



Diagnostic Assessment Questions

This set of questions can be used to identify vulnerabilities and areas that require fortification. It was developed in the context of potential changes in government that may impact your policy goals and/or existing funding (i.e. current fee for service programming, grants and contributions)

Fiscal Fitness

- Diversified Funding Sources:** Are we overly reliant on government funding, or do we have a diverse mix of revenue streams (e.g., private donations, corporate sponsorships, earned income)?
- Reserves:** Do we have sufficient financial reserves to sustain operations if government funding is reduced or delayed?
- Budget Flexibility:** How adaptable is our budget? Can we easily adjust expenses in response to changes in funding?
- Cash Flow Management:** Do we have effective cash flow management processes to handle periods of reduced income or delays in funding?
- Emergency Funding:** Are there contingency plans in place for identifying new funding opportunities in case of a government funding cut?
- Grant Dependency:** What percentage of our funding comes from grants that could be affected by a change in government?
- Overhead Costs:** Are our overhead costs reasonable and justified to withstand scrutiny from potential changes in government oversight or funding policies?
- Cost-Effectiveness:** Are we measuring and reporting our cost-effectiveness in a way that appeals to a potential shift in government priorities?
- Alternative Funding Models:** Have we explored other funding models, such as social enterprise or investment-based approaches, to reduce dependency on external grants?
- Sustainability:** Is our current financial model sustainable over the long term, even with potential reductions in government support?

If you would like support for your organization, please contact:
Niti Bhotoia Vice President, capitalW



Operational Fitness / Government Relations

- Program Relevance:** How well-aligned are our programs with the likely policy and funding priorities of a potential new government? Are we prepared to pivot if necessary?
- Reputation:** How are we (as an organization, leaders) perceived by various groups? Government political decision makers, key civil servants, peer groups, other stakeholders, media, program participants / clients?
- Stakeholder Relationships:** Do we maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, donors, and community partners, to influence or adapt to shifting priorities?
- Advocacy and Communication:** Are we effectively advocating for our mission and communicating the impact of our work to policymakers and the public?
- Risk Assessment:** Have we conducted a risk assessment to evaluate how changes in government could affect our operations, funding, and overall strategy?
- Scenario Planning:** Have we developed scenario plans for various government and funding outcomes, including worst-case scenarios?
- Staff Capacity:** Do we have the staff capacity and expertise to navigate changes in funding, regulatory requirements, and/or program expectations?
- Operational Efficiency:** Are our operations running efficiently? Can we streamline processes or reduce costs without compromising service quality?
- Partnerships and Collaborations:** Are we leveraging partnerships and collaborations to enhance our resilience and access to alternative funding streams?
- Governance:** Is our board of directors prepared to provide strategic oversight and support during periods of uncertainty or change?
- Monitoring and Evaluation:** Are we effectively monitoring and evaluating our programs to demonstrate impact and alignment with government priorities, potentially increasing our chances of continued or new funding?

capitalW is a consulting firm that drives results for non-profit organizations.

We bring experts together in philanthropy, earned revenue, corporate partnerships, social finance and government relations to elevate the resourcing of social purpose organizations.

www.capitalw.ca

If you would like support for your organization, please contact:
Niti Bhotoia Vice President, capitalW