



# The Beginner's Guide to Creating a Nonprofit Organization

Guest post by Brittany Fisher, [financiallywell.info](http://financiallywell.info).

Changing the world requires passion, drive, and a vision for how our lives could be better. However, there are few major changes that an individual can manage alone. Here at [stridesforpeace.org](http://stridesforpeace.org), we know that effective change comes down to group efforts, coordination, and the support necessary to make your voice heard and goals possible.

Nonprofit organizations can be powerful forces in the world, but they have to develop a strong foundation in order to do so. Here's a look at some of the information you'll need in order to create, sustain, and grow a successful nonprofit:

## Legal Basics

*You'll need to understand your legal responsibilities and guidelines before you get started:*

- Start by learning the [legal definition](#) of a nonprofit organization, or NPO.
- Research reporting [best practices and laws](#) as they apply to your location.

- Investigate which business structure is best for your nonprofit — if it's allowed in your state, [an LLC](#) can offer significant protection and tax advantages.
- This article takes you through a deep dive into [what to expect](#) when starting off.

### **Managing Your Finances**

*Nonprofits need to manage funding — both in and out — in order to reach their goals.*

- Learn what [healthy cash flow](#) looks like for a nonprofit.
- Hire a [nonprofit financial expert](#) to help you make the best decisions for your future.
- Take a look at these [fundraising techniques](#) to find effective ways to stay solvent.

### **Making Real Change**

*Here are some tips for making an impact:*

- Make sure your nonprofit is [driven by research](#) in order to create sustainable change.
- Remember that you can focus on direct efforts, [awareness and education](#), research, or all of the above.
- Coordinate [with other groups](#) with similar goals — you're likely to be stronger together.

We hope this helps you figure out how to get your nonprofit idea up and running. We can make the world a better place — but we need to organize and work together to make it happen.

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