

Governance Policies

The RCSRF strives for good governance throughout its operations and interactions with the community. The trustee board is responsible for good governance but relies on many different people to be able to govern well: staff, volunteers, advisors, and stakeholders. The board takes responsibility in the roles of:

- The long-term direction of the charity, including its objectives or purposes
- Implementing policies and activities to achieve objectives
- Complying with legal requirements
- Supporting and being responsive to those with an interest or 'stake' in the charity
- Accountability to legal entities, governing bodies, RCSRF board, recipients, and donors

For clarity governance policies provide trust via accountability. This involves 1) Transparency by collecting information and making it available and accessible for public scrutiny, 2) Answerability which requires providing clear reasoning for actions and decisions, including those not adopted, so that they may reasonably be questioned, 3) Compliance through the monitoring and evaluation of procedures and outcomes, combined with transparency in reporting those findings; and 4) Enforcement for shortfall in compliance, justification, or transparency.

RCSRF as a nonprofit is expected to be accountable to multiple entities: upwards to their funders or patrons, downwards to clients, and internally to themselves and their missions [(Edwards and Hulme, 1996a; Kearns, 1996; Lindenberg and Bryant, 2001; Najam, 1996) "Upwards" accountability refers to relationships with donors, foundations, and governments and is often focused on the use of funds. Accountability to clients refers primarily to "downward" relationships with groups receiving services, although it may also include our communities impacted by nonprofit programs. The third category of accountability concerns nonprofits themselves. This internal (or horizontal) accountability centers on an organization's responsibility to its mission and staff, which includes decision makers as well as field-level implementers.

The RCSRF has a number of operational policies within the Handbook. Policies include:

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Distribution
- Named Endowment Fund
- Investment
- Donor Recognition
- Governance
- Election
- Public Reporting and Transparency Policy
- Expense Reimbursement Policy
- Record Retention Policy