

10 Basic Responsibilities of a Nonprofit Board¹

- 1. Determine the organization's mission and purpose, and advocate for them.** The board ensures the agency's mission is clearly stated. The board publicly advocates on behalf of the mission and during board activities.
- 2. Select the chief executive.** The board defines the chief executive's responsibilities and searches carefully for the most qualified individual to fill this position.
- 3. Support and evaluate the chief executive.** While maintaining independent oversight, the board provides the chief executive with all of the support needed to successfully fulfill the agency's goals.
- 4. Ensure effective planning.** The board initiates and participates in the strategic planning process, supports the plan's implementation and evaluates the implementation outcomes.
- 5. Monitor and strengthen programs and services.** The board continually examines the agency's services and programs to verify that goals are consistent with the agency's mission and to oversee whether services and programs are accomplishing their intended outcomes.
- 6. Ensure adequate financial resources.** The board has final responsibility for the agency's financial well-being and for ensuring the agency has sufficient resources to deliver its services and programs.
- 7. Protect assets, and provide proper financial oversight.** The agency's annual budgets and financial statements are monitored and approved by the board. The board makes sure proper and rigorous financial controls are in place and are operating as intended.
- 8. Build a competent board.** The board agrees on job descriptions for its members and creates a sustainable system to ensure the continual selection, training, engagement and evaluation of board members.
- 9. Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** The board oversees all aspects of agency adherence to legal standards and ethical expectations, including the actions of its own members.
- 10. Enhance the organization's public standing.** Board members proudly, actively and accurately articulate the agency's mission, vision, activities and outcomes to the public.

¹Note. From *Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Third Edition*, by R.T. Ingram (ISBN: 1-58686-148-4). Copyright 2015 by BoardSource. Used with permission.