

Common Non Profit Types By Carol Topp, CPA

A nonprofit organization can exist in several types from a simple unincorporated informal organization all the way to a large, structured tax exempt organization. To help you sort out the various terms, I have created this pyramid. The bottom of the pyramid is the least organized type of homeschool group. As you climb up the pyramid the organization increases in structure by adopting by laws, forming a board, obtaining nonprofit incorporation and ultimately applying for tax exempt status.

It is typical for homeschool groups to start at the unincorporated level (at the base in the pyramid diagram below). They can exist at that level for as long as they wish and only progress to another level as their program and membership demands increase.

Note that at the top two levels you will start dealing with government agencies. At the state level your organization will deal with your Secretary of State's office when you become a Nonprofit Corporation. At the top of the pyramid you will deal with the IRS when you file for 501c3 tax exempt status.

