

State and National Free and Charitable Clinic Associations

After you have created your nonprofit organization and received notification from the IRS of your status as a tax-exempt organization, you should strongly consider joining the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics and your state association of free and charitable clinics, if you are fortunate enough to live in a state with an active association. These nonprofit, membership organizations exist for the sole purpose of supporting and advocating for and on behalf of community-based, free, and charitable clinics. Associations can provide a stronger voice when addressing systemic issues than individual clinic entities. In addition, they provide a venue for networking with your fellow clinic staff and volunteers that can provide invaluable information, resources, and contacts you can use in your clinic.

Some benefits of association membership include:

- Relatively low cost annual dues, high value clinic benefits
- Membership list with contact information for clinics in your state
- Conferences and meetings to meet other charitable clinic staff and volunteers
- Regulatory guidance
- Group insurance plans
- Job postings
- Guidance on operating your clinic
- Buying groups that can save your clinic money, particularly on pharmaceuticals and medical supplies
- Funding opportunities
- Relationships with vendors of products and services used in the sector
- Statistical gathering and reporting on clinic services and delivery
- Electronic communication tools
- Continuing education units
- Advocacy for charitable clinics nationally as well as state specific

- Someone to monitor issues relevant to your clinic and disseminate that information
- Networking, networking, networking

See the NAFC website for an updated list of the many state and national associations.