THE STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE:

58 Standards taking an organization from basic to best practices in 8 distinct areas of nonprofit operations.

A clinic series taking a practical approach to improving the attending organizations and providing access to sample policies and procedures.

An accessible, tiered accreditation program that improves organizational abilities to accomplish mission and provides assurance to donors and funders of adherence to the highest standards of nonprofit governance.

Topics in the SFX Code

- Mission and Program
- Governing Body
- Conflict of Interest
- Human Resources
- Financial & Legal
- Openness
- Fundraising
- Public Affairs & Public Policy

For information on participation in OANO’s SFX Clinic Series or Accreditation, Contact OANO at 614-280-0233

Clinic Series - provides practical training on the implementation and benefit of the Standards for Excellence accreditation program.

Basics - adherence to basic legal, regulatory and governance practice. Any organization completing the SFX Clinic Series within the past two years can apply.

Basics Enhanced - addressing the best practices of nonprofit management and governance. Building on Basics, Basics Enhanced can be applied for by any organization holding a current Basics recognition.

Standards for Excellence Seal - the ultimate achievement of effectiveness and governance. Those completing Basics and Basics Enhanced may apply. The seal is noted on the organizations report in Guidestar.

The Recognition and Accreditation Process:

- After completing the SFX Clinic Series, an organization submits the self-assessment application tool along with supporting documentation and the application fee, which is initially reviewed by OANO's SFX staff.
- Questions are relayed back to the organization along with suggestions, if applicable, of practical steps to take to improve areas of concern and/or strengthen the application.
- The completed application and supporting information is reviewed by Peer Reviewers who make a recommendation to OANO’s SFX Advisory Committee. The Committee grants applicable Recognitions and Accreditations to any organizations found to be in compliance with the Standards for Excellence.