

The Fundamental Work of the Nonprofit Board

(adapted from BoardSource)

STRATEGIC POSITIONING WORK:

1. **Determine the mission and purpose.** It is the board's responsibility to create and review a statement of mission and purpose that articulates the organization's ends, means, and primary constituents served.
2. **Ensure effective planning.** The board must actively participate in an overall organizational planning process and assist with monitoring the goals of the plan that is created.
3. **Ensure the organization's public standing.** The board should make sure that the organization's mission, goals, and accomplishments are clearly articulated to the public.
4. **Monitor programs and services.** The board's responsibility is to determine which programs are consistent with the organization's mission and to assist in assessing their effectiveness.

LEGAL, ETHICAL, FIDUCIARY WORK:

5. **Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** The board is responsible for organizational adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
6. **Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight.** The board must assist in developing the annual budget and in ascertaining that proper financial controls are in place and being applied.
7. **Ensure adequate financial resources.** The board must ensure that there are adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission.

RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYER'S WORK:

8. **Select the chief executive.** The board must reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and conduct a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
9. **Support and evaluate the chief executive.** The board should ensure that the chief executive has the support she/he needs on an on-going basis to best further the goals of the organization.

BOARD WORK:

10. **Build and maintain a competent board.** The board has a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, to train new board members, and to regularly evaluate its own performance as a board.