Startup Cost Estimator (Nonprofit & For-Profit)

# I. Introduction

**Purpose of the Tool**  
To help new entrepreneurs, whether starting a nonprofit or a for-profit enterprise, identify and estimate the full range of initial startup costs, improve financial planning, and funding readiness.

**Who This Tool Is For**  
Designed for founders, board members, or small business advisors preparing to launch a new venture or program.

**How to Use This Estimator**  
Fill in cost categories with realistic projections, note assumptions, and revisit estimates as new data becomes available.

# II. Business Overview

Business or Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Structure (e.g., nonprofit 501(c)(3), sole proprietorship, LLC): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Industry/Sector: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Launch Date (Projected): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mission Statement or Business Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# III. One-Time Startup Costs

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Description | Estimated Cost | Notes/Assumptions |
| Legal & Licensing |  |  |  |
| Office Setup |  |  |  |
| Equipment & Technology |  |  |  |
| Marketing & Branding |  |  |  |
| Insurance |  |  |  |
| Initial Inventory or Supplies |  |  |  |
| Professional Services |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |

# IV. Monthly Operating Expenses (First 6–12 Months)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Estimated Monthly Cost | Notes/Assumptions |
| Rent / Utilities |  |  |
| Staff Salaries / Stipends |  |  |
| Program or Service Costs |  |  |
| Office Supplies |  |  |
| Marketing & Outreach |  |  |
| Software Subscriptions |  |  |
| Transportation / Delivery |  |  |
| Contingency / Unexpected |  |  |

# V. Funding Sources

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Source | Amount | Status (Secured/Pending) | Notes |
| Personal Funds |  |  |  |
| Donations (Nonprofit) |  |  |  |
| Grants (Nonprofit) |  |  |  |
| Loans (For-profit) |  |  |  |
| Investor Capital (For-profit) |  |  |  |
| In-kind Contributions |  |  |  |

# VI. Total Startup Cost Summary

Total One-Time Costs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Monthly Operating Costs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Funds Needed (6–12 months runway): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Funding Secured: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Funding Gap: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# VII. Breakeven Considerations

Fixed vs. Variable Costs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Revenue Model: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Monthly Revenue (First 12 Months): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Time to Breakeven Estimate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# VIII. Notes & Assumptions

Use this section to document key assumptions, future changes, or evolving cost variables (e.g., rent changes, seasonal sales spikes).