What is a Nonprofit?

Understanding the Role of Nonprofits in Our Community



HOW TO USE THIS PACKET

Each section includes key information and examples

You'll see a few moments to pause and reflect

Take your time and focus on what is most useful to you.

MODULE 1:
UNDERSTANDING NONPROFITS

This section introduces what nonprofits are and why they exist.

WHAT IS A NONPROFIT?

- An organization created to serve the public
- Focused on a mission, not profit
- Any income earned is reinvested into programs
- Works to address community needs

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Formal organization
- Self-governing
- Private (not part of government)
- Operate for public benefit
- Do not distribute profits to individuals
- Voluntary

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- “Nonprofits can’t make money.”
- “Nonprofits are only volunteer groups.”
- “Nonprofits don’t have structure.”

TAKE A MOMENT

Think about what “nonprofit” means in your community.



★ KEY TAKEAWAY

Nonprofits are structured organizations that exist to serve the public and strengthen communities.

MODULE 2:
STARTING A NONPROFIT

This section outlines the basics of forming a nonprofit organization.

THE BASICS

To start a nonprofit, you need:

- **A clear mission (what you do + who you help)**
- **A small group of committed people**
- **Foundational documents such as:**
  - **Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, EIN, etc.**

THE PROCESS

Starting a nonprofit involves several steps:

- **Define mission & vision**
- **Identify leadership**
- **Register organization**
- **Apply for EIN & tax-exempt status**
- **Develop plan & budget**

(Most organizations build these over time.)

STAYING IN GOOD STANDING

- **Filing required reports**
- **Keeping records**
- **Holding board meetings**
- **Following ethics**
- **Staying true to your mission**

TAKE A MOMENT

If you were to start a nonprofit, what community need would you focus on?



★ KEY TAKEAWAY

Starting a nonprofit is a step-by-step process built on a mission, structure, and accountability.

MODULE 3:
HOW NONPROFITS OPERATE

This section explains how nonprofits function and sustain their work.

ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Nonprofits play an important role by filling service gaps, preserving culture and language, mobilizing communities, and supporting disaster response and recovery.

FUNDING SOURCES

Common nonprofit funding includes federal grants, local government support, donations and fundraisers, and earned income (mission-related events, services).

LOCAL REALITIES

In the CNMI, nonprofits often face small donor base, limited grant writing capacity, and dependence on federal funding.

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Nonprofits are responsible for board oversight, financial management, reporting requirements, and ethical leadership. Strong governance builds community trust.



REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

A nonprofit receives a grant but misses a reporting deadline.
Strong communication and accountability are key to maintaining trust.

What would be most important in this situation?

MODULE 4:
SDGS & LOCAL IMPACT















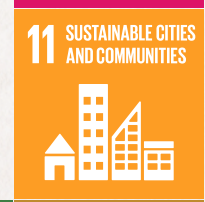

This section connects nonprofit work to global and local development goals.

WHAT ARE THE SDGS

A global framework adopted by the United Nations. 17 goals addressing issues like poverty, education, and climate. Designed to guide progress through 2030.

WHY SDGS MATTER

SDGs help organizations identify their impact, align programs with global goals, and track progress over time.

LOCAL CONNECTION

Nonprofits often support SDGs through their work. For example:
Food programs➡Zero Hunger (SDG 2) or Education programs➡Quality Education (SDG 4)
Many organizations contribute without realizing it.

MANGO AND SDGS

MANGO supports organizations by helping members identify SDG alignment, building organization profiles, and connecting programs to measureable outcomes.

TAKE A MOMENT

Which community need do you see that connects to these global goals?



MODULE 5:
WHY NONPROFITS MATTER

This section highlights the impact of nonprofits in communities.

THE IMPACT OF NONPROFITS

Nonprofits support many areas, including health services, education, environment protection, social services, and community development.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Nonprofits help address critical needs, build partnerships, support local leaders, and strengthen resilience.

MANGO'S ROLE

MANGO supports the nonprofit sector through capacity building and training, partnerships and collaboration, support for local leaders, and alignment with SDGs.



★ KEY TAKEAWAY

Nonprofits play a vital role in building stronger, more resilient communities.

Your Role

Everyone can contribute to stronger communities.

SUPPORT

Support local organizations.

SHARE

Share knowledge.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer when possible.

COLLABORATE

Collaborate with others.



TAKE A MOMENT

What is one small way you might support your community?

STAY CONNECTED

MANGO supports nonprofits through:

- TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING
- PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION
- RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Thank You

for taking the time to learn and reflect.

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