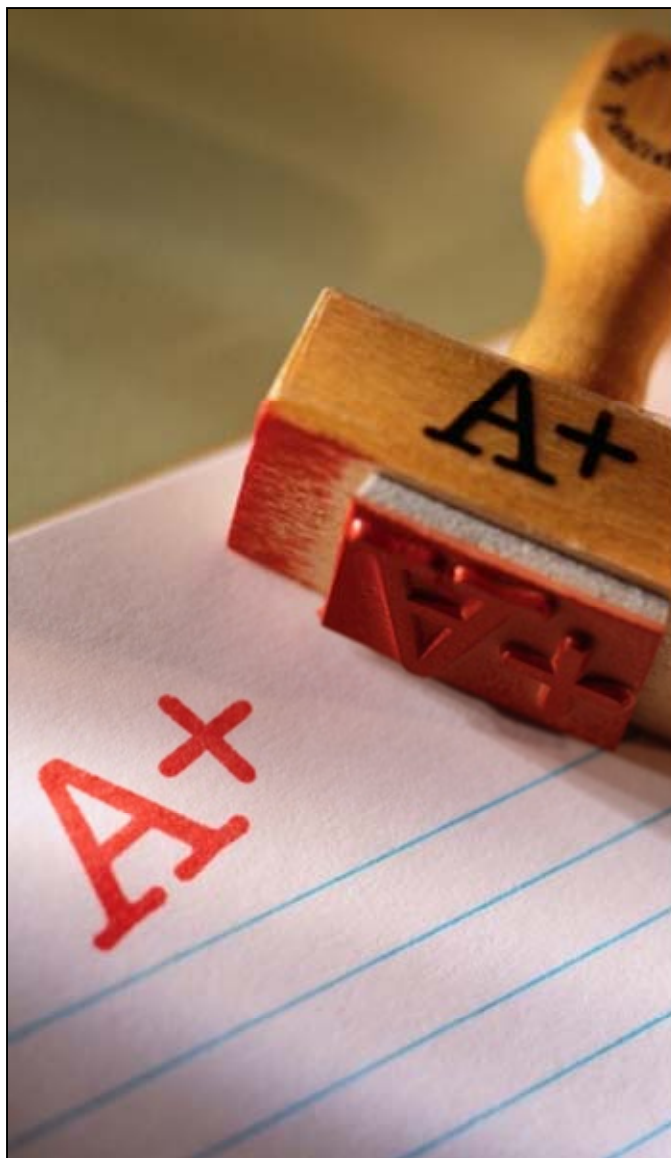


Terms & Definitions



Nonprofit Rating Systems and Implications for Evaluation

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Term	Definition
American Institute of Philanthropy	<p>The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) is a nationally prominent charity watchdog service whose purpose is to help donors make informed giving decisions.</p> <p>www.charitywatch.org</p>
Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance	<p>The BBB Wise Giving Alliance (the Alliance) helps donors make informed giving decisions and advances high standards of conduct among organizations that solicit contributions from the public. The Alliance produces in-depth evaluative reports on national charities based on comprehensive Standards for Charity Accountability and publishes a quarterly magazine, the Wise Giving Guide.</p> <p>www.bbb.org/us/charity</p>
The Center for What Works	<p>The Center for What Works is a nonprofit dedicated to building performance measurement capacity and developing a common language for the social sector to benchmark results, learn and improve.</p> <p>www.whatworks.org</p>
Charity Navigator	<p>Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of over 5,500 of America's largest charities.</p> <p>www.charitynavigator.org</p>
Charity Check	<p>(See GuideStar Charity Check)</p>

Term	Definition
Charting Impact	<p>At the heart of Charting Impact are five simple but powerful questions. This framework advances how organizations think about their intended impact. It is also a shared vehicle for concisely conveying your plans and progress to key stakeholders. Charting Impact is a joint initiative of Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, and GuideStar USA. Since 2009, we have drawn on the knowledge of more than 40 nonprofit leaders and have conducted pilot tests with another 40 organizations.</p> <p>www.independentsector.org/charting_impact</p>
Cultural Data Project	<p>Operated by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Cultural Data Project is a powerful online management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations. This groundbreaking project gathers reliable, longitudinal data on the sector.</p> <p>www.culturaldata.org</p>
DonorEdge	(See GuideStar DonorEdge)
GiveWell	<p>GiveWell is an independent, nonprofit charity evaluator. We find outstanding charities and publish the full details of our analysis to help donors decide where to give. Unlike existing evaluators, which focus solely on financials, assessing administrative or fundraising costs, we focus on how well programs actually work – i.e., their effects on the people they serve.</p> <p>www.givewell.org</p>

Term	Definition
GreatNonprofits	GreatNonprofits is the leading developer of tools that allow people to find, review, and share information about great—and perhaps not yet great—nonprofits. greatnonprofits.org
GuideStar Charity Check	Verify charities and identify supporting organizations. www2.guidestar.org/
GuideStar DonorEdge	GuideStar's DonorEdge on-line research engine helps you to build community knowledge and to make it accessible to inspire charitable giving. Creating community knowledge is a distinct value-add for community foundations whose challenge today is to remain relevant to donors by sharing knowledge about community issues and solutions provided by the most effective nonprofits.
GuideStar Take Action	TakeAction@GuideStar is a new resource for donors who want to give with their heads as well as their hearts. We've gathered information from expert partners to help you find the nonprofits that are making a difference in the causes that matter to you most. Consult expert analyses, read and write charity reviews, and donate online directly from GuideStar.

Term	Definition
Impact Reporting & Investment Standards (IRIS)	<p>IRIS is a common language for describing the social and environmental performance of an organization. IRIS provides an independent and credible set of metrics for organizations to use when reporting their impact. IRIS indicators span an array of performance objectives and include specialized metrics for a range of sectors including financial services, agriculture, and energy. Like financial accounting standards, IRIS provides a basis for performance reporting and organizations need only report on applicable metrics from the IRIS library.</p> <p>iris.thegiin.org</p>
Innovation Network	<p>Innovation Network is a nonprofit evaluation, research, and consulting firm. We provide knowledge and expertise to help nonprofits and funders learn from their work to improve their results.</p> <p>www.innonet.org</p>
insideGOOD	<p>insideGOOD is a nonprofit ratings website where employees, interns, volunteers & donors can rate their experiences working with, or donating to, nonprofits</p> <p>www.insidegood.com</p>
Pulse	<p>Pulse is the tool that Acumen Fund uses to gather and manage the financial, operational, and social data of our portfolio companies across different geographies and industries. Metrics data are collected monthly or quarterly to help us assess the real-time health and impact of our portfolio companies.</p> <p>www1.app-x.com/pulse</p>

Term	Definition
Philanthropedia	<p>Philanthropedia’s mission is to improve nonprofit effectiveness by directing money to and facilitating discussion about expert recommended high-impact nonprofits.</p> <p>www.myphilanthropedia.org</p>
Root Cause	<p>Root Cause partners with individuals and organizations from the nonprofit, government, and business sectors to generate solutions to longstanding social problems through the distribution of resources based on performance.</p> <p>www.rootcause.org</p>
State of Evaluation	<p>The State of Evaluation is a project of Innovation Network that surveys and reports on nonprofit evaluation capacity and practice every two years.</p> <p>www.stateofevaluation.org</p>
Success Measures Data System	<p>Success Measures is an innovative approach for community-based organizations and their partners to document outcomes, measure impact, and inform change. Success Measures provides a practical and user-friendly participatory evaluation method that engages an organization's stakeholders in developing, implementing, and analyzing results.</p> <p>www.successmeasures.org</p>
Take Action	<p>(See GuideStar Take Action)</p>