



Starting a Nonprofit: Things to Consider

The following information is adapted from the [Maine Association of Nonprofits](#).

What is a Nonprofit?

The nonprofit sector is the collective name used to describe institutions and organizations in American society that are neither government nor business. Other names often used include the not-for-profit sector, the third sector, the independent sector, the philanthropic sector, the voluntary sector, or the social sector.

Within the broad category “nonprofit,” there are many types of organizations. This one-pager focuses on starting a Maine nonprofit corporation with tax exemption under IRS code 501(c)(3), though much of the information applies to starting other types of nonprofits as well. This [glossary of terms](#) may be useful in understanding other information on our website.

Thinking Through Your Options

The following articles and guides can help you to think through your options.

- [Get clear on what you mean by “starting a nonprofit”](#)
- [Starting a Nonprofit? Do you really want to?](#)
- [Should I Really Start a New Nonprofit?](#)
- [The Challenges of New Nonprofits](#)
- [8 Alternatives to Starting a Nonprofit](#)
- [Making the Choice Between For-Profit and Nonprofit](#)
- [Starting a Charity? Here’s What to Do, and What Not to Do](#)
- [Learn about Fiscal Sponsorship](#)

How to Start a Nonprofit in Maine

If after reviewing the materials above and you’ve decided that starting a nonprofit is your best alternative and you’re ready to get started, the following resources can help you along your way.

- Follow [MANP’s Checklist for Starting a Nonprofit in Maine](#)



- Review [answers to the most frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) about starting a nonprofit
- If you're looking for personalized coaching or consulting, [we suggest these resources](#).