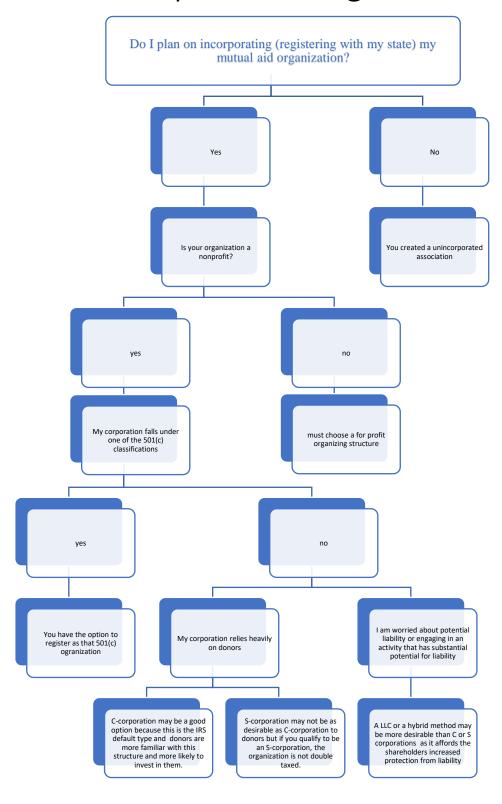
Chart 1. Follow your own organization path



Do I plan on incorporating (registering with my state) my mutual aid organization?

If you said "NO" to this question, you have created a unincorporated association.

If you said "YES" to this question, and your organization is NOT a nonprofit, you must choose a for-profit organizing structure.

If you said "YES" to this question, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, you will have the option to register as that 501(c) organization.

If you said "YES" to this question, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, but relies heavily on donors, C-corporation may be a good option because this is the IRS default type and donors are more familiar with this structure and more likely to invest in them.

If you said "YES" to this question, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, but relies heavily on donors, you could also consider S-corporation. S-corporation may not be as desirable as C-corporation to donors but if you qualify to be an S-corporation, the organization is not double taxed.

If you said "YES" to this question, and your organization is a nonprofit, and your corporation DOES NOT fall under one of the 501(c) classifications, and you are worried about potential liability or engaging in an activity that has substantial potential for liability, a LLC or a hybrid method may be more desirable than C or S corporations as it affords the shareholders increased protection from liability.