

## Starting a Nonprofit

***So you want to start a nonprofit? Here's a quick quiz to find out if you're ready. Answer "Yes" or "No" to each of the questions. "Maybe" doesn't count.***

1. Have you researched who else is doing similar work in your community and do the results of this research demonstrate that your nonprofit is needed – that it will fill a gap?	
2. Have you explored collaborations, partnerships or becoming part of an existing nonprofit rather than establishing a new organization?	
3. Have you written a detailed, multi-year business plan showing how you will deliver services, where the money will come from, how you will establish and maintain management and reporting systems and all other aspects of operating your nonprofit, in addition to delivering services?	
4. Does your plan include professional leadership (paid or volunteer) who has the management expertise to guide the organization and implement the plans and policies of the Board of Directors?	
5. Do your financial projections demonstrate that you can generate sufficient financial resources to survive?	
6. Do you have capable staff to do the administrative work (accounting, record keeping, tax filings, etc.)?	
7. Do you have the ability to develop and use systems for measuring your effectiveness and reporting these results to funders and the broader community?	
8. Have you recruited a Board of Directors who share your passion for the mission of your nonprofit and who are not family members?	
9. Do the members of your Board of Directors have extensive connections in the community and are they willing to use them to help raise money and visibility?	
10. Do the members of your Board of Directors include people with sufficient financial expertise to assure appropriate fiscal planning and oversight?	

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, you should rethink the idea to form a new nonprofit organization.

If you answered "No" to #3, #5, #7 or #10 you should not create a new nonprofit until you can change all those answers to "Yes."

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