Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

1. **Determine the organization's mission and vision.** It is the Board's responsibility to create and review the organization’s mission and vision statements. They should articulate the organization's overall goal(s) and primary beneficiaries.

2. **Select the chief executive.** Boards must reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position. The chief executive serves at the pleasure of the Board.

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Enhance the organization's public standing**. The Board should clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.

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

10. **Evaluate its own performance**. On a periodic basis (determined by the Board), the Board should take a step back from its regular business to reflect on how well it is doing in meeting its responsibilities. The process should include a review of its strategic goals and performance, financial obligations and fundraising, value it provides to its members/community and how its overall performance can be strengthened.

Source: BoardSource 1828 L Street NW Suite 900, Washington DC 20036-5114