

Follow Your Organizational Path: A Written Guide

- If you do not plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, you have created an unincorporated association.
- If you plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, and your organization is NOT a nonprofit, you must choose a for-profit organizing structure.
- If you do plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, you will have the option to register as that 501(c) organization.
- If you do plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, but relies heavily on donors, C-corporation may be a good option because this is the IRS default type and donors are more familiar with this structure and more likely to invest in them.
- If you do plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, but relies heavily on donors, you could also consider S-corporation. S-corporation may not be as desirable as C-corporation to donors but if you qualify to be an S-corporation, the organization is not double taxed.
- If you do plan on incorporating (registering with your state) your mutual aid organization, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, and you are worried about potential liability or engaging in an activity that has substantial potential for liability, an LLC or a hybrid method may be more desirable than C or S corporations as it affords the shareholders increased protection from liability.