

Introduction to Serving on a Nonprofit Board

Welcome to the rewarding world of nonprofit board service! As a new or prospective board member, you're embarking on a journey that will not only have a significant impact on your community but also provide you with invaluable personal and professional growth opportunities.

Serving on a nonprofit board is both a privilege and a responsibility. Your role is crucial in guiding the organization towards its mission, ensuring its financial health, and maintaining its ethical standards. Here's what you need to know as you begin your board service:

1. Understand your responsibilities:

- Duty of Care: Act in good faith and make informed decisions
- Duty of Loyalty: Put the organization's interests first
- Duty of Obedience: Ensure the organization operates within its mission and comply with laws

2. Know the organization:

- Familiarize yourself with the mission, vision, and values
- Understand the programs and services offered
- Learn about the organization's history and future goals

3. Participate actively:

- Attend board meetings regularly
- Serve on committees
- Contribute your unique skills and expertise

4. Financial oversight:

- Review and approve budgets
- Ensure proper financial controls are in place
- Understand financial statements and reports

5. Fundraising:

- Participate in fundraising efforts
- Make a personal financial contribution (if required)
- Help identify and cultivate potential donors

6. Strategic planning:

- Contribute to the development of long-term goals
- Help create and monitor strategic plans

7. Support the Executive Director:

- Hire and evaluate the Executive Director
- Provide guidance and support as needed

8. Be an ambassador:

- Represent the organization in the community
- Advocate for the cause and mission

BOARD BLUEPRINT SERIES

Nonprofit Board Resources

9. Continuous learning:

- Stay informed about sector trends and best practices
- Participate in board training and development opportunities

10. Legal and ethical compliance:

- Ensure the organization adheres to all relevant laws and regulations
- Maintain high ethical standards in all activities

Remember, board service is a team effort. You'll be working alongside other dedicated individuals who share your passion for the cause. Embrace the opportunity to learn from your fellow board members and staff, and don't hesitate to ask questions or seek clarification when needed.

Your commitment to serving on this nonprofit board will help shape the organization's future and make a lasting difference in your community. Thank you for stepping up to this important role, and welcome aboard!