

## PRESENTED AT

The University of Texas School of Law  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonprofit Organizations Institute  
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## 501(C)(4)s, Donor Advised Funds, and LLCs: Alternatives to Private Foundations

**Hillary Bounds**, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative - Palo Alto, CA  
**Andrew Schulz**, Arabella Advisors - Washington, DC

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## The Problem


- Traditional PF's seen as too rigid, regulated
  - Lobbying highly restricted (§4945)
  - Electioneering prohibited (§4945)
  - Deduction limitations (§170)
  - Asset/ investment restrictions (§§ 4941, 4943, 4944)
  - Restrictions on grantmaking (§4945)
  - Payout (§4942)
  - Reporting and disclosure
  - Compliance burden

## The Trend

- Movement away from either/or mentality and towards using all the tools available
- DAF's continue to grow, but many donors have both DAF's and PF's
- Increasingly funding and coordinating different entities, including (c)(3) and (c)(4)
- Emergence and increased use of "hybrids" or non-philanthropic vehicles (LLC)

## Key Considerations

- Tax implications / Deductibility
- Control
- Publicity and Disclosures
- Registration and Reporting
- Flexibility
- Likely tactics and strategies
- Integration of staff, assets, and activities

A large teal triangle pointing towards the bottom right corner of the slide, with the text "501(c)(4) – Social Welfare Organizations" centered within it.

## 501(c)(4) – Social Welfare Organizations

A horizontal bar at the top of the slide, divided into four colored segments: orange, yellow, teal, and grey.

### 501(c)(4)

- Must be operated “primarily for the purpose of bringing about civic betterment and social improvements”
- No “excess benefit transactions”
- No private benefit, private inurement
- Campaign intervention is not promotion of social welfare, so can’t be primary but not prohibited
  - No definition of “primary”; but 49% is the limit
- Pairing (c)(3) and (c)(4) entities is common

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## Title search: 501(C)(4)s, Donor Advised Funds, and LLCs: Alternatives to Private Foundations?

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Structuring Private Foundations](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonprofit Organizations Institute session

"Managing Private Philanthropy: 501(C)(4)s, Donor Advised Funds, and LLCs: Alternatives to Private Foundations?"