,420
As a % of expenses	33.6%	-19.2%	-11.8%	-4.3%	230.2%
Unrestricted surplus (deficit) after depreciation	\$91,039	-\$81,991	-\$58,349	-\$38,643	\$1,207,157
As a % of expenses	28.4%	-22.0%	-14.6%	-6.2%	161.3%
Revenue Composition					
Total revenue (unrestricted & restricted)	\$374,461	\$327,025	\$432,204	\$1,221,058	\$2,049,836
Total revenue, % change over prior year	9.7%	-12.7%	32.2%	182.5%	67.9%
Program services revenue	9.2%	8.0%	4.8%	1.9%	0.9%
Membership dues	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Investment income	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Government grants	41.2%	52.6%	60.1%	21.6%	71.0%
All other grants and contributions	47.4%	36.3%	33.4%	76.1%	27.5%
Other revenue	2.1%	3.1%	1.7%	0.4%	0.6%
Expense Composition					
Total expenses before depreciation	\$308,378	\$360,009	\$385,922	\$605,884	\$592,237
Total expenses, % change over prior year	-24.8%	16.7%	7.2%	57.0%	-2.3%
Personnel	50.2%	56.8%	58.8%	36.8%	39.9%
Professional Fees	5.1%	4.9%	6.5%	16.6%	1.3%
Occupancy	32.0%	27.1%	25.7%	16.6%	20.2%
Interest	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Pass-Through	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All other expenses	12.7%	11.2%	9.0%	30.0%	37.5%

# Financial Trends Analysis, continued

## Moving Toward Full Cost Coverage

Full Cost Components (estimated)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Expenses (after depreciation)	\$320,882	\$372,967	\$398,879	\$618,653	\$748,500
One Month of Savings	\$25,698	\$30,001	\$32,160	\$50,490	\$49,353
Debt Principal Repayment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fixed Asset Additions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,547,973
Total Full Costs (estimated)	\$346,580	\$402,968	\$431,039	\$669,143	\$3,345,826

## Capital Structure Indicators

### Liquidity

Months of cash	6.7	5.6	6.9	6.0	12.6
Months of cash and investments	6.7	5.6	6.9	6.0	12.6
Months of estimated liquid unrestricted net assets	11.3	7.4	5.4	2.9	3.3

### Balance Sheet Composition

Cash	\$170,897	\$168,990	\$221,130	\$302,021	\$622,600
Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Receivables	\$131,284	\$84,702	\$81,366	\$629,177	\$607,047
Gross land, buildings, and equipment (LBE)	\$499,452	\$499,452	\$501,966	\$501,965	\$2,635,638
Accumulated depreciation (% of LBE)	68.1%	70.7%	72.9%	75.4%	4.6%
Liabilities (as % of assets)	2.3%	0.9%	1.7%	2.1%	36.6%
Unrestricted net assets	\$449,322	\$367,331	\$308,982	\$270,339	\$1,477,496
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$52,907	\$88,957	\$180,631	\$821,679	\$915,858
Permanently restricted net assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total restricted net assets	\$52,907	\$88,957	\$180,631	\$821,679	\$915,858
Total net assets	\$502,229	\$456,288	\$489,613	\$1,092,018	\$2,393,354

## Key Data Checks

Material Data Errors	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	No	No	No	No	No

Note: This issue is relevant to a small number of organizations: The nonprofit subject(s) of this report may have affiliates. The Form 990 data may not include information about any or all potential affiliates. If an organization does have affiliates and these affiliates have substantial financial activity, the financial data in this report may not present a comprehensive picture of the nonprofit's financial condition. Please consult the 990s of any potentially related affiliates for additional information.

- [Formulas for key metrics](#)
- ['Key Revenue & Expense Data from Form 990'](#)
- ['Key Balance Sheet Data from Form 990'](#)

# Operations

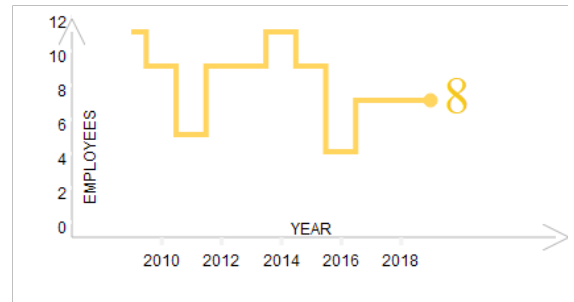
Source: Self-Reported by Organization, March 2021

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ben Sandberg

## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Source: IRS Form 990



## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2019

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
Shannon Davis	Treasurer	\$0	\$0	\$0
Bob Kibbee	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Eric Acree	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Chris Irving	Treasurer	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nina Piccoli	Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$0
Paul Karkakantas	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Michael Smith	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Liz Bodner	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
David Furber	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Laurel Southard	Chair	\$0	\$0	\$0
Kim Cornish	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cindy Kramer	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
David Gersh	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rich John	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Kati Torello	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ron Ostman	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Karen Pastorello	Trustee	\$0	\$0	\$0



## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2018

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
ROD HOWE	EXECUTIVE DI	\$73,000	\$0	\$0
ERIC ACREE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
ELIZABETH BODNER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KIMERLY CORNISH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID FURBER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID GERSH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
PAUL KARAKANTAS	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
BOB KIBBEE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CINDY KRAMER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
RONALD OSTMAN	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KAREN PASTORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
NINA PICCOLI	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KATI TORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
SHANNON DAVID	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CHRIS IRVING	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
RICH JOHN	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
MICHAEL SMITH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
LAUREL SOUTHARD	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0

## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2017

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
ROD HOWE	EXECUTIVE DI	\$73,000	\$0	\$0
GWEN SEAQUIST	PRESIDENT	\$0	\$0	\$0
JAMES JOHNSON	TREASURER	\$0	\$0	\$0
ERIC ACREE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
ELIZABETH BODNER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KIMBERLY CORNISH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID FURBER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID GERSH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
PAUL KARAKANTAS	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
BOB KIBBEE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
ADAM KLAUSNER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CINDY KRAMER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
RONALD OSTMAN	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KAREN PASTORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
NINA PICCOLI	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KATI TORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0

## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2016

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
ROD HOWE	EXECITIVE DIRECTOR	\$62,839	\$0	\$0
ELIZABETH CURRIE	PREVIOUS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$5,538	\$0	\$0
GWEN SEAQUIST	PRESIDENT	\$0	\$0	\$0
RHONDA GILMORE	VICE PRESIDENT	\$0	\$0	\$0
JAMES JOHNSON	TREASURER	\$0	\$0	\$0
LYNN THOMMEN	SECRETARY	\$0	\$0	\$0
ERIC ACREE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
PAUL KARAKANTAS	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID FURBER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
BOB KIBBEE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CINDY KRAMER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
GUSTAVO LICON	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KAREN PASTORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
NINA PICCOLI	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
KATI TORELLO	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0

## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2015

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
SCOTT CALLAN	PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$35,692	\$0	\$0
ELIZABETH CURRIE	INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$16,000	\$0	\$0
COREY EARLE	PRESIDENT	\$0	\$0	\$0
BILL BLOCK	VICE PRESIDENT	\$0	\$0	\$0
KENNETH SCHLATHER	TREASURER	\$0	\$0	\$0
GWEN SEAQUIST	SECRETARY	\$0	\$0	\$0
ERIC ACREE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
BETH ANDERSON	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
HARRY ASH	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
DAVID FURBER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
RHONDA GILMORE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
BOB KIBBEE	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
CINDY KRAMER	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0
JANE MT PLEASANT	TRUSTEE	\$0	\$0	\$0

## HIGHEST PAID EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2019

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Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
Rod Howe	Executive Director	\$71,000	\$0	\$0

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## Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2019

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Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
Kurt Behrenfeld CPA PLLC	83-1049413	7 Hickory Lane, Cortland NY 13045 USA	607-423-0577

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## Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2018

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Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
CUDDY & WARD LLP CPA'S	14-1809700	110 GENESEE ST STE 230, AUBURN NY 13021 USA	315-253-8424

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## Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2017

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Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
CUDDY & WARD LLP CPA'S	14-1809700	110 GENESEE ST STE 230, AUBURN NY 13021 USA	315-253-8424

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## BOARD LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

GuideStar worked with BoardSource, the national leader in nonprofit board leadership and governance, to create this section, which enables organizations and donors to transparently share information about essential board leadership practices.

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### BOARD ORIENTATION & EDUCATION

Does the board conduct a formal orientation for new board members and require all board members to sign a written agreement regarding their roles, responsibilities, and expectations? Yes

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### CEO OVERSIGHT

Has the board conducted a formal, written assessment of the chief executive within the past year? Yes

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### ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY

Have the board and senior staff reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy and completed and signed disclosure statements in the past year? Yes

---

### BOARD COMPOSITION

Does the board ensure an inclusive board member recruitment process that results in diversity of thought and leadership? No

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### BOARD PERFORMANCE

Has the board conducted a formal, written self-assessment of its performance within the past three years? Yes

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## Organizational Demographics

Who works and leads organizations that serve our diverse communities? This organization has voluntarily shared information to answer this important question and to support sector-wide learning. GuideStar partnered on this section with CHANGE Philanthropy and Equity in the Center.

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### Leadership

*The organization's leader identifies as:*

*No data*

---

### Race & Ethnicity

*No data*

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### Gender Identity

*No data*

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### Sexual Orientation

*No data*

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### Disability

*No data.*

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# Appendix

## Key Documents

IRS Forms 990

[2019 990](#)

[2018 990](#)

[2017 990](#)

[2016 990](#)

[2015 990](#)

IRS Forms 990T

Not Available

Audited Financial Statements

Not Available

Key Organization Documents

['Key Revenue & Expense Data from Form 990'](#)

['Key Balance Sheet Data from Form 990'](#)

## HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Also Known As: The History Center in Tompkins County  
110 North Tioga St  
Ithaca, NY 14850

**Foundation Status Code:** PC \*  
Public charity described in section 509(a)(1) or (2)

### IRS Publication 78 Details

<b>Organization Name</b>	History Center in Tompkins County
<b>EIN</b>	15-6024061
<b>Location</b>	Ithaca, NY
<b><a href="#">Deductibility Status Description</a></b>	A public charity (50% deductibility limitation).
<b>Most Recent IRS Publication 78</b>	March 2021
<b>Verified with Most Recent Internal Revenue Bulletin</b>	March 22 2021



### IRS Business Master File Details

<b>Organization Name</b>	HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY
<b>EIN</b>	15-6024061
<b>Most Recent IRS BMF</b>	March 08 2021
<b>IRS Subsection</b>	This organization is a <a href="#">501(c)(3) Public Charity</a>
<b>Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status</b>	Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
<b>Ruling Date</b>	07/1972
This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.	



On September 8, 2011, the IRS issued [regulations](#) which eliminated the advance ruling process for a section 501(c)(3) organization. [Learn more](#)

\* The Foundation Status Code is the code that foundations are required to provide for each grantee annually on part XV of Form 990PF. Note that this code cannot be derived in some cases (e.g., supporting organizations for which 'type' can't be determined).

[IRS Revenue Procedure 2011-33](#) allows grantors to rely on third-party resources, such as GuideStar Charity Check, to obtain required Business Master File (BMF) data concerning a potential grantee's public charity classification under section 509 (a) (1), (2) or (3).

### GuideStar Charity Check Data Sources

- GuideStar acquires all IRS data directly from the Internal Revenue Service.
- [IRS Publication 78 \(Cumulative List of Organizations\)](#) lists organizations that have been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.
- The [IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin \(IRB\)](#) lists changes in charitable status since the last Publication 78 release. Between the release of IRS Publication 78 and the subsequent IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin, the IRB date will reflect the most recent release date of IRS Publication 78.
- The [IRS Business Master File](#) lists approximately 1.7 million nonprofits registered with the IRS as tax-exempt organizations.
- The [IRS Automatic Revocation of Exemption List](#) contains organizations that have had their federal tax-exempt status automatically revoked for failing to file an annual return or notice with the IRS for three consecutive years.
- The Foundation Status Code is a value derived by mapping the codes found on the [990PF filing instructions](#) to the corresponding codes in the IRS BMF. Note that not all codes are able to be mapped due to insufficient data.
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) [Specially Designated Nationals \(SDN\) list](#) organizations that are owned or controlled by targeted individuals, groups, and entities, such as terrorists or narcotics traffickers. Their assets are blocked and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from dealing with them.

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