Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

1. **Determine the organization's mission and purpose.** 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.

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. **Provide proper financial oversight.** The board must assist in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.

4. **Ensure adequate resources.** One of the board’s foremost responsibilities is to provide adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission.

5. **Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability.** The board is ultimately responsible for ensuring adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.

6. **Ensure effective organizational planning.** Boards must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring the plan’s goals.

7. **Recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance.** All boards have a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate its own performance.

8. **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.

9. **Determine, monitor, and strengthen the organization’s programs and services.** The board’s responsibility is to determine which programs are consistent with the organization’s mission and to monitor their effectiveness.

10. **Support the chief executive and assess his or her performance.** 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.