State Charity Registration Portal

The State Charity Registration Portal is an online system that allows charitable nonprofit organizations and their professional fundraisers to comply with all states' registration and annual filing requirements in a single place.

MRFP *NASCO* CITYBASE GUIDESTAR

What is the State Charity Registration Portal?

The Multistate Registration and Filing Portal, Inc. (MRFP), a Delaware nonprofit corporation, working with GuideStar, CityBase, the National Association of State Charities Officials (NASCO), and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), is developing an online registration system that allows charitable organizations and their professional fundraisers to comply with participating states' registration and annual filing requirements through a single online portal (the "State Charity Registration Portal" or "Single Portal"). MRFP members are state agencies (Attorneys General, Secretaries of State, or other agencies) with direct oversight responsibility for charitable assets and charitable solicitations.

Progress Update

In October 2018, the Single Portal began accepting charitable registrations and renewals for the first cohort of states (Connecticut, Georgia). MRFP expects that the Single Portal will accept charitable registrations and renewals for the second cohort of states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire) in spring 2019. MRFP is actively recruiting states to join the third cohort, which would enter development in spring 2019 and is targeted to accept filings through the Single Portal in summer 2019. Development includes reviewing the protocols for form digitization, data intake, and account settlement.

Contact Information for the Single Portal

Courtney Aladro, courtney.aladro@mass.gov, (617) 963-2545
Chris Cash, chris.cash@sos.state.co.us, (303) 860-6934

What are the benefits of joining the Single Portal?

For state charity officials:

- Clear, easy onboarding process.
- Incremental change, not rip and replace. Continue to use your existing forms and internally developed systems and websites.
- Smart forms that reduce correspondence with filers to make changes to their forms.
- Better analytics and understanding of who is filing and information provided.
- Better targeting of law enforcement and fraud prevention resources, and better policy making for the sector.

For charitable organizations and professional fundraisers:

- Reduce administrative costs.
- Ease filing burden – ability to comply with many states' filing requirements through a single portal.
- Avoid inconsistency and uncertainty of paper forms.

For academics, policy makers, donors, and the public:

- Make state charity filing data available for free.
- In the long-term, potential for donors and the media to access information more easily.
- Easier for funders and partners to perform due diligence.

State Charity Registration Portal
FAQ for State Charity Officials

Where do charities go to use the Single Portal?
Information about the Single Portal and MRFP can be found at https://www.nasconet.org/singleportal/. Charities can go to https://www.statecharityregistration.org/ to use the Single Portal.

Does the Single Portal handle new registrations or renewals?
Both.

What are registrants' costs associated with using the Single Portal?
- $9 per registration per state for nonprofit organizations
- $22 per registration per state for professional fundraisers
- 3% processing fee for all registrants
- State registration fees, where applicable, also apply

When is Cohort Three?
Cohort recruitment has begun and development will start in spring 2019.

What are our options for data delivery, and what steps do our IT Departments need to take for each?
States have three options for receiving data:
1. Daily PDF delivery over email - This is the easiest option to implement but requires manual data entry.
2. SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol) containing form data in CSV format and attachments in a single zip file.
3. API Delivery - States consume data directly into their system of record.

Will registrations be available as open data?
Yes. All non-redacted data submitted will be searchable using the Single Portal's search engine and available for download. The Single Portal's search functionality allows public users to search and view details for any organization in the Single Portal database free of charge and without a registration requirement, and includes the ability to download all of the non-confidential state registration data in one file. Redacted data will not be displayed through the search interface or in the files available for download.

How does payment settlement work?
For the pilot cohort, bank transfers to each participating state's bank account will take place weekly. Starting in Cohort Two, settlement will take place next day.

What forms of payment can charities use?
Charities can pay with all major credit and debit cards using a PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliant application called Stripe. Starting in Cohort Two, they will also be able to pay with ACH transfers. Refund requests will be routed to the states and processed by the Single Portal.

How is support handled?
Support requests related to the technical process of registration will be handled through the Single Portal. Substantive requests (i.e. related to specific questions on the form, etc.) will be directed to the appropriate state.

What's on the product roadmap?
Several new features in progress include: Auto-fill from existing 990 data and an analytics tool to allow charity regulators to prevent fraud, negligence and poor governance. Participating states will be regularly updated as these product features are developed, and we will announce other features soon.