

Endowment Building Readiness Checklist

**Adapted with permission from Helen Monroe, Endowment Development Consultants
by Cumberland Community Foundation**

The following criteria should be reviewed by your organization to determine readiness to build an endowment fund.

Key criteria:

- **Financial stability**
 - The organization has had positive year-end balances for the past three years.
 - The organization has a yearly fund raising plan.

- **Diverse income sources / community support**
 - The board members contribute financially.
 - The organization has a strong donor base (individual gifts).
 - The organization has good donor relations.

- **Operating reserves**
 - The organization has reserve funds.
 - Organizations should have operating reserves for emergencies before building an endowment.

- **Engaged board of directors**
 - The board members contribute annually.
 - Board members actively are involved in fund raising activities.

Cumberland Community Foundation Can Help!

A nonprofit organization that lacks financial stability or other “readiness” characteristics will benefit from partnering with Cumberland Community Foundation due to our stability, stewardship, and operational capacity. Established in 1980, the foundation manages over 500 funds totaling more than \$83 million. The foundation is audited annually and accredited by the National Standards for Community Foundations Board.