

## Important Information for Consumers

Guidestar – <https://www.guidestar.org/>

View and/or download copies of organizations' IRS 990 Tax Returns. Find information on the activities and finances of more than 1.8 million tax-exempt organizations, the latest news on philanthropy, and resources for donors and nonprofits. Note that in-depth information requires a **free** registration to Guidestar Plus.

Charity Navigator – [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

Charity Navigator provides ratings and reviews on over 8,000 charities after evaluating the financial health of these charities. The goal is to promote intelligent giving decisions.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance – [www.give.org/](http://www.give.org/)

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance evaluates charities based on the voluntary Standards for Charity Accountability.

Internal Revenue Service - Charities & NonProfits Exempt Organization Select Check – <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check>

This is an online search tool that allows users to search for a charitable organization to find out if a charity:

- is exempt from federal taxation (i.e. is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions)
- has filed a Form 990-N (e-Postcard) annual electronic notice
- has had its tax-exempt status automatically revoked because it has not filed its required Form 990-series return for three consecutive years.

How to Read the Form 990 & Find Out What It Means – <https://www.npcny.org/new990/>

This informative article published on the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York's Web site provides helpful information on how to read and interpret the Form 990.

Federal Trade Commission – <https://www.ftc.gov>

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the nation's consumer protection agency. The FTC works to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace. The FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection enforces a variety of consumer protection laws enacted by Congress and publishes materials to educate consumers.

## Information for Nonprofits

State Charity Officials – <http://www.nasconet.org/resources/>

State-Specific Resources section is an index of state offices regulating charitable organizations published by the National Association of State Charity Officials.

Life Cycle of a Public Charity – <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Life-Cycle-of-a-Public-Charity>

The IRS provides information, explanations, guides, forms, publications and an easy-to-use way of linking to the documents most charities will need as they proceed through the phases of their “life cycle.”

The Unified Registration Statement – <http://multistatefiling.org/>

The Unified Registration Statement is a form that consolidates the information and data requirements of all states that require registration of nonprofit organizations performing charitable solicitations within their jurisdictions. Cooperating states allow the nonprofit organization to use either the state form or the URS. The URS can be downloaded and printed from this site.

Electronic Filing of State Registration Forms and IRS Form 990s – <https://efile.form990.org/>

Complete and file Pennsylvania's registration forms (BCO-10 and BCO-23) and IRS Form 990, IRS Form 990-EZ and Form 8868 (Application for Extension of Time to File) electronically through a free, web-based system.

Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations – [www.pano.org/](http://www.pano.org/)

A statewide organization serving and strengthening the nonprofit sector through leadership, advocacy and education. Website includes information on forming a nonprofit organization in Pennsylvania.

National Association of Attorneys General – [www.naaq.org/](http://www.naaq.org/)

An association consisting of Attorneys General from various states formed to facilitate interaction among Attorneys General and their staffs on emerging state and federal issues, including charities registration and prosecution.

National Association of State Charity Officials – [www.nasconet.org/](http://www.nasconet.org/)

An association comprising charity officials from various states and formed to provide a forum for exchanging views and experiences regarding charitable solicitation regulations.

National Center for Charitable Statistics – [nccs.urban.org/](http://nccs.urban.org/)

A national clearinghouse of data on the nonprofit sector in the United States. Its mission is to develop and disseminate high quality data on nonprofit organizations and their activities for use in research.

Charity Channel Press – [charitychannel.com/](http://charitychannel.com/)

Best known for its nonprofit sector discussion lists and articles relevant to the sector.

National Council of Nonprofit Associations – <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/>

NCNA is a network of state and regional associations with a collective membership of more than 25,000 community nonprofits.

Association of Fundraising Professionals – [www.afpnet.org](http://www.afpnet.org)

A membership organization (formerly known as "The National Association of Fundraising Professionals") that seeks to foster development and growth of fundraising professionals through education, training and adherence to a professional code of ethical standards and practices.

### **Nonprofit News Publications**

Philanthropy News Digest – [philanthropynewsdigest.org/](http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/)

A news service of the [Foundation Center](#) that publishes philanthropy-related articles and features collected from print and electronic media outlets nationwide.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy – <https://philanthropy.com/>

A newspaper published monthly about the nonprofit world. A news source for charity leaders, fund raisers, grant makers, and other people involved in the philanthropic enterprise.

The NonProfit Times Online – [www.thenonprofittimes.com](http://www.thenonprofittimes.com) or [www.nptimes.com/](http://www.nptimes.com/)

A monthly business publication featuring an array of articles pertaining to nonprofit management.