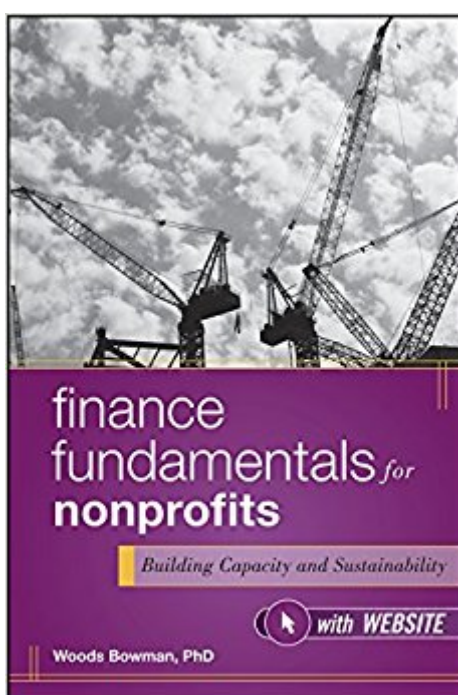


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# Finance Fundamentals For Nonprofits, With Website: Building Capacity And Sustainability (Wiley Nonprofit Authority)



## Synopsis

A complete guide to the financial requirements a nonprofit organization must follow to indefinitely maintain the volume and quality of their services. An organization may have plenty of capacity in the long run, but in the short run, donor restrictions and limited financing options are constraining. Here-and-now liquid assets are the only resources available. *Finance Fundamentals for Nonprofits: Building Capacity and Sustainability* shows how to measure a nonprofit organization's financial capacity in different time frames and how to measure its ability to sustain capacity in each case. Explains how nonprofits differ from businesses and how they promote values-centered management. Reveals how to improve financial capacity and sustainability. Written by a nonprofit scholar. Filled with real-world case studies and actionable advice relating financial health to financial capacity and sustainability, this book is essential reading for every nonprofit professional.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well developed basic concepts on how to determine the health of a nonprofit organization. Good balance of how profit and nonprofit have similarities, but focuses on the nonprofits.

need to evaluate their fiscal health. This is not a simple read and act book, but one for the serious leadership team that wants to fully analyze the financial health of their organization. The basic concepts discussed are a good resource for donors or investors trying to understand the workings of a nonprofit organization. This book summarizes graduate level classes of information in one source.

Good book. I was surprised that so few nonprofits in Ann Arbor have this on the shelf.

If this had been written in a less stilted and stuffy style it would have been five stars. Otherwise an excellent resource of both information and ideas.

I have been involved in nonprofit organizations for over 30 years, as a program officer, a chief executive, board member and consultant. This book achieves an unusually good balance between analytic concepts and practical application. I believe it would be valuable to any nonprofit board member as well as to foundation program officers who are charged with evaluating the economic health of organizations they are evaluating. Most nonprofit executives would benefit from the book as well. I wish this book had been available as a resource 20+ years ago. Bowman posits basic concepts to use in evaluating the financial health of organizations that are conceptually sound, but more importantly imminently practical and reflective of the reality of how nonprofits really work. He understands what nonprofits have in common with for-profit businesses, but what distinguishes them as well. This book can help business professionals better apply their experience on nonprofit boards, while appreciating the inherent differences between that experience and the realities of nonprofits. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wishes to improve their practical knowledge of how to assess and foster the economic health of nonprofit organizations.

This book introduces the reader to the basics, beginning with the language used by finance experts, and goes on to illustrate how decisions regarding financing an organization's activities affect its ability to carry out its objectives. In other words, the book offers an excellent balance between a) informing persons who may be new to the workings of nonprofit organizations; and b) engaging in a sophisticated dialogue with persons who have a considerable amount of experience running a nonprofit organization. The author makes clear that the measures of success of nonprofit organizational performance are just as concrete and measurable as the single most highly touted measure of for-profit performance, namely, profit. However, there must be full understanding and

commitment to carrying out the nonprofit organization's goals on the part of administrators, the Board of Directors, and other interested parties. In the end, the discussion presented in this book is valuable not only because it is so practical, but because it is so thought provoking.

Having run two non-profits during my career, I find the information in this book to be invaluable. If I had had the book at the time I could have avoided some mistakes that I made and it would have made my financial records easier to compile and easier to use. And very helpful to potential donors. Monroe Roth

I have worked in the nonprofit sector for many years and was hoping for a book that would cover the key areas of nonprofit financial management: how to read and interpret financial statements, how to evaluate financial information, how to identify warning signs, how to understand nonprofit financial requirements (990s, maintaining 501-c-3 tax status, etc.), how to develop solid budgets, what the board or finance committee's responsibilities are with regard to financial oversight, what information should be included in financial reports, and how to calculate, interpret, and understand basic key financial ratios. I have read a few good books in the past on the subject and have a fairly good grasp of basic nonprofit finance, so I have a decent foundation of knowledge already. That said, I found this book to be overly cumbersome, very frustrating, and needlessly difficult to understand. Many topics were covered in a way that made them much more complicated than they needed to be and other important topics were barely covered at all. The main ingredient MISSING seemed to be how to understand and use key financial information and ratios to make good decisions as a nonprofit manager or board member. Multiple formulas were provided with great intricacy about what should be included or not included but with little to no basic explanation of what the formulas actually mean or how to apply them to real life situations and decision-making. Little practical advice was given on how to utilize any financial information, while multiple sections were included with largely irrelevant information (such as the tax codes for cemeteries, or a detailed explanation of conduits). It was very frustrating to really want to learn about nonprofit finance but feel that I was wasting my time and money with this book. There are many books out there that are significantly better (including Streetsmart's Financial Basics for Nonprofit Managers) and provide a much better grasp and overall understanding of nonprofit financial management. I can't recommend this one at all.

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