

# Operations: Leaning into Free Expert Help

Starting a mission-driven organization can be tough. It's a lot of work, but the pay off -- helping people affected by disease -- is extremely rewarding.

Remember: You're not alone in this journey. There are experts who want to support you -- sometimes even for free! Lean into this network. Help them help you.

This worksheet will aid you in assembling a network of free expert help who will not only advocate for your cause, but take your organization to the next level.

1. Identify the areas your organization is not fully up to speed on. These could include finance, communications, fundraising, policy, etc.

2. Who from your network would be able to assist you in these shortfalls? Think through your schooling, past roles, friends, volunteer experiences, etc.

3. Are there opportunities to work with firms or individuals on a pro bono basis? If so, which ones?

4. What time commitment would you be looking for from this expert per week and per month? For each different skill set, list them here.

5. With all of this information in mind, reach out to the people above to gauge their interest and willingness to commit the time and effort to your cause. If they say no, don't be discouraged. Ask if they know anyone who might be able to help. If they have a skill, they're likely to know others with a similar skillset.

Remember, having diversity in thinking and perspective is just as important as having a diverse team. Your panel of experts will help set your priorities and be a guide as you look to grow and expand your organization.

Excellent work. You're well on your way to having a rock star panel of experts that will make your organization shine.