

## Governance

# New partnership brings transparency to nonprofits' governance practices

BoardSource and GuideStar recently announced a new partnership that will enable nonprofit organizations to share information about how their organizations are governed, shedding light on a critical indicator of organizational strength and stability that is often hidden from public understanding or view.

Moving forward, nonprofit organizations will be asked to share information about essential board leadership practices as a part of their profiles on the GuideStar Exchange. BoardSource and GuideStar worked together to create this new section, which features questions about board orientation and education, CEO oversight, ethics and transparency, board composition and board performance.

“We believe that this initiative will create a seismic shift in the public’s understanding of governance and board leadership as a critical factor in organizational strength and accountability, and will lead to stronger governance practices by individual nonprofits,” said Anne Wallestad, president and CEO of BoardSource.

The GuideStar Exchange is the only program of its kind that allows nonprofit organizational leaders to supplement the public information that is available from the IRS. GuideStar encourages nonprofit organizational leaders to update their profiles by answering the new governance and board leadership questions, the first step in this initiative to help

organizations transparently share information about their board leadership practices. In a few months, that information will be visible to the public in a new section of the GuideStar profile focused on people and governance, the company said.

“GuideStar is regularly used as a source for data on nonprofit finances, leadership and impact, and BoardSource is known as the definitive source for board leadership best practices and guidance,” said Jacob Harold, president and CEO of GuideStar. “Together, we’re going to be able to provide the millions of people who come to GuideStar each year to learn about nonprofits with vital information about an organization’s governance practices as well as educate organizations and the general public about the importance of effective board leadership. We’re thrilled.”

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### For more information

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With 25 years of experience, BoardSource provides leaders with an extensive range of tools and resources to increase boards’ effectiveness and strengthen organizational impact. Learn more at <http://www.boardsource.org>. GuideStar connects people and organizations with information on the programs, finances and impact of more than 1.8 million IRS-recognized nonprofits. Learn more at <http://www.guidestar.org>. ■