

# Fiscal Sponsorship

A Smarter, Faster Way to Launch and Grow Your Nonprofit. By Aha Projects.



**Focus on the work you were called to do and let AHA manage the administrative lift behind the scenes. Fiscal Sponsorship, administered under the Aha Projects' umbrella, offers a practical way for mission-driven leaders to step into their work with confidence, knowing the compliance, bookkeeping, and operational safeguards are in expert hands.**

## Who It's For

This program supports organizations under \$500,000 in revenue, along with emerging initiatives, community projects, and short-term efforts that need a legal home and sound financial oversight. It helps leaders, committed to community benefit, who lack the staff capacity to manage core operations. Ideal partners are mission-driven, collaborative, and ready to build a strong foundation for long-term success. The program is not for idea testing without a clear charitable purpose. Sponsored projects must show measurable community value and meet nonprofit standards.

## What's Included

Aha Projects' Fiscal Sponsorship provides the core infrastructure most early nonprofits struggle to build. Sponsored organizations receive:

- Legal and tax-exempt status, bookkeeping, accounting, and IRS reporting
- Financial systems including AP/AR, bill payment, internal controls, and W9 compliance
- HR support such as payroll and contractor management
- Leadership, fundraising, and communications coaching
- Insurance support for programs and events
- Monthly financial statements and ongoing guidance

Each project partner has a dedicated bank account managed through Aha Projects' CFO and financial systems. Leaders participate in monthly coaching calls to review their numbers, address concerns, and grow with confidence.

## Expectations and Accountability

Sponsored projects must operate transparently, stay true to their missions, and show clear charitable impact. Fiscal Sponsorship protects financial integrity by regular expenditure review and ensures activities meet nonprofit standards. Trust and communication are essential, especially early on as groups build strong operational habits.

## Cost and Timeline

Fiscal Sponsorship from Aha Projects is designed to be accessible and cost-effective. Nonprofits should expect to budget approximately 6–10% of received revenue for administrative support, a rate that aligns with national averages of other Fiscal Projects but below market value standard for businesses. This structure is typically more affordable than hiring separate professionals for bookkeeping, accounting, and legal setup. It provides essential infrastructure without the overhead of full incorporation or day-to-day operational management. Most sponsored projects are ready to transition to independent nonprofit status within three years.

## Why Leaders Choose This Path

Many young nonprofits struggle because they lack the necessary administrative expertise or effective financial systems. Fiscal Sponsorship shortens the learning curve and prevents costly mistakes. Leaders can step away from bookkeeping, compliance, and tax preparation, staying centered on their mission.

Donors also benefit. Fewer redundant nonprofits and stronger management systems create greater transparency in accountability and more confidence that contributions are being used responsibly.

## What Success Looks Like

Success means building organizational strength, learning to manage financial and operational systems, and gaining the stability needed to grow programs. By partnering with Aha Projects, groups develop budgets, recruit advisory leadership, and build the momentum required to stand on their own.

## Why It Matters for Northern Nevada

Fiscal Sponsorship strengthens the region's nonprofit backbone by reducing duplication, improving collaboration, and opening doors for meaningful community ideas. Aligning with AHA Connects' larger mission, Fiscal Sponsorship by Aha Projects supports change-makers and increases the region's capacity for impact through shared services and responsible growth.

## Common Questions

### Will donors see us as legitimate?

Yes. Fiscal Sponsorship is a nationally recognized model. Aha Projects is part of the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors, and projects operate under Aha's tax-exempt status with full compliance.

### Will AHA control our mission?

No. You control your programs. Aha Projects protects the legal and financial framework.

### Will AHA hold our money?

Yes, funds are managed through a joint and dedicated account. Project leaders have full access to this account. Aha Projects is a member of the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors, and administers financial oversight in accordance with NFS policies.