

KWAME RAOUL ATTORNEY GENERAL

12/05/2025

THE STEPPING STONES PROJECT Attn: ROBERT JACOBSON 16430 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 107 ENCINO, CA 91436

RE: Status of THE STEPPING STONES PROJECT under both The Charitable Trust and The Solicitation for Charity Acts.

Dear Registrant:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your registration statement under both The Charitable Trust and The Solicitation for Charity Acts. The registration number assigned to your organization is CO# 01100879.

Please note that when an organization registers under the Charitable Trust and/or the Solicitation for Charity Act, it is required to file an annual financial report with our office. The annual financial report is due six months after the end of the organization's fiscal year. It is one of the duties of the organization's officers to ensure that this report is timely filed.

I must also call your attention to Section 12 under the Solicitation for Charity Act. Please note that this registration in no way constitutes an endorsement of your organization by the State of Illinois and that any representation as such for the purpose of soliciting or collecting funds will be grounds for cancellation of your registration.

For your convenience, annual reports and extensions can be filed and paid for online at https://charitable.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov. If you have questions, you may contact us by phone at (312) 814 - 2595. We will be happy to assist you.

Very truly yours,

Kwame Raoul Attorney General

Note: The report for fiscal year ending 12/31/2025 is due by 06/30/2026.

☐Yes
☒No



CO-1 Registration Statement

KWAME RAOUL ATTORNEY GENERAL

	formation					
Act under which the	organization will be registered:	□Illinois Charitable Trust Act □Illinois Solicitation for Charity Act □Both Acts				
Name of Organization THE STEPPING STONE	S PROJECT					
FEIN 39-4133107	Telephone Nun (818) 297-2077		Email Address of tools obert@thestepping	the Charity Contact gstonesproject.org		
Address of Organization ROBERT JACOBSON 16430 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 107 ENCINO, CA, 91436, US						
Type of legal entity Corporation						
Are you an organization	established for religious purp	oses?				
State Organized Da	ate of Creation Month	on which the a	nnual accounting	period of the organiz	ation end	ls
Illinois	8/28/2025		12-31			
Have you solicited any 0 ☐Yes ⊠No	Charitable contributions to dat	e?				
Illinois Secretary of Stat 75275447	e's File No.					
State Name, Address ar	nd Telephone Number of Illinois	s Registered Ag	ent			
Name ALENA JOTKUS	Telephone Number (847) 630-6003		Address ALENA JOTK 3400 DUNDE SUITE 215 NORTHBROG	E RD		
Address of all Offices in	the State of Illinois					
ATTN	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	2 Country	City	State	Zip
ALENA JOTKUS	3400 DUNDEE RD	STE 215	USA	NORTHBROOK	IL	60062

State the purposes of the organization and purposes for which contributions are to be used. (Be Specific)

THE STEPPING STONES PROJECT IS ORGANIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. THE ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE SAFE, STABLE, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING INSECURITY — INCLUDING VETERANS, SINGLE PARENTS, SENIORS, AND LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS — THROUGHOUT THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STEPPING STONES PROJECT WILL BE USED TO ACQUIRE, REHABILITATE, AND OPERATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS; TO FUND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES SUCH AS CASE MANAGEMENT, JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE, AND FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION; AND TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE LONG-TERM HOUSING STABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY. ALL FUNDS WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO ADVANCE THESE CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND TO COVER THE REASONABLE COSTS OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH.

If the name under which the organization intends to solicit funds differs from the name listed above, provide name(s) under which contributions will be solicited, and the reason for the use of such other name(s). ☐Yes ☑No
Solicitation Information
Has the organization been registered with any other governmental authority to solicit contributions? ☐Yes ☑No
Do you intend to use the services of a professional fund raiser as defined by "An Act to Regulate Solicitation and Collection of Funds for Charitable Purposes"? □Yes ⊠No
State the board, group or individual having final discretion as to the distribution and use of contributions received. ROBERT JACOBSON
Select each solicitation method the organization intends to utilize. Direct Mail, Telephone Appeals
Tax & Financial Information
Has the United States Internal Revenue Service determined that this organization is tax exempt? ⊠Yes □No
What kind of exemption does it have? 501(c)(3)
Has the organization's tax exempt status ever been questioned, audited, denied or cancelled at any time by any governmental agency? □Yes ⊠No
Approximate amount of contributions solicited or income received from persons in this State during the organization's last annual accounting period \$ 0.00
Officer Information
List name, mailing address and title of the chief executive or staff officer of the organization.
Title

Board Member

Name

ROBERT JACOBSON

Mailing address

5439 FREMANTLE LANE CALABASAS, CA. 91302

List name, mailing addresses, and daytime phone numbers of all officers and directors, or trustees of the organization. (Note: this list must also include the chief executive or staff officer listed above)

☐ Click here if you would prefer to attach a list instead.

Title(s)	Full Name	Datytime Telephone Number	Address
	BRANDON BENUDIZ	(747) 238-6610	16710 VENTURA BLVD UNIT 218 ENCINO , CA, 91436, USA
	WYATT POKORSKI	(941) 504-3559	1256 N LAS PALMAS LOS ANGELES , CA, 90038, USA
	MATTHEW CARROLL	(323) 983-1522	9405 SWINTON AVE NORTH HILLS , CA, 91343, USA

Has the organization or any of its officers, directors or trustees ever been enjoined or prohibited by any court or other governmental agency from soliciting contributions, or is such action pending?

☐Yes
☐No

Signatures

UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, THE UNDERSIGNED DECLARES AND CERTIFIES THAT THIS EXEMPTION FORM AND THE ACCOMPANYING REGISTRATION STATEMENT HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY ME AND ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signed Electronically: Brandon Benudiz

Date: 12/04/2025 Title: Secretary

Signed Electronically: Robert Jacobson

Date: 12/04/2025 Title: Chairman

Approved By: GPC				
FILED				
AUG 28 2025 Alexi Giannoulias				
Secretary of State				
Article 1. Corporate Name: TH	E STEPPING STONES PF	ROJECT		
Article 2. Registered Agent: ALE	ENA JOTKUS			
Registered Office: 340	00 DUNDEE RD STE 215			
NO	RTHBROOK	IL 60062-23	34 COOK CO	YTNUC
Article 3.				
The first Board of Dire		4 in number, the JNIT 104, ENCINO CA 9130		s being as follows
MATTHEW CARROLL	9405 SWINTON AVE, NC	ORTH HILLS, CA 91343		
WYATT POKORSKI 1:	256 NORTH LAS PALMAS	S, LOS ANGELES CA 90038	1	
BRANDON BENUDIZ	701 BAY HILL DR, NEWP	ORT BEACH CA 92660		
Article 4. Purpose(s	s) for which the Corporatio	on is organized:		
onanasie.				
Is this Corporation a C	Condominium Association :	as established under the Co	ondominium Property Act	? ☐ Yes ☑ No
•		efined in Section 216 of the	• •	
•		which administers a commo	n-interest community as	defined ☐ Yes ☑ No
, ,	ection 9-102 of the code of	Civil Procedure?		
	Address of Incorporator porator hereby declares, und	der penalties of perjury, that t	he statements made in the	foregoing Articles of
ROBERT JACO	BSON			
1.522	Name			
5315 YARMOU	TH AVE, 104			
	Street		ALIQUOTICS	
ENCINO, CA 9	1316 City, State, ZIP	Dated	AUGUST 28 Month & Day	, <u>2025</u> Year
	•		•	

FORM **NFP 102.10**

File # **75275447**Filing Fee: \$50

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
General Not For Profit Corporation Act

Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy

The Stepping Stones Project, NFP Chicago, Illinois

Adopted by the Board of Directors

BYLAWS OF THE STEPPING STONES PROJECT

Article I – Name & Purpose

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be The Stepping Stones Project, NFP (the "Corporation").

Section 2. Purpose. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its mission is to advance community well-being by developing and managing affordable housing, and by providing supportive services, for veterans, single mothers, seniors, and individuals with disabilities in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Article II - Offices

The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Chicago, Illinois. The Corporation may establish such additional offices, within or outside the State of Illinois, as the Board of Directors deems necessary to fulfill its mission.

Article III - Board of Directors

Section 1. Authority. The governance and fiduciary oversight of the Corporation shall rest with its Board of Directors, which shall be responsible for establishing strategic direction, ensuring financial sustainability, and maintaining compliance with applicable laws. Section 2. Composition. The Board shall consist of no fewer than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) Directors, all of whom must demonstrate a commitment to the mission and values of the Corporation.

Section 3. Terms. Directors shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years and may be reelected, provided no Director serves more than three consecutive terms without a one-year break in service.

Section 4. Meetings. The Board shall convene at least four (4) regular meetings annually. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or any two Directors with reasonable notice. Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the Directors then serving shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Compensation. Directors shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in furtherance of the Corporation's mission.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected by the Board from among its members. Additional officers may be established as deemed necessary.

Section 2. Duties.

- a. Chair: Provides leadership to the Board, presides over meetings, and ensures the Board fulfills its governance responsibilities.
- b. Vice-Chair: Acts in place of the Chair during their absence and performs duties as assigned.
- c. Secretary: Maintains the official records of the Corporation, including meeting minutes and notices, and ensures compliance with corporate filing requirements.
- d. Treasurer: Oversees the financial affairs of the Corporation, ensures proper internal controls, and presents timely financial reports to the Board.

Section 3. Terms. Officers shall serve two-year terms and may be re-elected.

Article V – Committees

The Board may establish standing or ad hoc committees to advance specific aspects of the Corporation's mission. Each committee shall operate under a charter approved by the Board and shall report its activities regularly to the Board.

Article VI - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on January 1 and conclude on December 31 of each year.

Article VII – Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Directors present at any duly convened meeting of the Board, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been delivered to all Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Article VIII – Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, all remaining assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to a federal, state, or local government entity for a public purpose.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Article I – Purpose

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to protect the integrity and accountability of The Stepping Stones Project, NFP by ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the Corporation and not influenced by personal or financial considerations.

Article II – Definitions

Interested Person: Any Director, Officer, or committee member with Board-delegated powers who has a direct or indirect financial interest.

Financial Interest: A person has a financial interest if they have, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family, an ownership interest in, compensation arrangement with, or potential benefit from any entity with which the Corporation transacts business.

Article III – Procedures

- 1. Duty to Disclose: Each Interested Person must disclose the existence and nature of any potential conflict of interest to the Board.
- 2. Determination: After disclosure, the disinterested Directors shall determine by majority vote whether a conflict of interest exists.
- 3. Recusal: Any Interested Person shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting on matters in which they have a conflict.
- 4. Violations: If the Board has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose a conflict, it shall notify the member, allow an explanation, and take corrective action if warranted.

Article IV – Records

Minutes of all Board meetings shall document: (a) the names of persons disclosing conflicts, (b) the nature of the conflict, (c) the Board's determination and rationale, and (d) any actions taken.

Article V - Annual Disclosure

Each Director and Officer shall annually complete and sign a statement affirming that they have received and reviewed this Policy and agree to comply with its provisions.

Article VI - Periodic Review

The Corporation shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure compliance with charitable purposes and safeguard against activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status.

Form 1023

(Rev. January 2020)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form1023 for instructions and the latest information.

Note: If exempt status is approved, this application will be open for public inspection.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Use the "?" buttons throughout this form for help in completing this application. For additional help, call IRS Exempt Organizations Customer Account Services toll-free at 1-877-829-5500.

If you cannot complete required responses within the textbox limits throughout this form, upload your additional narratives with the other required documents.

Part I Identification of Applica								
1a Full Name of Organization (exactly	as it appears i	n your org	anizing docur	nent)		b Care	of Name (if	f applicable)
STEPPING STONES PROJECT		1.0%				. 0	L	
c Mailing Address (Number, street a	na room/suite)	d City				e Count	•	
3400 DUNDEE RD SUITE 215			HBROOK			United		
f State		- '	Code + 4	n F	oreign Prov	ince (or S	state)	i Foreign Postal Code
Illinois			062 					
2 Employer Identification Number	3 Month Tax	Year Ends	3					formation is Needed (officer,
00.4400407	ALIGUET							ed representative)
39-4133107	AUGUST		- 1 /			T JACOBS	ON	T 11
5 Contact Telephone Number		6 F	Fax Number (optio	nai)			7 User Fee Submitted
818-297-2077								\$600.00
8 Organization's Website (if available	e):							
9 List the names, titles, and mailing	addresses of yo	our officers	s, directors, a	nd/or	trustees.			
First Name: ROBERT	L	ast Name:	JACOBSON			-	Title: CH	AIRMAN
Mailing Address: 5439 FREMANTLE	_N		Ci	ty:	CALABASAS	S		
State (or Province): CALIFORNIA			Zip Code	(or F	oreign Posta	al Code):	91302	
First Name: MATTHEW	L	ast Name:	CARROLL				Title: VIC	E CHAIRMAN
Mailing Address: 5135 ZELZAH AVE A	APT 201		Ci	ty:	ENCINO			
State (or Province): CALIFORNIA			Zip Code	(or F	oreign Posta	al Code):	91316	
First Name: WYATT	L	ast Name:	POKORSKI				Title: TRE	EASURER
Mailing Address: 1256 N LAS PALMA	S AVE				LOS ANGELI			
State (or Province): CALIFORNIA			Zip Code	(or F	oreign Post	al Code):	90038	
First Name: BRANDON	L	ast Name:	BENUDIZ			-	Title: SE	CRETARY
Mailing Address: 701 BAY HILL DR			Ci	ty:	NEWPORT B	BEACH		
State (or Province): CALIFORNIA			Zip Code	(or F	oreign Post	al Code):	92660	
First Name:	L	ast Name:					Title:	
Mailing Address:			Ci					
State (or Province):				(or F	oreign Posta	al Code):		
Check here to add more officers,	directors, and/c	or trustees.						

	(Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT		EIN: 39-4133107	Page
P	art II Organizationa				
ı	You must be a corporati	ion, limited liability company (LLC), unincorpora	ated association, or trust to be tax ex	empt.	
	Select your type of orga	anization.			
	Corporation				
	At the end of this form, y appropriate state agence	you must upload a copy of your articles of incor	rporation (and any amendments) that	shows proof of filing wit	h the
	Limited Liability Cor	mpany (LLC)			
		you must upload a copy of your articles of orga cy. Also, if you adopted an operating agreement			the
	Unincorporated Ass	sociation			
		you must upload a copy of your articles of asso east two signatures. Include signed and dated c		organizing document tha	t is
	Trust				
	At the end of this form, y amendments.	you must upload a signed and dated copy of yo	our trust agreement. Include signed a	nd dated copies of any	
:	Enter the date you forme	ed. (MM/DD/YYYY)	08/28/2025		
;	•	S. territory) of incorporation or other formation.	If you were formed under the	Illinois	
	laws of a foreign country	y, select Foreign Country.			
		ws? If "Yes," at the end of this form, upload a coelect your officers, directors, or trustees.	urrent copy showing the date of adop	otion. If Yes	No

5 Are you a successor to another organization?

Yes No

Answer "Yes" if you have taken or will take over the activities of another organization, you took over 25% or more of the fair market value of the net assets of another organization, or you were established upon the conversion of an organization from for-profit to nonprofit status. If "Yes," complete Schedule G.

Part III Required Provisions in Your Organizing Document

Part III helps ensure that, when you submit this application, your organizing document contains the required provisions to meet the organizational test under section 501(c)(3).

If you cannot check "Yes" in both Lines 1 and 2, your organizing document does not meet the organizational test. DO NOT file this application until you have amended your organizing document. Remember to upload your original and amended organizing documents at the end of this form.

1 Section 501(c)(3) requires that your organizing document limit your purposes to one or more exempt purposes within section 501(c)(3), such as charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes.

The following is an example of an acceptable purpose clause: The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

г	Tope vour	organizing	document	most this	requireme	nt2
1	Joes vour	organizing	aocumeni	meet inis	reauireme	m e

○ No

1a State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article or section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph):

Created for charitable uses under section 501(c)3

2 Section 501(c)(3) requires that your organizing document provide that upon dissolution, your remaining assets be used exclusively for section 501(c)(3) exempt purposes, such as charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes. Depending on your entity type and the state in which you are formed, this requirement may be satisfied by operation of state law.

The following is an example of an acceptable dissolution clause: Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Does your organizing document meet this requirement?

Yes	

NI	
IV	(

2a State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article or section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph) or indicate that you rely on state law.

Assets to another 501(c)(3) on dissolution.

Part IV Your Activities

1 Describe completely and in detail your past, present, and planned activities. Do not refer to or repeat the purposes in your organizing document.

For each past, present, or planned activity, include information that answers the following questions:

- a. What is the activity?
- b. Who conducts the activity?
- c. Where is the activity conducted?
- d. What percentage of your total time is allocated to the activity?
- e. How is the activity funded (for example, donations, fees, etc.) and what percentage of your overall expenses is allocated to this activity?
- f. How does the activity further your exempt purposes?

Narrative of Activities for The Stepping Stones Project

Overview:

The Stepping Stones Project is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3). Our mission is to provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services to low-income individuals and families in Chicago, with a focus on veterans, single mothers, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Activity 1: Housing Acquisition and Management

What: Acquire, renovate, and manage affordable rental housing units in underserved Chicago neighborhoods.

Who: Low-income veterans, single mothers, seniors, and disabled individuals who meet income eligibility requirements.

Where: Primarily in South and West Side communities of Chicago, where housing insecurity is highest.

Time Allocation: Approximately 50 percent of total organizational efforts.

Funding: Contributions from donors, government housing grants, and rental income based on affordable housing guidelines.

Purpose Alignment: This activity directly furthers our charitable purpose by reducing homelessness and providing stable housing for vulnerable populations.

Activity 2: Tenant Support Services

What: Provide wrap-around services such as financial literacy workshops, rental counseling, and connections to community resources (healthcare, childcare, and job training).

Who: All tenants residing in The Stepping Stones Project housing.

Where: On-site community rooms, local partner facilities, and virtual sessions.

Time Allocation: Approximately 20 percent of organizational efforts

Funding: Private donations, grants from foundations, and potential partnerships with social service agencies

Purpose Alignment: By offering supportive services, we reduce eviction risk and help residents achieve long-term stability.

Activity 3: Partnerships with Veteran & Social Service Agencies

What: Collaborate with organizations such as the VA, Chicago Housing Authority, and disability advocacy groups to identify qualified residents and provide case management support.

Who: Veterans transitioning from homelessness, disabled residents needing housing accommodations, and families referred by local agencies.

Where: Referrals are coordinated through partner offices across Chicago

Time Allocation: Approximately 15 percent of organizational efforts

Funding: Grants, restricted donations, and government partnerships

Purpose Alignment: Ensures that those most in need are prioritized and supported, fulfilling the (relief of the poor and distressed) charitable purpose under 501(c)(3).

Activity 4: Community Outreach and Fundraising

What: Conduct outreach campaigns, fundraising events, and donor engagement initiatives to support housing development.

Who: Local businesses, philanthropic donors, community members, and government funders.

Where: Throughout the Chicago metro area, including events hosted in partnership with civic organizations.

Time Allocation: Approximately 10 percent of organizational efforts

Funding: Event revenue, grants, and private donations.

Purpose Alignment: These activities are solely for the purpose of raising funds to expand charitable housing programs.

Activity 5: Administrative and Compliance Functions

What: General management, accounting, board governance, and compliance with state and federal nonprofit regulations.

Who: Executive Director, administrative staff, and volunteer board members

Where: Administrative offices in Chicago

Time Allocation: Approximately 5 percent of organizational efforts.

Funding: General operating funds from contributions and grants.

Purpose Alignment: Necessary to ensure proper operation and legal compliance of the nonprofit.

Fo	rm 1023 (Rev 01-2020)	Name: STEPPING	STONES PROJEC	т				EIN: 39-	4133107	Page
Р	art IV	Your Activi	ties (continued)								
2	Enter	the 3-charact	er NTEE Code tha	at best describe	es your activit	ies.		L21			
	Or ch	neck here if yo	ou want the IRS to	select the NTE	EE Code that	best describe	es your activities.				
3	individu membe	als? For exanrs, individuals	ams limit the provi nple, answer "Yes who work for a p cipients are select	" if goods, serv articular emplo	rices, or funds yer, or gradua	are provide	d only for a partic	cular individua	al, your	Yes	No
4	relation comper	ship with any	no receive goods, officer, director, tr ndent contractors	ustee, or with a	any of your hi	ghest compe	nsated employee	es or highest		Yes	● No
5	Do you	or will you su	pport or oppose c	andidates in po	litical campai	gns in any w	ay? If "Yes," exp	lain.		Yes	No
6	Do you	or will you att	empt to influence	legislation? If "	Yes," explain	how you atte	empt to influence	legislation.		Yes	No

engaging in activities in violation of economic sanctions administered by OFAC?

10c Will you acquire from OFAC the appropriate license and registration where necessary?

Yes

○ No

For	rm 1023 (Rev 01-2020) Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT	EIN: 39-4133107	Page 9				
P	art IV Your Activities (continued)						
11	Are you a sponsoring organization that maintains one or more donor advised funds? If yes, please provide a complete description of your program, including the specific advice that such donors may provide. Describe in det the control you maintain (or will maintain) over the use of the funds.	Yes	No				
12	Do you or will you operate a school? If "Yes," complete Schedule B.	Yes	No				
13	Is your principal purpose or function to provide hospital or medical care? If "Yes," complete Schedule C.	Yes	No				
14	Do you or will you provide low-income housing? If "Yes," complete Schedule F.	Yes	No				
15	5 Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants to individuals, including grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule H - Section I.						
16	Check any of the following fundraising activities that you will undertake (check all that apply):						
	■ Website, mail, email, personal, and/or phone solicitations						
	Receive donations from another organization's website Government grant solicitations	i					
	Bingo Other (non-bingo) gaming activ	vities .					
	Other (describe)						
	We will not engage in fundraising activities.						
17	Do you or will you engage in fundraising activities for other organizations? If "Yes," describe these arrangements, including the names or descriptions of the organizations for which you raise funds.	Yes	⊚ No				

Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT Form 1023 (Rev 01-2020) EIN: 39-4133107 Page 11 Part V Compensation and Other Financial Arrangements (continued) 4 Do you or will you purchase or sell any goods, services, or assets from or to: (i) any of your officers, directors, or Yes No trustees; (ii) any family of any of your officers, directors, or trustees; (iii) any organizations in which any of your officers, directors, or trustees are also officers, directors, or trustees, or in which any individual officer, director, or trustee owns more than a 35% interest; (iv) your highest compensated employees; or (v) your highest compensated independent contractors? If "Yes," describe any such transactions that you made or intend to make, with whom you make or will make such transactions, how the terms are or will be negotiated at arm's length, and how you determine you pay no more than fair market value or you are paid at least fair market value. Do you or will you have any leases, contracts, loans, or other agreements with: (i) your officers, directors, or trustees; No Yes (ii) any family of any of your officers, directors, or trustees; (iii) any organizations in which any of your officers, directors, or trustees are also officers, directors, or trustees, or in which any individual officer, director, or trustee owns more than a 35% interest; (iv) your highest compensated employees; or (v) your highest compensated independent contractors? If "Yes," describe any written or oral arrangements that you made or intend to make, with whom you have or will have such arrangements, how the terms are or will be negotiated at arm's length, and how you determine you pay no more than fair market value or you are paid at least fair market value. Do you or will you contract with another organization to develop, build, market, or finance your facilities? Yes No If "Yes," describe each facility, the role of the other organization, and any business or family relationship between the

organization and your officers, directors, or trustees. Explain how that entity is selected, how the terms of any contract(s) are negotiated at arm's length, and how you determine you will pay no more than fair market value for

services.

Fo	orm 1023 (Rev 01-2020) Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT	EIN: 39-4133107	Page
Р	Compensation and Other Financial Arrangements (continued)		
7	Does or will someone other than your own employees or volunteers manage your activities or facilities? If "Yes," describe the activities or facilities that will be managed by others, the names of the persons or organization and your officers, directors, or trustees. Explain how these managers were or will be selected, hot terms of any contracts or other agreements were or will be negotiated, and how you determine you will pay not than fair market value for services.	ow the	● No
_			
8	Do you participate in any joint ventures, including partnerships or limited liability companies treated as partner in which you share profits and losses with partners? If "Yes," state your ownership percentage in each joint ve list your investment in each joint venture, describe the tax status of other participants in each joint venture (included whether they are section 501(c)(3) organizations), describe the activities of each joint venture, describe how ye exercise control over the activities of each joint venture, and describe how each joint venture furthers your exercise control over the activities of each joint venture, and describe how each joint venture furthers your exercise.	enture, cluding ou	No
E	Part VI Financial Data		
1	Select the option that best describes you to determine the years of revenues and expenses you need to prov	vide.	
	You completed less than one tax year.		
	Provide a total of three years of financial information (including the current year and two future years of projections of your future finances) in the following Statement of Revenues and Expenses.	f reasonable and go	od faith
	You completed at least one tax year but fewer than five.		
	Provide a total of four years financial information (including the current year and three years of actual fi reasonable and good faith projections of your future finances) in the following Statement of Revenues		or
	You completed five or more tax years.		
	Provide financial information for your five most recent tax years (including the current year) in the follow and Expenses.	ving Statement of R	evenues

Part VI Financial Data (continued)

A . :	A. Statement of Revenues and Expenses						
Type of revenue	Current tax year	4 pri	or tax years or 2	or 2 succeeding tax years			
	L		From: 01/01/2027 To: 12/31/2027				
Gifts, grants, and contributions received (do not include unusual grants)	\$50,000.	\$200,000.	\$300,000.	\$400,000.	\$500,000.		
2 Membership fees received	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
3 Gross investment income	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
4 Net unrelated business income	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
5 Taxes levied for your benefit	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
6 Value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit without charge (not including the value of services generally furnished to the public without charge)	\$5,000.	\$25,000.	\$40,000.	\$60,000.	\$75,000.		
Any revenue not otherwise listed above or in lines 9 - 12 below (provide an itemized list below)	\$5,000.	\$20,000.	\$40,000.	\$60,000.	\$80,000.		
8 Total of lines 1 through 7	\$60,000.	\$245,000.	\$380,000.	\$520,000.	\$655,000.		
Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is related to your exempt purposes (provide an itemized list below)	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
10 Total of lines 8 and 9	\$60,000.	\$245,000.	\$380,000.	\$520,000.	\$655,000.		
11 Net gain or loss on sale of capital assets (provide an itemized list below)	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
12 Unusual grants (provide an itemized list below)	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
13 Total Revenue (add lines 10 through 12)	\$60,000.	\$245,000.	\$380,000.	\$520,000.	\$655,000.		
Type of expense	Current tax year	4 pri	or tax years or 2	succeeding tax y	ears		
14 Fundraising expenses	\$0.	\$15,000.	\$20,000.	\$25,000.	\$35,000.		
Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts paid out (provide an itemized list below)	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
Disbursements to or for the benefit of members (provide an itemized list below)	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
17 Compensation of officers, directors, and trustees	\$0.	\$25,000.	\$40,000.	\$60,000.	\$80,000.		
18 Other salaries and wages	\$0.	\$50,000.	\$80,000.	\$110,000.	\$140,000.		
19 Interest expense	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
20 Occupancy (rent, utilities, etc.)	\$30,000.	\$100,000.	\$150,000.	\$200,000.	\$250,000.		
21 Depreciation and depletion	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.		
22 Professional fees	\$5,000.	\$10,000.	\$15,000.	\$20,000.	\$25,000.		
Any expense not otherwise classified, such as program services (provide an itemized list below)	\$5,000.	\$15,000.	\$25,000.	\$35,000.	\$45,000.		
24 Total Expenses (add lines 14 through 23)	\$40,000.	\$215,000.	\$330,000.	\$450,000.	\$575,000.		

25 Itemized financial data

Line 7. Other Revenue Represents modest tenant contributions and program service fees collected from participants in the affordable housing program. Tenants contribute a small, income-based portion of rent toward housing costs, while the balance is subsidized through grants and donations. These amounts are minimal and strictly related to carrying out the exempt purpose of providing affordable housing to disadvantaged individuals. Line 23. Other Expenses Covers miscellaneous program-related operating costs that do not fall into other categories. Examples include: Insurance (general liability, property, and directors & officers coverage). Office supplies and program materials (outreach brochures, educational resources). Technology and communications (website hosting, phones, case management software).

Part VI Financial Data (continued) B. Balance Sheet (for your most recently completed tax year) Year End: 12/31/2025 **Assets** Cash \$0. Accounts receivable, net \$0. Inventories \$0. Bonds and notes receivable (provide an itemized list below) \$0. Corporate stocks (provide an itemized list below) \$0. Loans receivable (provide an itemized list below) \$0. Other investments (provide an itemized list below) \$0. Depreciable assets (provide an itemized list below) \$0.

Land

12 Accounts payable

10 Other assets (provide an itemized list below)

Liabilities

11 Total Assets (add lines 1 through 10)

13 Contributions, gifts, grants, etc. payable

16 Total Liabilities (add lines 12 through 15)

15 Other liabilities (provide an itemized list below)

14 Mortgages and notes payable (provide an itemized list below)

Fund Balances or Net Assets

17 Total fund balances or net assets

\$0.

18 Total Liabilities and Fund Balances or Net Assets (add lines 16 and 17)

\$0.

19 Itemized financial data

\$0.

\$0.

\$0.

\$0.

\$0.

\$0.

\$0.

Part VII Foundation Classification

Part VII is designed to classify you as an organization that is either a private foundation or a public charity. Public charity classification is a more favorable tax status than private foundation classification. If you are a private foundation, this part will further determine whether you are a private operating foundation.

support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the public. You are described in 509(a)(2) as an organization that normally receives not more than one-third of its financial from gross investment income and receives more than one-third of its financial support from contributions, membres, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions). You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i) as a church or a convention or association of churches. Compacted in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) as a school. Complete Schedule B. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) as a hospital, a cooperative hospital service organization, or medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Complete Schedule C. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) as an organization operated for the benefit of a college or unithat is owned or operated by a governmental unit. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ix) as an agricultural research organization directly engaged in continuous active conduct of agricultural research in conjunction with a college or university. You are described in 509(a)(3) as an organization supporting either one or more organizations described in 509(a)(2) or a publicly supported section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organization. Complete Schedule D.	1	Sele	ct the foundation classification you are requesting from the list below.		
from gross investment income and receives more than one-third of its financial support from contributions, memi fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions). You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) as a church or a convention or association of churches. Comi Schedule A. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) as a school. Complete Schedule B. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) as a hospital, a cooperative hospital service organization, or medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Complete Schedule C. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) as an organization operated for the benefit of a college or un that is owned or operated by a governmental unit. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ix) as an agricultural research organization directly engaged in continuous active conduct of agricultural research in conjunction with a college or university. You are described in 509(a)(3) as an organization supporting either one or more organizations described in 509(a)(2) or a publicly supported section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organization. Complete Schedule D. You are a publicly supported organization and would like the IRS to decide your correct classification. You are a private foundation. 1a As a private foundation, section 508(e) requires special provisions in your organizing document in addition to those the apply to all organizations described in section 501(c)(3). Check this box to confirm that your organizing document includes these provisions or you rely on state law. State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article of section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph) or state that you rely on state law. 1b Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants to individuals, including grants for travel, study, or other similar			You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) as an organization that receives a substantial part of its financial support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the general public.		
Schedule A. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) as a school. Complete Schedule B. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) as a hospital, a cooperative hospital service organization, or medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Complete Schedule C. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) as an organization operated for the benefit of a college or ur that is owned or operated by a governmental unit. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ix) as an agricultural research organization directly engaged in continuous active conduct of agricultural research in conjunction with a college or university. You are described in 509(a)(3) as an organization supporting either one or more organizations described in 509(a)(2) or a publicly supported section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organization. Complete Schedule D. You are described in 509(a)(4) as an organization organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safet You are a publicly supported organization and would like the IRS to decide your correct classification. You are a private foundation. 1a As a private foundation, section 508(e) requires special provisions in your organizing document in addition to those the apply to all organizations described in section 501(c)(3). Check this box to confirm that your organizing document includes these provisions or you rely on state law. State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article of section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph) or state that you rely on state law. 1b Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants to individuals, including grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule H - Section II.			You are described in 509(a)(2) as an organization that normally receives not more than one-third of its financial support from gross investment income and receives more than one-third of its financial support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions).		
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medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Complete Schedule C. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) as an organization operated for the benefit of a college or ur that is owned or operated by a governmental unit. You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ix) as an agricultural research organization directly engaged in continuous active conduct of agricultural research in conjunction with a college or university. You are described in 509(a)(3) as an organization supporting either one or more organizations described in 509(a)(2) or a publicly supported section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organization. Complete Schedule D. You are described in 509(a)(4) as an organization organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safet You are a publicly supported organization and would like the IRS to decide your correct classification. You are a private foundation. 1a As a private foundation, section 508(e) requires special provisions in your organizing document in addition to those the apply to all organizations described in section 501(c)(3). Check this box to confirm that your organizing document includes these provisions or you rely on state law. State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article of section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph) or state that you rely on state law. 1b Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants to individuals, including grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule H - Section II.			You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) as a school. Complete Schedule B.		
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Sog(a)(2) or a publicly supported section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organization. Complete Schedule D. You are described in 509(a)(4) as an organization organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safet You are a publicly supported organization and would like the IRS to decide your correct classification. You are a private foundation. 1a As a private foundation, section 508(e) requires special provisions in your organizing document in addition to those the apply to all organizations described in section 501(c)(3). Check this box to confirm that your organizing document includes these provisions or you rely on state law. State specifically where your organizing document meets this requirement, such as a reference to a particular article of section in your organizing document (Page/Article/Paragraph) or state that you rely on state law. 1b Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants to individuals, including grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule H - Section II. 1c Are you a private operating foundation? To be a private operating foundation you must engage directly in the active conduct of charitable, religious, educational, and similar activities, as opposed to indirectly carrying out these activities by providing grants to			You are described in 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ix) as an agricultural research organization directly engaged in the continuous active conduct of agricultural research in conjunction with a college or university.		
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including grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule H - Section II. 1c Are you a private operating foundation? To be a private operating foundation you must engage directly in the active conduct of charitable, religious, educational, and similar activities, as opposed to indirectly carrying out these activities by providing grants to				1	
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To be a private operating foundation you must engage directly in the active conduct of charitable, religious, educational, and similar activities, as opposed to indirectly carrying out these activities by providing grants to		inclu	ding grants for travel, study, or other similar purposes?	'es	No
educational, and similar activities, as opposed to indirectly carrying out these activities by providing grants to	1c	Are y	you a private operating foundation?	'es	No
		educ	cational, and similar activities, as opposed to indirectly carrying out these activities by providing grants to		

Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT Form 1023 (Rev 01-2020) EIN: 39-4133107 Page **17** Part VIII **Effective Date** In general, a determination letter recognizing exemption of an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is effective as of the date of formation of an organization if: (1) its purposes and activities prior to the date of the determination letter have been consistent with the requirements for exemption; and (2) it has filed an application for recognition of exemption within 27 months from the end of the month in which it was organized. No Are you submitting this application within 27 months of the end of the month in which you were legally formed? If "No," complete Schedule E. Part IX **Annual Filing Requirements** If you fail to file a required information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked. No Certain organizations are not required to file annual information returns or notices (Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N, e-Postcard). If you are granted tax-exemption, are you claiming to be excused from filing Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N? If "Yes," are you claiming you are excepted from filing because you are: A church or association of churches An integrated auxiliary (such as a men's or women's organization, religious school, mission society, or religious group) A church-affiliated organization (other than a section 509(a)(3) organization) that is exclusively engaged in managing funds or maintaining retirement programs and is described in Revenue Procedure 96-10, 1996-1 C.B. 577 A school below college level affiliated with a church or operated by a religious order A mission society (other than a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization) sponsored by, or affiliated with, one or more churches or church denominations, if more than half of the society's activities are conducted in, or directed at, persons in foreign countries An affiliate of a governmental unit that meets the requirements of Revenue Procedure 95-48, 1995-2 C.B. 418 (other than a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization) Other (describe)

Part X Signature

I declare under the penalties of perjury that I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of the above organization and that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge it is true, correct, and complete.

Robert Jacobson	CHAIRMAN	
(Type name of signer)	(Type title or authority of signer)	
	09/04/2025	
	(Date)	

Upload checklist:

Organizing document (and any amendments)

Bylaws, if adopted

Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative (if applicable)

Form 8821, Tax Information Authorization (if applicable)

Supplemental responses (if applicable)

Expedited handling request (if applicable)

	Schedule A. Churches		
1	Do you have a written creed, statement of faith, or summary of beliefs? If "Yes," describe your written creed, statement of faith, or summary of beliefs.	Yes	No
2	Do you have a literature of your own? If "Yes," describe your literature.	Yes	No
3	Do you have a formal code of doctrine and discipline? If "Yes," describe your code of doctrine and discipline.	Yes	No
4	Describe your religious hierarchy or ecclesiastical government.		
5	Are you part of a group of churches with similar beliefs and structures? If "Yes," explain.	Yes	No
6	Do you have a form of worship? If "Yes," describe your form of worship.	Yes	No
7	Do you have regularly scheduled religious services? If "Yes," describe the nature of the services.	Yes	No
7a	What is the average attendance at your regularly scheduled religious services?		
3	Do you have an established place of worship? If "Yes," describe your established place of worship or where you meet to hold regularly scheduled religious services.	Yes	No

For	m 1023 (Rev 01-2020) Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT EIN: 3	9-4133107	Page 2
	Schedule A. Churches (continued)		
9	Do you have an established congregation or other regular membership group? If "No," continue to Line 10.	Yes	No
9a	How many members do you have?		
9b	Do you have a process by which an individual becomes a member? If "Yes," describe the process.	Yes	No
9c	Do your members have voting rights, rights to participate in religious functions, or other rights? If "Yes," describe the rights your members have.	Yes	No
9d	May your members be associated with another denomination or church?	Yes	No
9e	Are all of your members part of the same family?	Yes	No
10	Do you conduct baptisms, weddings, funerals, or other religious rites?	Yes	No
11	Do you have a school for the religious instruction of the young?	Yes	No
12	Do you have ministers or religious leaders? If "Yes," describe these roles and explain whether the ministers or religious leaders are ordained, commissioned, or licensed after a prescribed course of study.	Yes	No
13	Do you have schools for the preparation of your ordained ministers or religious leaders?	Yes	No
14	Do you ordain, commission, or license ministers or religious leaders? If "Yes," describe the requirements for ordination, commission, or licensure.	Yes	No
15	Do you have other information you believe should be considered regarding your status as a church? If "Yes," explain.	Yes	No

By checking this box, you agree that all future printed materials, including website content, will contain the required

8a

nondiscriminatory policy statement.

Schedule B. Schools	, Colleges, and	Universities	(continued)
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	Schedule B. Schools, Colleges, and Universities (Conditional)		
9	Have you made your racially nondiscriminatory policy known to all segments of the general community you serve by: a) publishing a notice of your policy in a newspaper of general circulation that serves all racial segments of the community; b) publicizing your policy over broadcast media in a way that is reasonably expected to be effective; or c) displaying a notice of your policy at all times on your primary, publicly accessible internet home page in a manner reasonably expected to be noticed by visitors to the homepage? If "Yes," continue to Line 10.	Yes	No
9a	By checking this box, you agree that you will publicize your nondiscriminatory policy in a way that meets the requirements of Revenue Procedure 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, as modified by Revenue Procedure 2019-22, I.R.B.	. 1260.	
10	Do or will you (or any department or division of your organization) discriminate in any way on the basis of race with respect to admissions, use of facilities or exercise of student privileges, faculty or administrative staff, or scholarship or loan programs? If "Yes," for any of the above, explain fully.	Yes	No
11	Complete the table below to show the racial composition for the current academic year and projected for the next acade not operational, submit an estimate based on the best information available (such as the racial composition of the composi	-	-

For each racial category, enter the number of (a) students, (b) faculty, and (c) administrative staff. Provide actual numbers rather than percentages for each racial category.

Racial Category	(a) Student Body		gory (a) Student Body (b) Faculty		(c) Administrative Staff		
	Current Year	Next Year	Current Year	Next Year	Current Year	Next Year	
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	

12	In the table below, enter the number and amount of loans and scholarships awarded to enrolled students by racial categories.	Provide actual
	numbers rather than percentages for each racial category.	

Check here if you will not provide any loans or scholarships to students.

Racial Category	Number	of Loans	Amount of Loans		Number of Scholarships		Amount of Scholarships	
	Current Year	Next Year	Current Year	Next Year	Current Year	Next Year	Current Year	Next Year
Total	0	0	\$0.	\$0.	0	0	\$0.	\$0.

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Schedule B. Schools, Colleges, and Universities (continued) 13 List your incorporators, founders, board members, and donors of land or buildings, whether individuals or organizations. 14 Do any of your incorporators, founders, board members, and donors of land or buildings, whether individuals or Yes ○ No organizations, have an objective to maintain segregated public or private school education? If "Yes," explain. 15 Will you maintain records according to the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Revenue Procedure 75-50? If No Yes "No," explain.

medical staff is selected.

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zations		
n is medical research d in conjunction with a	Yes	No
ed to medical research.		
ection 501(e)?	Yes	No

Are all the doctors in the community eligible for staff privileges? If "No," give the reasons why and explain how the

Yes No

	Schedule C. Hospitals and Medical Research Organizations (continued)		
4	Do or will you provide medical services to all individuals in your community who can pay for themselves or are able to pay through some form of insurance? If "No," explain.	Yes	No
5	Do you or will you maintain a full-time emergency room? If "Yes," continue to Line 6.	Yes	No
5a	Are you a specialty hospital or would emergency services be duplicative based on your region or locality?	Yes	No
6	Do you provide free or below cost services? If "Yes," describe your policy for determining when and to whom you provide these services and how these services promote the organization's benefit to the community.	Yes	No
	Do you or will you carry on a formal program of medical training or medical research? If "Yes," describe such	Yes	No
	programs, including the type of programs offered, the scope of such programs, and affiliations with other hospitals or medical care providers with which you carry on the medical training or research programs.		
8	Do you or will you carry on a formal program of community education? If "Yes," describe such programs, including		
0	the type of programs offered, the scope of such programs, and affiliation with other hospitals or medical care providers with which you offer community education programs.	Yes	No

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	Schedule C. Hospitals and Medical Research Organizations (continued)		
9	Is your board of directors composed of a majority of individuals who are representative of the community you or do you operate under a parent organization whose board of directors is composed of a majority of individuare representative of the community you serve? If "Yes," continue to Line 10.		No
9a	List each board member's name and business, financial, or professional relationship with the hospital. Also, identify each board member who is representative of the community and describe how that individual is a community representative. If you operate under a parent organization whose board of directors is not composed of a majority of individuals who are representative of the community you serve, provide the requested information for your parent's board of directors as well.		
10	Do you operate a facility which is required by a state to be licensed, registered, or similarly recognized as a h lf "No," do not complete the rest of Schedule C.	ospital? Yes	No
10a	Do you conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) at least once every three years and adopt an implementation strategy to meet the community health needs identified in the assessment as required by sec 501(r)(3)? If "No," explain.		No
10b	Do you have a written financial assistance policy (FAP) and a written policy relating to emergency medical carequired by section 501(r)(4)? If "No," explain.	ere as Yes	No

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Schedule C. Hospitals and Medical Research Organizations (continued)		
10c Do you both (1) limit amounts charged for emergency or other medically necessary care provided to individuals eligible for assistance under your FAP to not more than amounts generally billed to individuals who have insural covering such care, and (2) prohibit use of gross charges as required by section 501(r)(5)? If "No," explain.	Yes	No
10d Do you make reasonable efforts to determine whether an individual is FAP-eligible before engaging in extraordin collection actions as required by section 501(r)(6)? If "No," explain.	nary Yes	No

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	Schedule D. Section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations		
1	List the names, addresses, and EINs of the organizations you support.		
2	Are all your supported organizations public charities under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," continue to Line 3.	Yes	No
2a	Are your supported organizations tax exempt under section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) and do your supported organizations meet the public support test under section 509(a)(2)? If "No," explain how each organization you support is a public charity under section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2).	d Yes	No
3	Which of the following describes your relationship with your supported organization(s)?		
	A majority of your governing board or officers are elected or appointed by your supported organization(s). (Typorganization)	oe I supporting	l
	Your control or management is vested in the same persons who control or manage your supported organization supporting organization)	on(s). (Type II	
	One or more of your officers, directors, or trustees are elected or appointed by the officers, directors, trustees, supported organization(s), or one or more of your officers, directors, trustees, or other important office holders the governing body of your supported organization(s), or your officers, directors, or trustees maintain a close a relationship with the officers, directors, or trustees of your supported organization(s). (Type III supporting organization(s))	s, are also mem and continuous	nbers of
4	Describe how your governing board and officers are selected. If you are a Type III organization, also describe how trustees maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the officers, directors, or trustees of your support		

Schedule D. Section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continue)	Schedule D.	Section 509(a)(3) Supporting	Organizations	(continued)
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5	Do any persons who are disqualified persons (except individuals who are disqualified persons only because they are foundation managers) with respect to you or persons who have a family or business relationship with any disqualified persons appoint any of your foundation managers? If "Yes," (1) describe the process by which disqualified persons appoint any of your foundation managers, (2) provide the names of these disqualified persons and the foundation managers they appoint, and (3) explain how control is vested over your operations (including assets and activities) by persons other than disqualified persons.	Yes	No
6	Do any persons who are disqualified persons (except individuals who are disqualified persons only because they are foundation managers) have any influence regarding your operations, including your assets or activities? If "Yes," (1) provide the names of these disqualified persons, (2) explain how influence is exerted over your operations (including assets and activities), and (3) explain how control is vested over your operations (including assets and activities) by individuals other than disqualified persons.	Yes	No
7	Does your organizing document specify your supported organization(s) by name? If "Yes" and you selected Type I above, continue to Line 8. If "Yes," and you selected Type II, do not complete the rest of Schedule D. If "No" and you selected Type III above, amend your organizing document to specify your supported organization(s) by name or you will not meet the organizational test and need to reconsider your requested public charity classification; then continue to Line 8.	Yes	No
7a	Does your organizing document name a similar purpose or charitable class of beneficiaries as to your supported organization(s)? If "No," amend your organizing document to specify your supported organization(s) by name, purpose, or class or you will not meet the organizational test and need to reconsider your requested public charity classification.	Yes	No
_	If you selected Type II above, do not complete the rest of Schedule D.		
8	Do you or will you receive contributions from any person who alone, or combined with family members or an entity at least 35% controlled by that person, controls any of your supported organizations, or will you receive contributions from any family member of, or an entity at least 35% controlled by, any person who controls any of your supported organizations? If "Yes," explain.	Yes	No

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	Schedule D. Section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)			
9	Do the officers, directors, or trustees of your supported organization have a significant voice in your investment policies, the timing and making of grants, the selection of grant recipients, and in otherwise directing the use of income or assets? If "Yes," explain.		Yes	No
10	In each taxable year, do you or will you provide each of your supported organizations with (a) a written notice addressed to a principal officer of the supported organization describing the type and amount of all of the supported provided to the supported organization during the immediately preceding taxable year, (b) a copy of your recently filed Form 990-series return or notice, and (c) a copy of your governing documents? If 'No,' explain.	port	Yes	No
11	Do you exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of your supported organization(s) and appoint or elect (directly or indirectly) a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of your supported organization(s)? If "Yes," explain.		Yes	No
12	Do substantially all of your activities directly further the exempt purposes of one or more supported organization which you are responsive by performing the functions of, or carrying out the purposes of, such supported organization(s) and but for your involvement would normally be engaged in by such supported organization(s) "Yes," explain and do not complete the rest of Schedule D.		Yes	No

Forr	n 1023 (Rev 01-2020) Name: STEPPING STONES PROJECT	EIN: 39-4133107	Page 3′
	Schedule D. Section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)		
13	Do you distribute at least 85% of your annual net income or 3.5% of the aggregate fair market value of all of your non-exempt-use assets (whichever is greater) to your supported organization(s)? If "No," explain.	Our Yes	No
13a	How much do you contribute annually to each supported organization?		
13b	What is the total annual revenue of each supported organization?		
13c	Do you or the supported organization(s) earmark your funds for support of a particular program or activity? If " explain.	Yes," Yes	No

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		Schedule E. Effective Date			
		you applying for reinstatement of exemption after being automatically revoked for failure to file required ces for three consecutive years? If "No," continue to Line 2.	returns or	Yes	No
la		renue Procedure 2014-11, 2014-1 C.B. 411, provides procedures for reinstating your tax-exempt status. cedure 2014-11 under which you want us to consider your reinstatement request.	Select the sec	ction of R	levenue
		Section 4. You are seeking retroactive reinstatement under section 4 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11. that you meet the specified requirements of section 4, that your failure to file was not intentional, and to procedures to file required returns or notices in the future. Do not complete the rest of Schedule E.			
		Section 5. You are seeking retroactive reinstatement under section 5 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11. that you meet the specified requirements of section 5, that you have filed required annual returns, that intentional, and that you have put in place procedures to file required returns or notices in the future.			
		Describe how you exercised ordinary business care and prudence in determining and attempting to correquirements in at least one of the three years of revocation and the steps you have taken or will take failures to file timely returns or notices. Do not complete the rest of Schedule E.			ure
		Section 6. You are seeking retroactive reinstatement under section 6 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11. that you meet the specified requirements of section 6, that you have filed required annual returns, that intentional, and that you have put in place procedures to file required returns or notices in the future.			
		Describe how you exercised ordinary business care and prudence in determining and attempting to correquirements in each of the three years of revocation and the steps you have taken or will take to avoitimely returns or notices. Do not complete the rest of Schedule E.			ures to file
		Section 7. You are seeking reinstatement under section 7 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11, effective the application. Do not complete the rest of Schedule E.	ne date you are	e filling th	is
2	Forn	nerally, if you did not file Form 1023 within 27 months of formation, the effective date of your exempt star m 1023 (submission date). Requests for an earlier effective date may be granted when there is evidence sonably and in good faith and the grant of relief will not prejudice the interests of the government.			
		Check this box if you accept the submission date as the effective date of your exempt status. Do not of	complete the re	est of Sch	edule E.
		Check this box if you are requesting an earlier effective date than the submission date.			
2a		lain why you did not file Form 1023 within 27 months of formation, how you acted reasonably and in go ier effective date will not prejudice the interests of the Government.	od faith, and h	ow granti	ng an
	advi whic	may want to include the events that led to the failure to timely file Form 1023 and to the discovery of the companies of the professional and a description of the engagement and responsibilities of the profesch you relied on the professional, a comparison of (1) what your aggregate tax liability would be if you honth period with (2) what your aggregate liability would be if you were exempt as of your formation dat	sional as well ad filed this ap	as the ex plication	tent to within the

believe will support your request for relief.

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Schedule F. Low-Income Housing

Describe each facility including the type of facility, whether you own or lease the facility, how many residents it can accommodate, the current number of residents, and whether the residents purchase or rent housing from you.

Stepping Stones Project does not own real estate but operates through leased multi-family housing units within the Chicago area. Type of Facility Leased apartments and townhomes within existing multi-family buildings. Each leased property accommodates 2 6 residents per unit, depending on configuration. Our initial portfolio consists of 3 leased units with a combined capacity of up to 12 residents. At program launch Year 1 we expect to serve 6 8 residents, with expansion to additional units in Years 2 5 as funding allows. All facilities are leased, not owned, at this time. Stepping Stones Project may pursue ownership of dedicated housing facilities in future years as capital campaigns allow. Residents do not purchase housing. Instead, they make modest income-based rental contributions generally not exceeding 30 percent of their income. The balance of rent and utilities is covered by the organization through a combination of grants, donations, and government housing subsidies.

2 Describe who qualifies for your housing in terms of income levels or other criteria and explain how you select residents.

Stepping Stones Project provides housing to disadvantaged individuals and families, with priority for veterans, single mothers, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Applicants must earn at or below 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined by HUD. Selection is based on an application and screening process that verifies income, household size, and qualifying status. Preference is given to those experiencing homelessness, unstable housing, or unsafe living conditions. If demand exceeds available units, applicants are placed on a waitlist and admitted based on urgency of need and availability. Stepping Stones Project is committed to equal opportunity housing and does not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, or any other protected status.

3 Do you meet the safe harbor requirements outlined in Revenue Procedure 96-32, 1996-1 C.B. 717, which provides guidelines for providing low-income housing that will be treated as charitable, including for each project that (a) at least 75 percent of the units are occupied by residents that qualify as low-income and (b) either at least 20 percent of the units are occupied by residents that also meet the very low-income limit for the area or 40 percent of the units are occupied by residents that also do not exceed 120 percent of the area's very low-income limit, and less than 25 percent of the units are provided at market rates to persons who have incomes in excess of the low-income limit?





4 Is your housing affordable to low-income residents? If "Yes," describe how your housing is made affordable to low-income residents.

Yes

	Ν	o
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Stepping Stones Project ensures housing is affordable by limiting resident rent contributions to no more than 30 percent of household income, consistent with HUD standards for affordability. All residents must qualify as low-income, generally at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). The difference between tenant contributions and actual housing costs is covered by grants, donations, and, when available, government housing subsidies or vouchers. This model guarantees that residents facing financial hardship can secure safe, stable housing without being overburdened by rent.

5 Do you impose any restrictions to make sure that your housing remains affordable to low-income residents? If "Yes," describe these restrictions.

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res

1	NI_
	INO

Yes. Stepping Stones Project restricts occupancy to applicants earning at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) as defined by HUD. Rent is capped at no more than 30 percent of household income, ensuring ongoing affordability. Lease agreements and program policies expressly prohibit charging market-rate rents. When accepting grants or government subsidies, we comply with all affordability covenants tied to those funds. These restrictions guarantee that housing remains dedicated to low-income residents and cannot be diverted to higher-income tenants.

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	Schedule F. Low-Income Housing (continued)			-
6	In addition to rent or mortgage payments, do residents pay periodic fees or maintenance charges? If "Yes," do what these charges cover and how they are determined.	escribe Yes	No	_
7	Do you provide social services to residents? If "Yes " describe these services	Yes	(No	

Do you participate in any government housing programs? If "Yes," describe these programs. Yes. Stepping Stones Project plans to participate in government housing programs administered through the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). This will allow low-income residents to contribute a portion of their income toward rent while the voucher covers the balance. Participation in CHA programs ensures that housing remains affordable to residents at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) and aligns our operations with HUD affordability standards. This partnership will help us expand access to safe, stable housing for disadvantaged populations in Chicago.

Schedule G. Successors to Other Organizations

	Constant C. Guestassis to Canol Organizations		
1	List the name, last address, and EIN of your predecessor organization and describe its activities.		
	List the owners, partners, principal stockholders, officers, and governing board members of your predecessor organization. Include their names, addresses, and share/interest in the predecessor organization (if for-profit).		
	Are you a successor to a for-profit organization? If "Yes," explain your relationship with the predecessor organization that resulted in your creation and explain why you took over the activities or assets of a for-profit organization or converted from for-profit to nonprofit status; continue to Line 4.		
	Explain your relationship with the other organization that resulted in your creation and why you took over the activities or assets of another organization.		

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	Schedule G. Successors to Other Organizations (continued)				
4	Do or will you maintain a working relationship with any of the persons listed in question 2 or with any for-profit organization in which these persons own more than a 35% interest? If "Yes," describe the relationship.		Yes	No	
5	Were any assets transferred, whether by gift or sale, from the predecessor organization to you? If "Yes," provice of assets, indicate the value of each asset, explain how the value was determined, and attach an appraisal, if available. For each asset listed, also explain if the transfer was by gift, sale, or combination thereof and describe restrictions that were placed on the use or sale of the assets.		Yes	No	
6	Were any debts or liabilities transferred from the predecessor for-profit organization to you? If "Yes," provide a the debts or liabilities that were transferred to you, indicating the amount of each, how the amount was determined and the name of the person to whom the debt or liability is owed.		Yes	No	
7	Will you lease or rent any property or equipment to or from the predecessor organization or any persons listed 2 or a for-profit organization in which these persons own more than a 35% interest? If "Yes," describe the arrangement(s) including how the lease or rental value was determined.	in Line	Yes	No	_

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Schedule H. Organizations Providing Scholarships, Fellowships, Educational Loans, or Other Educational Grants to Individuals and Private Foundations Requesting Advance Approval of Individual Grant Procedures

S	Public charities and private foundations complete lines 1 through 8 of this section.
	Describe the types of educational grants you provide to individuals, such as scholarships, fellowships, loans, etc., including the purpose, number and amount(s) of grants, how the program is publicized, and if you award educational loans, the terms of the loans.
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.
2	Do you maintain case histories showing recipients of your scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants, including names, addresses, purposes of awards, amount of each grant, manner of selection, and relationship (if any) to officers, trustees, or donors of funds to you? If "No," explain.
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.
3	Describe the specific criteria you use to determine who is eligible for your program (for example, eligibility selection criteria could consist of graduating high school students from a particular high school who will attend college, writers of scholarly works about American history, etc.).
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.
ŀ	Describe the specific criteria you use to select recipients (for example, specific selection criteria could consist of prior academic performance, financial need, etc.).
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.

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Schedule H. Organizations Providing Scholarships, Fellowships, Educational Loans, or Other Educational Grants to Individuals and Private Foundations Requesting Advance Approval of Individual Grant Procedures (continued)

5	Describe any requirement or condition you impose on recipients to obtain, maintain, or qualify for renewal of a grant (for example, specific requirements or conditions could consist of attendance at a four-year college, maintaining a certain grade point average, teaching in public school after graduation from college, etc.).				
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.				
6	Describe your procedures for supervising the scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants. Explain whether you obtain reports and grade transcripts from recipients, or you pay grants directly to a school under an arrangement whereby the school will apply the grant funds only for enrolled students who are in good standing. Also, describe your procedures for taking action if the terms of the award are violated.				
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.				
7	How do you determine who is on the selection committee for the awards made under your program?				
	We do not offer scholarships, fellowships, educational loans, or other educational grants.				
8	Are relatives of members of the selection committee, or of your officers, directors, or substantial contributors eligible for awards made under your program? If "Yes," what measures do you take to ensure unbiased selections?				
	Do not complete the rest of Schedule H. If you are a private foundation, you will be directed to complete Section II of Schedule H later in the application.				

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Schedule H. Organizations Providing Scholarships, Fellowships, Educational Loans, or Other Educational Grants to Individuals and Private Foundations Requesting Advance Approval of Individual Grant Procedures (continued)

		<u>′ </u>	
S	ection II Private foundations complete lines 1 through 7 of this section. Public charities do not complete this	section.	
1	As a private foundation, do you want this application to be considered as a request for advance approval of grant making procedures?	Yes	No
	If "No," do not complete the rest of Schedule H.		
1a	Check the box(es) indicating under which section(s) you want your grant making procedures to be considered.		
	4945(g)(1) - Scholarship or fellowship grant to an individual for study at an educational institution		
	4945(g)(3) - Other grants, including loans, to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes, to enhance the grantee or to produce a specific product	a particular	skill of
2	Do you represent that you will (1) arrange to receive and review grantee reports annually and upon completion of the purpose for which the grant was awarded, (2) investigate diversions of funds from their intended purposes, and (3) take all reasonable and appropriate steps to recover diverted funds, ensure other grant funds held by a grantee are used for their intended purposes, and withhold further payments to grantees until you obtain grantees' assurances that future diversions will not occur and that grantees will take extraordinary precautions to prevent future diversions from occurring?	Yes	No
3	Do you represent that you will maintain all records relating to individual grants, including information obtained to evaluate grantees, identify whether a grantee is a disqualified person, establish the amount and purpose of each grant, and establish that you undertook the supervision and investigation of grants described in Line 2?	Yes	No
4	Do you or will you award scholarships, fellowships, and educational loans to attend an educational institution based on the status of an individual being an employee of a particular employer?	Yes	No
	If "No," do not complete the rest of Schedule H.		
5	Will you comply with the seven conditions and either the percentage tests or facts and circumstances test for scholarships, fellowships, and educational loans to attend an educational institution as set forth in Revenue Procedures 76-47, 1976-2 C.B. 670, and 80-39, 1980-2 C.B. 772, which apply to inducement, selection committee, eligibility requirements, objective basis of selection, employment, course of study, and other objectives?	Yes	No
6	Do you or will you provide scholarships, fellowships, or educational loans to attend an educational institution to employees of a particular employer? If "No," continue to Line 7.	Yes	No
6a	Will you award grants to 10% or fewer of the eligible applicants who were actually considered by the selection committee in selecting recipients of grants in that year as provided by Revenue Procedures 76-47 and 80-39?	Yes	No
7	Do you provide scholarships, fellowships, or educational loans to attend an educational institution to children of employees of a particular employer?	Yes	No
	If "No," do not complete the rest of Schedule H.		
7a	Will you award grants to 25% or fewer of the eligible applicants who were actually considered by the selection committee in selecting recipients of grants in that year as provided by Revenue Procedures 76-47 and 80-39?	Yes	No
	If "Yes " do not complete the rest of Schedule H		

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Schedule H. Organizations Providing Scholarships, Fellowships, Educational Loans, or Other Educational Grants to Individuals and Private Foundations Requesting Advance Approval of Individual Grant Procedures (continued)

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7b	Will you award grants to 10% or fewer of the number of employees' children who can be shown to be eligible for grants (whether or not they submitted an application) in that year, as provided by Revenue Procedures 76-47 and 80-39? If "Yes," describe how you will determine who can be shown to be eligible for grants without submitting an application, such as by obtaining written statements or other information about the expectations of employees' children to attend an educational institution; do not complete the rest of Schedule H.	Yes	No
7c	Will you award grants based on facts and circumstances that demonstrate that the grants will not be considered compensation for past, present, or future services or otherwise provide a significant benefit to the particular employer? If "Yes," describe the facts and circumstances you believe will demonstrate that the grants are neither compensatory nor a significant benefit to the particular employer. In your explanation, describe why you cannot satisfy either the 25% test or the 10% test in questions 7a and 7b.	Yes	No