Get Involved!

For more information on WAACO or to apply for legal assistance or become a volunteer attorney, please contact WAACO at 1-866-288-9695 (toll-free) or contact@waaco.org.

Washington
Attorneys
Assisting
Community
Organizations

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Community-based nonprofits can benefit from business legal counsel for free!

Washington
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Assisting
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Organizations

Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) provides eligible nonprofit organizations with access to free legal assistance on business-related legal matters.

WAACO · 1-866-288-9695 (toll-free)
P.O. Box 2134 · Seattle, WA 98111-2134
www.waaco.org · contact@waaco.org

Value of Legal Help

Nonprofits throughout Washington State improve our communities by providing social, educational, cultural and charitable services and promoting economic development in distressed areas. These organizations require ongoing legal assistance to stabilize their operations and increase their capacities. Yet many cannot afford to pay for an attorney's business-related legal help.

Mission

WAACO's mission is to promote community development and organizational capacity-building in Washington State by assisting charitable and community-based nonprofit corporations to obtain free legal assistance on business-related matters.

Service

WAACO will refer eligible organizations to volunteer attorneys who can help with matters ranging from maintenance of tax-exempt status to complex business contracts and transactions.

Eligible Organizations

To be eligible for free legal assistance through WAACO, an organization must demonstrate that it

- has a primarily charitable or community-based purpose,
- is or seeks to become a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization,
- is unable to pay for legal fees without significant impairment of program resources, and
- seeks legal assistance on a business or organizational matter (i.e., legal issues unrelated to current or expected litigation).

Start-up organizations are eligible for legal assistance, provided that they satisfy the other eligibility criteria and demonstrate potential viability.

Business Legal Matters

Business-related legal services provided through WAACO include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Organizational formation and governance (e.g., incorporation, fiduciary duties, liability insurance).
- Taxation (e.g., general advice regarding state and local taxes, application/maintenance of exempt status).
- Business contracts, structure and transactions (e.g., partnerships, joint ventures, reorganizations, mergers).
- Employment (e.g., contracts, human resources, personnel policies).
- Real estate (e.g., leases, property taxes).
- Intellectual property (e.g., trademarks, copyrights, technology licenses).