

Top Five Ways Nonprofits Can Save Money (and Raise More) by Improving their Business Technology

Nonprofit organizations are juggling a lot of competing interests these days, between the increasing needs of their beneficiaries, the expectations of the board, and the importance of fundraising among them.

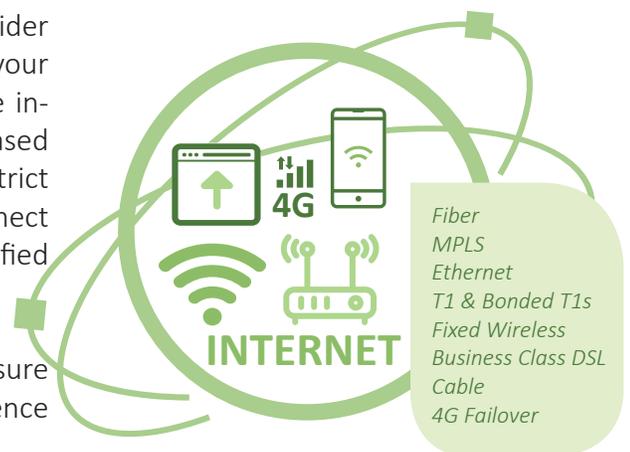
From donor solicitations and your cloud-based database to interoffice communications to social network posts, the backbone of a successful nonprofit—as with any business today—is having the technology tools necessary to support your work. It’s hard enough to raise money, stay within budget, and implement the organization’s mission without having to deal with outdated business technology that slows down your operation and could be costing you money in hidden (and not-so-hidden) costs.

Here are five ways that your nonprofit organization can improve your business technology and save money in the process.

1. Get the best internet access available at the best rate.

Internet access varies depending on your location and provider choices. To stay well connected to all your stakeholders and your computing infrastructure, you need the fastest, most reliable internet connection available in your market. Pricing will vary based on the type of connectivity. While we know nonprofits have strict budgets; did you know that in California, the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) will help offset the cost of internet access for qualified nonprofit organizations?

To see if you qualify visit: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ctf> . Make sure that you are working with a solution provider that has experience processing the CTF for your nonprofit.



2. Get free or discounted technology tools.

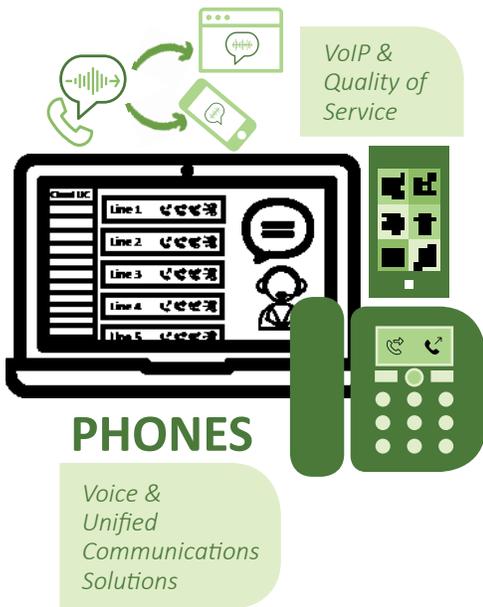
Most businesses use Microsoft Office as their primary tool, and use Office 365 because of its many collaborative and productivity-enhancing features. Office 365 provides a lot of bang for the buck, with a full suite of office tech tools that can be accessed at your office workstations or by your mobile staff or volunteers. Even better, qualified nonprofits can get [Office 365 Nonprofit](#) donated to them (giving your board of trustees something to crow about); and you may receive a substantial discount on Office 365 Nonprofit Business Premium as well as other products when your organization holds recognized charitable status.

3. Use cloud-based applications.

Every penny counts for nonprofit organizations and so does every minute for today’s workforce. Keep your staff and volunteers productive and working from anywhere, with access to the organization’s files, when you use software as a service (SaaS).

Cloud applications enable remote workers and volunteers in the field to have access to the same real-time data updates and can share files easily, regardless of location. Even better, SaaS is subscription based, so you can save money when compared to the cost of individual software licensing fees for your users. Plus, cloud-based apps are not housed on your on-premise server, but rather, in remote data centers that offer failover protocols and redundancies that keep your computing system up and running, even when your location is not accessible.

CLOUD UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS



4. Hosted communications save money and time.

Is your telecommunications system delivering what your nonprofit needs to be as efficient as possible? Will you be able to upgrade your system easily and cost efficiently?

Cloud-based unified communications (UC) enable your staff, members, donors, and volunteers to be mobile and yet connect the way they want—on a smartphone, via instant message, or from a desk handset. Feature-rich Cloud UC from ITS keeps everyone in touch, improves their follow-through, and maximizes their efficiencies from anywhere, all for less than traditional phone service. Discounts on your phone service are available as part of the California Teleconnect Fund and e-Rate program. If your nonprofit qualifies for these programs, ITS can offer substantial discounts of up to 50% on your telecommunications costs.

5. Invest in a managed IT services contract.

Simply put, having your computing network managed, monitored, and maintained is an investment with a powerful ROI. You'll avoid the headaches of expensive downtime because your system will be monitored 24/7/365—and problems will be identified and can be remedied proactively; plus, you'll have access to remote help desk or on-site tech support when something goes wrong.

Your data will be safeguarded against cybertheft, spam, and malware, so you can assure your donors that their sensitive information will be protected. Plus, your system is backed up on a regular basis to further protect your data and provide disaster recovery in case of natural disasters, extreme weather events, or a staff member opening an infected file..

You'll also have access to network engineers and consultants who can advise you on how to optimize your IT system and spend, manage your assets and vendors, and help you plan for future computing needs.



- Desktop & Network Support*
- Business Continuity*
- ITS Data Back-up*
- ITS Password Vault*
- Email/Spam Protection*
- Anti-Virus & Anti-Spam*
- Remote/On-Site Support*



As you can see, slow internet, older phone systems, no access to IT support when you need it—all these and more can sabotage your best fundraising and implementation efforts. When you provide the latest technology tools for your stakeholders, your nonprofit organization can save time, man hours, and money.

Here's another tip:

REQUEST YOUR
FREE TELECOM & IT ASSESSMENT

ITS is engineered for nonprofits. We are experts in the California Teleconnect Fund and e-rate programs, and have been providing IT and telephony solutions, services, and support to California nonprofit organizations and businesses since 1990. As a platinum member of the AT&T Partner Exchange, we offer secure, reliable networking and superior connectivity, with best-in-class solutions for internet, voice, cloud, and managed services. With ITS focusing on your technology, your team is freed up to focus on your mission and the communities you serve.

For a free telecommunication and IT assessment for your organization, and information on how to overcome your IT challenges, visit www.itstelecom.com/nonprofit.

For more information or a consultation, contact:



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