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Check to see if nonprofit needs license

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If you are the director of a nonprofit organization and expect potential contributions of more than \$8,000 annually, you might need a license.

Specifically, you should look into filing for a charitable solicitation license.

The Michigan Charitable Solicitations Act requires a license for charitable organizations that solicit funds from the public.

A charitable organization is one that is organized and operated for purposes that are beneficial to the public interest. Your nonprofit might be exempt from licensing, though, so check with the attorney general's office.

A 1-year charitable solicitation license is easy to obtain - and free. The application must be turned in with a copy of your previously filed 990 form and financial statements.

If your organization solicits funds from other states, it might be necessary to file for a license from each. Each state's requirements can be found at multistatefiling.org.

To file for a license in Michigan, go to the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Division Web site at www.michigan.gov/ag.

You can find the requirements, along with an online application.

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