



# PAUSE

## Before You Start a Nonprofit

*A 25-Point Reality Check of What Led Others to Found Nonprofits*

**Instructions:** Check what resonates (honestly).

| P                                                 | A                                            | U                                                          | S                                               | E                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Didn't find a job                                 | Thought funders would find them              | Wanted ownership and control                               | Didn't want to write a business plan            | Always enjoyed volunteering                      |
| Loved the issue, not the infrastructure           | Thought nonprofits didn't need to make money | Didn't want to work with anyone else                       | Downloaded a template and swapped in their name | Thought 501(c)(3) status = success               |
| Saw an unmet need—but didn't map existing efforts | Had a falling out with another organization  | <b>"This feels like a calling"</b>                         | Couldn't get buy-in elsewhere                   | Thought nonprofits would collaborate immediately |
| Wanted to keep things informal                    | Avoided accountants, lawyers, and compliance | Thought it would be easier than a business                 | Didn't want to deal with logistics              | Felt lonely and wanted community                 |
| Thought startup costs would be covered            | Wanted a tax write-off structure             | Felt like it was more honorable not to charge for services | Testing viability of nonprofit vs. business     | Inherited assets, no clear plan                  |



## WHAT YOU MIGHT BE NOTICING

Identity & Personal Drivers

Misconceptions

Avoidance & Shortcuts

Strategy Gaps

Power & Control

### Reflection: Nonprofits Are Structures, Not Solutions

If several statements resonate, you might not need a new nonprofit. Instead, you might benefit from clearer strategy, partnerships, operational supports, or a different structure.

### Next Steps

Explore the interactive version: [WeAreAligna.com/Pause](https://WeAreAligna.com/Pause)

If you have a legal question related to nonprofits and you are in Washington, book an appointment through the A-Line. If you have a larger consulting project (even outside Washington), book a Strategy-Fit Call. Scan the QR code or visit [WeAreAligna.com](https://WeAreAligna.com)



*Most nonprofits don't fail because of bad intentions.*

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