

Top Ten Tips to shorten the tax-exempt application process

Following these simple tips can save time and effort

10. Provide the required information on the principal officers and board of directors. List the following information for the principal officers and board of directors:

a) Names; b) Mailing addresses; c) Titles and Positions; d) Annual compensation

9. Ensure a director, trustee, principal officer or other authorized individual signs the Form 1024-

A. Generally, a principal officer is the president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. The person signing the application must indicate his or her title or other authority to sign. A taxpayer's representative may not sign the application. Form 1024-A must be electronically signed on www.pay.gov.

8. Don't forget to submit a copy of adopted by-laws, code of regulations or any other document that sets out the organization's rules of operation, but only if adopted.

7. Include all of the necessary financial data.

6. Include the month the organization's annual accounting period ends. The accounting period ending date on the application should match the date stated in your by-laws, on financial statements, and on any prior returns filed.

5. Attach all required schedules. Some lines require supporting schedules. Check all line items on financial statements.

4. Complete all required pages. The information contained on each of Form 1024-A is necessary for the IRS to make a determination about your tax-exempt status.

3. Provide enough information about the organization's activities to show us how it will achieve the exempt purpose. Please don't restate the purpose. Explain the specific activities that will achieve that purpose. Consider a "who, what, when, where, why and how" approach. Explain past, present, and planned activities. If you haven't started activity yet, develop plans that provide a clear understanding of how your organization will operate. It is not necessary to describe activities that are speculative at this time.

2. Attach a complete copy of the organizing document and all amendments. If the applicant is a corporation, include a complete copy of the articles of incorporation that shows it has been filed with and approved by the state. If the applicant is not incorporated, include a similar organizing document such as a constitution, articles of association, or by-laws. At a minimum, it should state the legal name, the purposes and the date of adoption. At least two members of the organization should sign the document. A trust document must be signed by the trustees and show the date of formation.

1. The Number 1 tip to reduce delays in processing exempt organization applications is...INCLUDE THE CORRECT USER FEE! Pay the correct [user fee](#) for Form 1024-A on Pay.gov using a bank account, debit card or credit card.

Following these ten tips can help shorten the time it takes to process an application for tax-exempt status. A correctly completed application, sent with all required documents and schedules has a good chance of being accepted with no further contact. If contact is necessary, the IRS agent can address the technical issues that need resolution without taking up time to get a completed application.