The Nonprofit Readiness Checklist: 10 Essentials for Sustainable Growth and Grant Readiness

A strategic self-assessment tool for mission-driven organizations ready to strengthen their foundation and grow with confidence.

INTRODUCTION:

Is your nonprofit truly ready to grow, scale, and attract funding? Many organizations hit a plateau not because of a lack of passion, but because key building blocks are missing. This quick yet powerful checklist will help you assess your organization's readiness across 10 critical areas that funders, board members, and communities care about.

Use this tool to spark strategic planning conversations, identify opportunities for growth, and strengthen your path forward.

THE 10-POINT CHECKLIST:

Mission Clarity	
	Our mission is clearly defined, measurable, and widely understood by staff, board, and stakeholders.
Strategic Plan	
	We have an up-to-date strategic plan with clear goals, timelines, and accountability.
Board Governance	
	Our board is engaged, understands its role, and participates in governance, fundraising, and oversight.
Financial Management	
	We have a clear annual budget, financial controls in place, and accurate, timely reporting.
Program Evaluation	
	We track outcomes, evaluate impact, and use data to tell our story and make improvements.
Fundraising & Revenue Diversification	
	We have multiple funding streams and a plan for sustainability beyond one or two major sources.
Equity & Inclusion	
	Our internal practices reflect our external values and commitments to equity and community care.
Compliance & Risk Management	
	We are up to date on 501(c)(3) compliance, insurance, reporting, and internal policies.
Staffing & Organizational Culture	
	Staff have clear roles, support systems, and we actively foster a positive, mission-aligned culture.
Technology & Communications	
	We use appropriate tools to communicate effectively with our audience and operate efficiently.

Ready to turn this checklist into a plan of action?

Let's talk about how I can strengthen your infrastructure, engage your board, and position you for funding success.

Book a Clarity-to-Strategy Session and get the support you need to move from intention to implementation.

