



**Center for
Nonprofit Leadership**
at ADELPHI UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work

Board of Directors' Assessment

Considerations	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Unsure	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree
1. Board has a full and a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the board.					
2. Board members understand the organization's mission, vision, and services/ programs.					
3. Structural pattern (board, officers, committees, executives and staff) is clear, delineated in bylaws, and followed by board.					
4. There are an adequate number of well-functioning board committees and other work groups.					
5. Board members actively participate in strategic planning and ongoing strategic thinking.					
6. The board has adopted, and uses, explicit measures of progress toward identified outcomes.					
7. Board attends to policy-related decisions which effectively guide operational activities of staff.					

<p>8. Board receives regular reports on finances/budgets, service/program performance and other important matters.</p>					
<p>9. Board helps set fundraising goals and is actively involved in some aspect of fundraising.</p>					
<p>10. All board members make a personal financial contribution to organization.</p>					
<p>11. Board effectively represents the organization to the community (i.e. has an “elevator speech.”)</p>					
<p>12. Board meetings facilitate focus and progress on important organizational matters with reporting kept to a minimum.</p>					
<p>13. Board meetings are adequate in length and held at the right time of the day.</p>					
<p>14. Board regularly evaluates and develops yearly goals with the chief executive.</p>					
<p>15. The board reviews the compensation of the Executive Director based on industry standards.</p>					
<p>16. Board has approved comprehensive personnel policies which have been reviewed by a qualified professional.</p>					
<p>17. All necessary skills, stakeholders and diversity are represented on the board.</p>					
<p>18. Board culture encourages and welcomes open discussion, even when members disagree.</p>					
<p>19. Board has an emergency succession plan for executive.</p>					

Considerations	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Unsure	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree
20. Board is attentive to building leadership capacity on both board and staff.					
21. Board regularly assesses itself as a whole and also board member participation individually.					
22. Board has a packet of materials for new board members and an orientation process for them.					
23. Board has a board agreement, a whistleblower policy and a conflict of interest policy that all board members must sign and follow.					
24. A strategic process is in place for developing the board.					
25. The board regularly monitors financial performance and projections.					
26. Board members are sufficiently knowledgeable to ask meaningful questions about finances and financial management.					
27. The board reviews the audit report and has an opportunity to ask questions of the auditor at an exit conference.					
28. The board reviews the 990 before filing.					
29. Board discussions focus on the organization's future NOT its past.					
30. Each member of the board feels involved and interested in the board's work.					

What specifically would help to make you a more engaged board member?

Please list the three to five issues on which you believe the board should focus its attention in the next year. Be as specific as possible in identifying these points.

1.

2.

3.

4.

In ten years, what do you believe is the single most important impact that this organization should have on the community it serves?