

# TEN BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF NONPROFIT BOARDS

1. **Determine mission and purposes, and advocate for them.** It is the board's responsibility to create and review a statement of mission and purpose that articulates the organization's goals, means, and primary constituents served and advocate for their organization by "standing for their mission" ([www.standforyourmission.org](http://www.standforyourmission.org)).
2. **Select the chief executive.** Boards must reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
3. **Support and evaluate the chief executive.** The board should ensure that the chief executive has the moral and professional support he or she needs to further the goals of the organization.
4. **Ensure effective planning.** Boards must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring the plan's goals.
5. **Monitor, and strengthen programs and services.** The board's responsibility is to determine which programs are consistent with the organization's mission and monitor their effectiveness.
6. **Ensure adequate financial resources.** One of the board's foremost responsibilities is to secure adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission by actively, consistently, and strategically advocating for the organization's mission.
7. **Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight.** The board must assist in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.
8. **Build and sustain a competent board.** All boards have a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their own performance.
9. **Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** The board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
10. **Enhance the organization's public standing.** The board should act as conscientious ambassadors who clearly articulate and advocate for the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.

**Source:** Richard T. Ingram, [\*Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Third Edition\*](#). (BoardSource, 2015)