



The Nonprofit's 2026 IT Readiness Checklist

About Connect Cause

Connect Cause empowers nonprofit organizations by delivering reliable, affordable, and mission-aligned technology solutions. We specialize in managed IT services, cybersecurity, Voice over IP (VoIP), cloud infrastructure, and application development, all tailored specifically for nonprofits. With flat-fee pricing and unlimited support, our nonprofit clients never have to choose between staying secure and staying on budget. From IT strategy and project management to cloud migrations and database development, our experts ensure technology becomes a success driver, not a roadblock. We partner with leading software vendors to offer exclusive nonprofit discounts, and we manage every aspect of technology, on premises or in the cloud, so nonprofits can focus on what matters most: their mission. Whether you're a growing nonprofit or a national organization, Connect Cause helps you do more with less through strategic IT leadership and responsive support.

Protect Your Mission. Plan With Confidence. Perform Without Interruption.

For nonprofits, every minute, dollar, and donor counts. But when technology slows down or fails, your mission suffers. The start of a new year is the perfect time to make sure your systems, software, and security are ready to support your goals and not stand in your way.

This IT Readiness Checklist will help your team identify vulnerabilities, strengthen security, and plan proactively so you can focus on what matters most: making an impact.

► System Health & Maintenance

- ☐ Run all system updates and security patches. Outdated software leaves gaps that cybercriminals exploit. Ensure every computer, router, and server is up to date.
- ☐ Review device performance. Slow computers and lagging systems cost productivity. Identify aging equipment and plan replacements early.
- ☐ Check hardware warranties and life cycles. Create a replacement schedule so outdated equipment doesn't surprise your budget midyear.
- ☐ Clean up unused applications. Unnecessary programs increase vulnerability and slow performance. Remove what you no longer need.
- ☐ Test all backups. Confirm that every backup completes successfully and can be restored quickly if needed.



► Cybersecurity & Data Protection

- ☐ Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all accounts.
- ☐ Review user access and permissions and remove old accounts, especially for staff or volunteers who've left your organization.
- ☐ Update your password policy to require strong, unique passwords.
- ☐ Conduct a vulnerability scan to proactively identify risks.
- ☐ Review your incident plan and ensure your team knows what to do in the case of a ransomware attack or data loss.

► Budgeting & Strategic Planning

- ☐ Identify predictable tech costs (subscriptions, hardware refreshes, etc.) so you know what's coming before it hits your budget.
- ☐ Build IT into your grant proposals, including cybersecurity, data protection and infrastructure.
- ☐ Assess your IT support model. Are you reacting when things break, or taking a proactive approach to prevent downtime and control costs?
- ☐ Review compliance requirements to align with HIPAA and FERPA.
- ☐ Set quarterly goals for technology improvements and staff trainings.

► Staff Readiness & Training

- ☐ Schedule annual cybersecurity trainings for your staff and volunteers.
- ☐ Review onboarding and offboarding procedures.
- ☐ Run phishing tests or simulated outages to see how your staff reacts.
- ☐ Communicate IT updates regularly, sharing new policies, updates and tools to maintain alignment.

► Next Steps: Turn Checklists into Action

Completing this checklist is a strong start for your nonprofit, but making your organization truly resilient requires ongoing attention. That's where **proactive IT support** from Connect Cause comes in. Our team monitors your systems 24/7, applies patches automatically, verifies backups and keeps your technology working so you can stay focused on your mission.

About Connect Cause

Accredited Managed Services Provider

State-of-the-Art Operations Center with Cutting Edge Technology

24 / 7 / 365 Remote Help Desk and On-Site Support

24 / 7 / 365 Real-Time Network Monitoring

Experienced, Certified Technicians and Engineers

Dedicated Account Managers

Predictable Monthly Cost, Scalable Level of Service

Remote Resolution of Issues More than 90% of the Time

Easy to Understand Graphical Reporting of Performance

Reduces IT Operational Costs by Up to 70%

Pro Tip

Don't wait for a tech issue to remind you how important your systems are. Set quarterly reminders to revisit this checklist, update your security settings, and review your IT strategy with your leadership team.

