

Ten Basic Board Responsibilities

- 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. The organization's mission is clearly stated and enthusiastically supported.
- 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 provide adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission.
- 7. Protect assets and provide 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 its 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 clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.

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