

The Quick Sustainability Assessment

Below are seven indicators of sustainability and statements that correspond to each. By assessing your organization in each area, a clear picture emerges of organizational strengths, and areas in which your organization would benefit from supports.

Directions: **1.** Read each statement and circle either “yes” or “no” to indicate whether or not that statement is true for your organization. **2.** Next, read our suggestions as to where to start the process of achieving your organization’s potential.

3. Once you’ve completed the assessment, calculate your “sustainability” score by adding up the “yes” answers.

More information about the services suggested can be found at nnonprofitconsulting.com.

The Sustainability Score Sheet


by **Chrysalis Consulting**

Sustainability Indicators				Steps to Enhance Sustainability
Good Information	In the last five years my organization has engaged in focus group or interview conversations about our services with individuals/groups who receive them.	Yes	No	<p>If you circled a “no” here, your organization would benefit from a <i>situational assessment</i>.</p> <p>Good information is essential to ensuring the health of your organization. See “Our Services” at: nnonprofitconsulting.com to find out more about the <i>situational assessment</i> process and results.</p>
	When writing grants for funding, we present good evidence of both the need for our services and the success we have in achieving our mission.	Yes	No	
	I am well informed about the size and scope of the problem our mission addresses within and without our service area.	Yes	No	
Abundant Resources	We have a development plan that we update annually that directs our fundraising efforts.	Yes	No	<p>If you circled more than one “no,” your organization would benefit from an <i>organizational assessment</i> and <i>strategic planning sessions</i> focused on resource development. <i>Board development</i> about the roles and responsibilities of board members would also be beneficial.</p>
	Most of our dollars come from individual donors.	Yes	No	
	100% of the board gives to the organization and the board assumes fundraising leadership.	Yes	No	

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<p>Key Champions</p>	<p>We have at least one public official that comes to our annual event and who we can talk to about policies related to our cause.</p> <p>Influential members of the community sit on our board of directors or committees of the board.</p> <p>Influential members of our community lend their words or image to support our work.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>If you circled even one “no” here, then your organization would benefit from a <i>situational assessment</i> to build the case for support for your organization. Additionally, <i>strategic planning sessions</i> focused on <i>board development and communications planning</i> would be beneficial.</p>
<p>Rich Promotional Plan</p>	<p>We have a website or newsletter that is updated regularly.</p> <p>We send out a direct mail letter at least once a year.</p> <p>We have a consistent message that is present on all of our information pieces.</p> <p>Our organization’s name is a known locally and beyond.</p> <p>We receive donations from individuals who we have not directly solicited.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>If you circled more than one “no” then your organization would benefit from a <i>situational assessment</i>. See “Our Services” at ncnonprofitconsulting.com to learn more about how a situational assessment can help you establish a rich promotional plan.</p>
<p>Wide Participation & Diverse Decision Makers</p>	<p>Clients of our services sit on our board.</p> <p>Our staff represents the community we serve.</p> <p>We engage in some kind of planning that involves both staff and board at least every three years.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>If you circled more than one “no” your organization would benefit from a comprehensive <i>organizational assessment</i>, a <i>situational assessment</i></p>

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<p>Wide Participation & Diverse Decision Makers, cont'd</p>	<p>In the last five years we have surveyed our constituents and have used that information to improve our services.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>and strategic planning sessions focused on community engagement.</i></p>
<p>Project Alignment</p>	<p>We review our mission every few years and always feel our programs are just what we should be doing.</p> <p>We rarely have to end a project once the grant funding is gone.</p> <p>No one ever talks about mission creep in our organization.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>If you circled even one “no” here, your organization would benefit from an <i>organizational assessment</i>. See our services to find out more about how you can participate in a team effort to achieve your organization’s potential.</p>
 <p>158 Brucemont Circle Asheville, NC 28806 828.275.8373</p> <p>ncnonprofitconsultanting.com</p>		<p>Each Yes is worth 5 points.</p> <p>Total your score to rate your organization’s overall sustainability: _____</p> <p><u>Learn more about our services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organizational Assessments</i> • <i>Situational Assessments</i> • <i>Strategic Planning</i> • <i>Board Development</i> • <i>Results-Oriented Meetings</i> <p>at our website: ncnonprofitconsulting.com</p>		<p>100-80: Way to go! Your organization has established many practices that will ensure that you are achieving your mission and your potential. Consider engaging in a <i>situational assessment</i> to document your impact and share your successes with the community.</p> <p>60-80 Almost there! Your organization would benefit from a <i>long-range strategic plan that includes an organizational assessment, a situational assessment and several facilitated strategic planning sessions.</i></p> <p>0-60: We can help! You may be just getting started or undergoing a major transformation. Contact us today to find out more about how your organization can achieve its potential.</p>