

STANDARDS



COE DEVELOPED CSBG ORGANIZATIONAL STANDARDS

Calendar of Board Actions

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Introduction

The CSBG organizational standards provide a standard foundation of organizational capacity for all CSBG Eligible Entities (CEEs) across the United States. The Federal Office of Community Services' [Information Memorandum \(IM\) 138](#) provides direction to States and CEEs on establishing organizational standards by FY 2016 and includes the final wording of the standards developed by the OCS-funded organizational standards Center of Excellence (COE).

The COE-developed organizational standards are comprehensive and were developed by and for the CSBG Network through the work of the CSBG Working Group. They work together to characterize an effective and healthy organization while reflecting the vision and values of Community Action and the requirements of the CSBG Act.

The CSBG Act places significant responsibility on governing boards stating that they must fully participate in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs supported by CSBG. This call to action for boards is a core element of Community Action and is thus reflected strongly in the COE-developed organizational standards throughout the nine categories, not just Board Governance. For more information on Community Action Agency Boards of Directors and the CSBG Organizational Standards, please see this short [two page introduction](#).

This tool, in conjunction with the [Assessment Tools](#) and [Glossary](#), are intended to give you practical places to start assessing and ramping up for the implementation of organizational standards. This “Calendar of Required Actions” in particular is intended to help you internally plan and track what actions must be taken and when. Of the 58 organizational standards for Private (nonprofit) CEEs, the ones that specifically require review, approval, or other action by the governing board are noted below. Each standard is categorized into one of six categories and has box next to it to easily turn this tool into a checklist. The standards fall into one of seven categories:

- Maintained
- More Frequent Than Annual/As Needed
- Annually
- Every 2 years
- Every 3 years
- Every 5 years
- Related Standards

Many Standards have a time frame in the text of the Standard. For example:

5.6 - Each governing board member has signed a conflict of interest policy within the past 2 years.

Some Standards, however, do not state an exact time frame but refer to something that does happen on a routine basis such as:

8.4 - The governing board formally receives and accepts the audit.

In this case the audit happens annually so the board receiving and accepting the audit would happen in conjunction with that process and is thus put into the same “Annually” category.

Other Standards are statements that are would always be true to be in compliance, or once adopted there is no requirement for when it would be revisited. These Standards fall under the category of “Maintained”. For example:

4.2 The organization’s Community Action plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

or

8.13 The organization has a written policy in place for record retention and destruction.

Are there ways this tool can be improved? Let the Organizational Standards Center of Excellence know! You can contact Jarle Crocker at jcrocker@communityactionpartnership.com or Cashin Yiu at cyiu@communityactionpartnership.com.

This publication was created by National Association of Community Action Agencies – Community Action Partnership in the performance of the U.S. Department of Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services Grant Numbers 90ET0434 and 90ET0445. Any opinion, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Maintain

- 1.3** The organization has a systematic approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the governing board.
- 4.5** The organization has a written succession plan in place for the CEO/ED, approved by the governing board, which contains procedures for covering an emergency/unplanned, short-term absence of 3 months or less, as well as outlines the process for filling a permanent vacancy.
- 5.1** The organization's governing board is structured in compliance with the CSBG Act: 1. At least one third democratically-selected representatives of the low-income community; 2. One-third local elected officials (or their representatives); and 3. The remaining membership from major groups and interests in the community.
- 5.2** The organization's governing board has written procedures that document a democratic selection process for low-income board members adequate to assure that they are representative of the low-income community.
- 7.7** The organization has a whistleblower policy that has been approved by the governing board.

As Needed/More Frequent than Annually

- 5.5** The organization's governing board meets in accordance with the frequency and quorum requirements and fills board vacancies as set out in its bylaws.
- 5.7** The organization has a process to provide a structured orientation for governing board members within 6 months of being seated.
- 5.9** The organization's governing board receives programmatic reports at each regular board meeting.
- 8.7** The governing board receives financial reports at each regular meeting that include the following:
 1. Organization-wide report on revenue and expenditures that compares budget to actual, categorized by program; and
 2. Balance sheet/statement of financial position.

Annually

- 4.4** The governing board receives an annual update on the success of specific strategies included in the Community Action plan.
- 6.5** The governing board has received an update(s) on progress meeting the goals of the strategic plan within the past 12 months.
- 7.4** The governing board conducts a performance appraisal of the CEO/executive director within each calendar year.
- 7.5** The governing board reviews and approves CEO/executive director compensation within every calendar year.
- 8.2** All findings from the prior year's annual audit have been assessed by the organization and addressed where the governing board has deemed it appropriate.
- 8.3** The organization's auditor presents the audit to the governing board.
- 8.4** The governing board formally receives and accepts the audit.
- 8.6** The IRS Form 990 is completed annually and made available to the governing board for review.
- 8.9** The governing board annually approves an organization-wide budget.
- 9.3** The organization has presented to the governing board for review or action, at least within the past 12 months, an analysis of the agency's outcomes and any operational or strategic program adjustments and improvements identified as necessary.

Every 2 Years

- 4.6** An organization-wide, comprehensive risk assessment has been completed within the past 2 years and reported to the governing board.
- 5.4** The organization documents that each governing board member has received a copy of the bylaws within the past 2 years.
- 5.6** Each governing board member has signed a conflict of interest policy within the past 2 years.
- 5.8** Governing board members have been provided with training on their duties and responsibilities within the past 2 years.
- 8.10** The fiscal policies have been reviewed by staff within the past 2 years, updated as necessary, with changes approved by the governing board.

Every 3 Years

- 3.5** The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Every 5 Years

- 4.1** The governing board has reviewed the organization's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that:
1. The mission addresses poverty; and 2. The organization's programs and services are in alignment with the mission.
- 6.1** The organization has an agency-wide strategic plan in place that has been approved by the governing board within the past 5 years.
- 7.1** The organization has written personnel policies that have been reviewed by an attorney and approved by the governing board within the past 5 years.
- 8.11** A written procurement policy is in place and has been reviewed by the governing board within the past 5 years.

Related Standards

These are standards that do not specifically call on the governing board in the standard itself to perform an action, but are part of a larger organizational process that involves the governing board (such as the required elements in an approved strategic plan or community assessment).

- 3.1** The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.
- 3.2** As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).
- 3.3** The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.
- 3.4** The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.
- 4.2** The organization's Community Action plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.
- 4.3** The organization's Community Action plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). In addition, the organization documents having used the services of a ROMA-certified trainer (or equivalent) to assist in implementation.
- 5.3** The organization's bylaws have been reviewed by an attorney within the past 5 years.
- 6.2** The approved strategic plan addresses reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people with low incomes to become more self-sufficient.
- 6.3** The approved strategic plan contains family, agency, and/or community goals.
- 6.4** Customer satisfaction data and customer input, collected as part of the community assessment, is included in the strategic planning process.