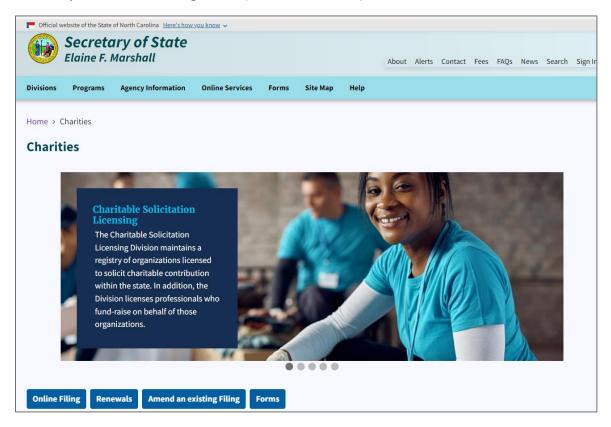
# **Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Manual**

Revised 2024, Version 2



## About the Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Manual

This manual gives an overview of all the pages and features of the CSL section of the NC Secretary of State Knowledge Base (aka. SOSKB or KB) website.



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## Charities

This manual gives an overview of the pages and features of the **Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL)** section of the Secretary of State's new KB website.

Go to the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office website at: https://sosnc.gov.

#### Select **Divisions**.



Figure 1. Divisions menu highlighted

This takes you to the **Divisions** page.

#### Select Charities.

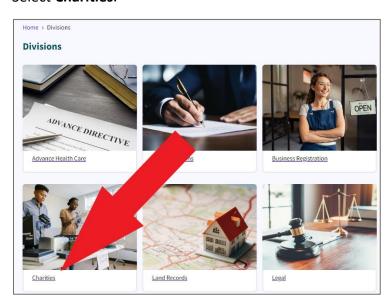


Figure 2. A red arrow points to the Charities link

This link takes you to the **Charities** page.

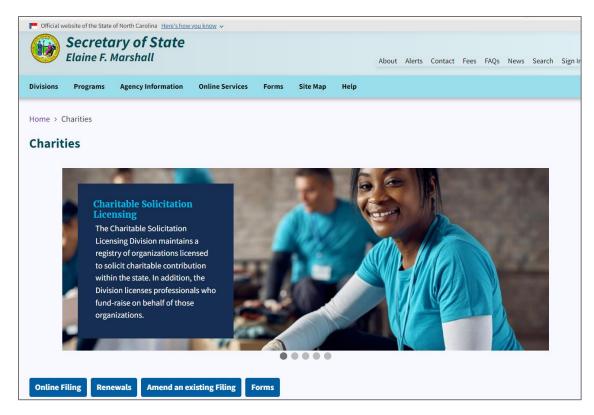


Figure 3. Charities page

The North Carolina Secretary of State's **Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division** maintains a registry of organizations licensed to solicit charitable contribution within the state. In addition, the Division licenses professionals who fundraise on behalf of those organizations.

Four action buttons are below the large stock image.



Figure 4. Four action buttons

Four action buttons (**Figure 4**.) take you to:

- Online Filing
- Renewals
- Amend an Existing Filing
- Forms

## **Online Filing**

Click the Online Filing button.



Figure 5. Online Filing button selected in red

This button link takes you to the Online Filing page.

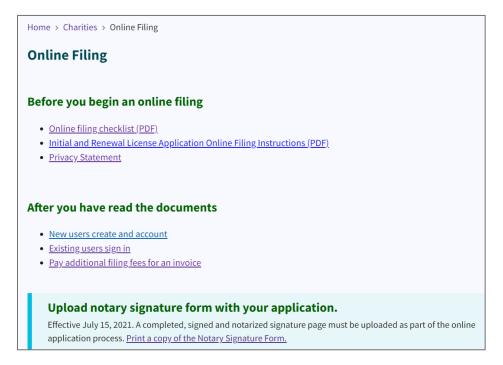


Figure 6. Online Filing page

This page explains the process of online filing for initial and renewal license applications.

On this page, you can find the following:

**Online Filing Checklist**: A list of items you will need to review before beginning the online filing process.

**Initial and Renewal License Application Online Filing Instructions**: Step-by-step instructions for filing an initial or renewal license application online.

**Privacy Statement**: Information on how your personal data will be protected during the online filing process.

**Registering an Account**: Instructions for new users to register an account or for existing users to log in.

**Notary Signature Form**: A new requirement effective July 15, 2021, where a completed, signed, and notarized signature page must be uploaded as part of the online application process.

For a more detailed guide, you can visit the North Carolina Secretary of State's Charities Online Filing page. It's important to carefully read all the documents and instructions to ensure a smooth filing process.

The page starts with preliminary information you need to file your charity with the NC Secretary of State's Office.

#### Before you begin an online filing

- Online filing checklist (PDF)
- Initial and Renewal License Application Online Filing Instructions (PDF)
- Privacy Statement

The page offers information for what to do after you have filed.

#### After you have read the documents

- New users create and account
- Existing users sign in
- Pay additional filing fees for an invoice

This section is followed by a reminder to upload your notary signature form which appears in a green call-out box.

#### Upload notary signature form with your application.

Effective July 15, 2021. A completed, signed and notarized signature page must be uploaded as part of the online application process. <u>Print a copy of the Notary Signature Form.</u>

Figure 7. Notary signature reminder note

There is a link to a printable copy of the **Notary Signature Form**. See **Figure 7**.

The charitable organization must complete, sign, notarize, and upload the form as part of the online application process.



#### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ELAINE F. MARSHALL CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSING DIVISION - APPLICATION SIGNATURE PAGE SECRETARY OF STATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of On-line Submission: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ License Number (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I acknowledge and certify the following with the electronic submission of this form:

- 1. That I will maintain a paper original inked, signed, and notarized signature page in my own records for three years as required by N.C.G.S. §131F-32.
- 2. The records shall be made available to the Department for inspection and shall be furnished no later than 10 days after the request was made as required by N.C.G.S. §131F-32.
- 3. The ten (10) days review period for CSL to approve or deny this license application per N.C.G.S. §131F-5 SHALL NOT BEGIN until the date on which CSL receives a completed application, including this fully completed notarized signature page.
- 4. Applicable late fees are assessed based on the date a completed application, including this completed notarized document is received by CSL.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: To be signed in the presence of a Notary Public who has administered the following oath:

Figure 8. Notary Signature Form PDF

## **Charities and Sponsors**

This section of the Online Filing page has five hyperlinks.



Figure 9. Five hyperlinks for Charities and Sponsors section

#### The five links are:

- Extension Request
- Initial Applications
- Renewal Request
- Initial Exemption Request
- Renewal Exemption Request

## **Extension Request**

#### Select Extension Request.



Figure 10. A red arrow points to the Extension Request link

#### The link takes you to the **Search Charities** page.

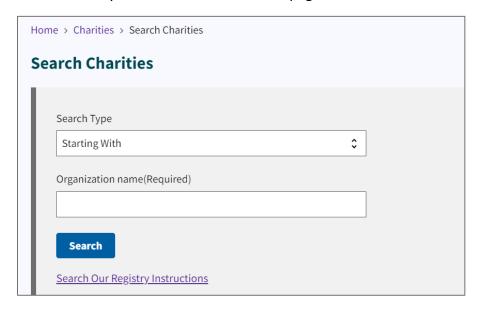


Figure 11. Search Charities page

For this example, we entered "abc" for the organization name.

Click Search.

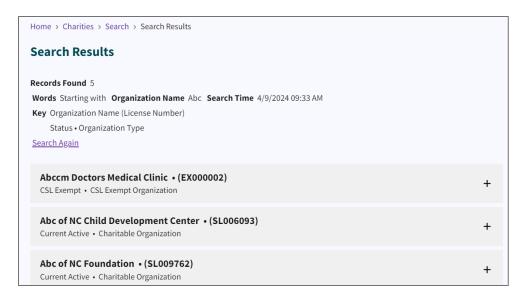


Figure 12. Charities Search Results

The Search Results display a list of charity names that match the search requirements.

You can click on the plus (+) sign to expand the tile for more information and links.

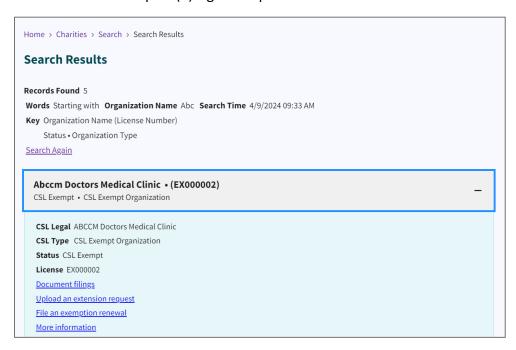


Figure 13. Expandable tile with information and linkable options

#### The linkable options are:

- Document filings
- Upload an extension request
- File an exemption renewal
- More Information

## **Initial Application**

Select Initial Application.



Figure 14. A red arrow points to the Initial Applications link

The link takes you to the **Log In** page if you have not already logged into your NCSOS website account.

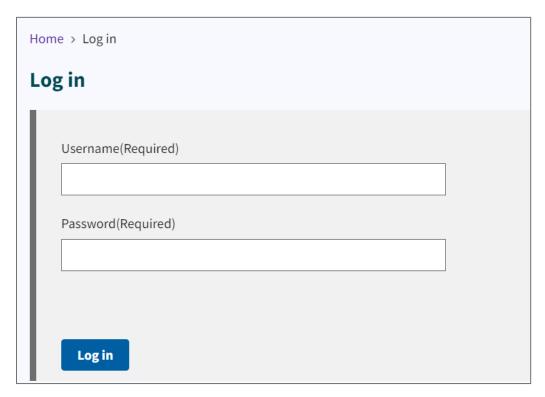


Figure 15. Log In page

After logging into your NCSOS website account, the link takes you to the first step in the Charitable Solicitation Licensing process. There are 36 pages in all of this process. You can check which page you are currently on in the process by looking at the number in the far right corner of the screen. See **Figure 16.** 

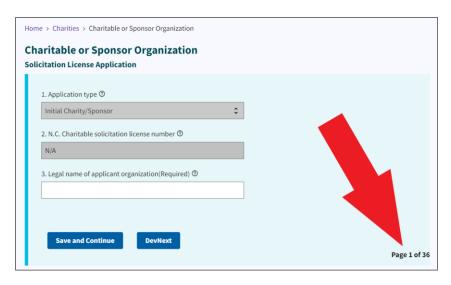


Figure 16. A red arrow points to the current page of the Solicitation License Application process

Select the **Application Type** from the first dropdown.

Enter the N.C. Charitable Solicitation License Number.

Type the **Legal Name** of the applicant organization.

Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **street address** in the provided entry fields.

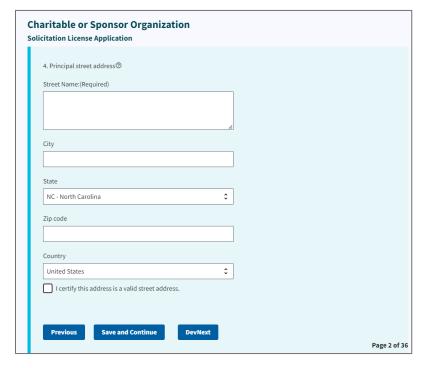


Figure 17. Street address entry fields

#### Enter the mailing address in the provided entry fields.

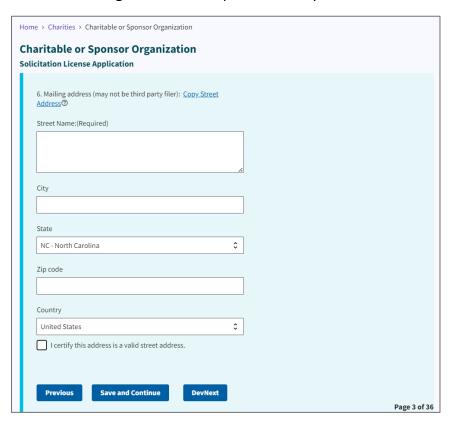


Figure 18. Mailing address entry fields

#### Click Save and Continue.

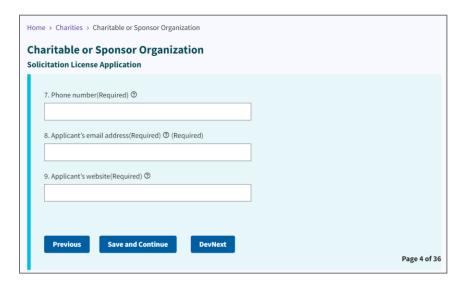


Figure 19. Phone number entry fields

Enter the phone number, email address, and applicant website.

Answer the question: "Does the applicant have other locations in North Carolina?"

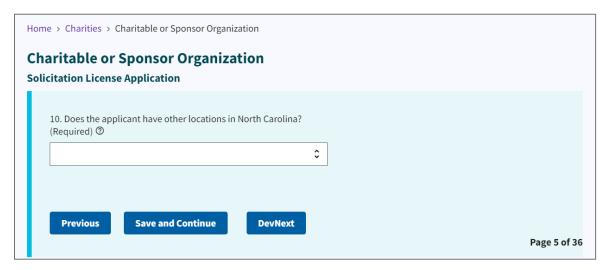


Figure 20. Other locations in NC question dropdown

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **Charitable purpose for which the applicant is organized**. You can add this as an attachment by clicking the "**Browse for Attachment**" link below the text box.

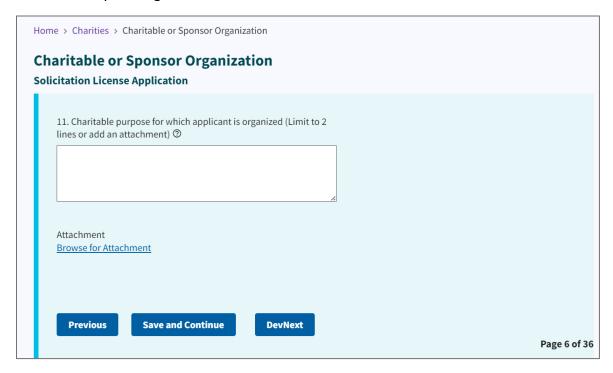


Figure 21. "Charitable purpose for which the applicant is organized" text box and attachment link

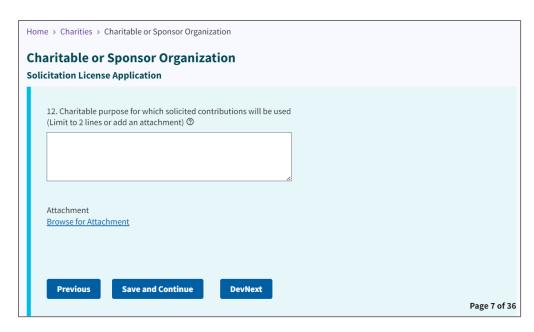


Figure 22. Charitable Purpose text box and Browse Attachment link

Enter the Charitable purpose for which solicited contributions will be used in the text box or via an attachment. To upload an attachment, click the "Browse for Attachment" link. See Figure 22.

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **major program activities** (See **Figure 23**.) in the text box or attach them via the browse link.

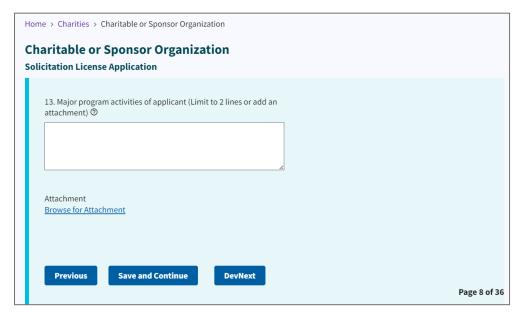


Figure 23. Major program activities text box and attachment link

#### Enter the Applicant's fiscal year end date.

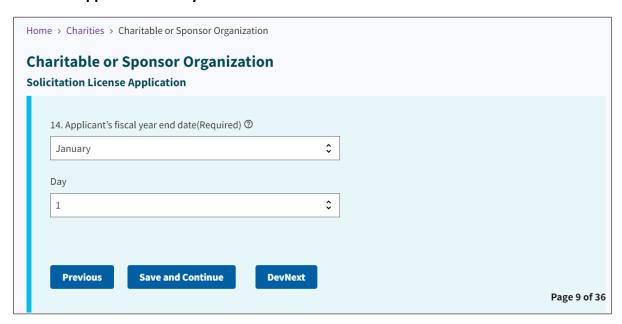


Figure 24. Fiscal year end date dropdowns

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Has the applicant received a federal tax exemption determination letter?" See Figure 25.

Using the dropdown, select the IRS tax exemption code.

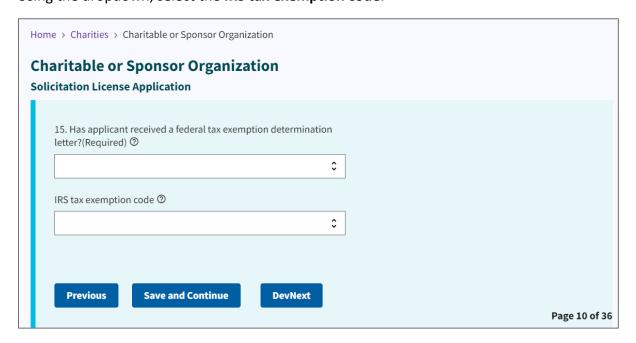


Figure 25. Dropdowns

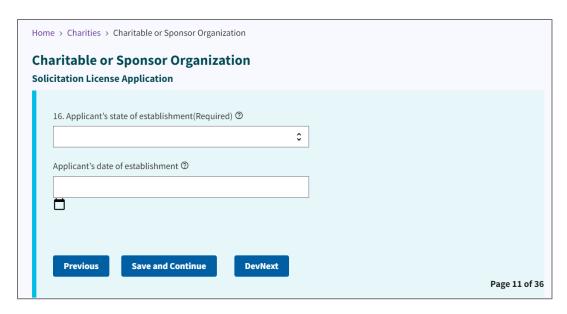


Figure 26. State and date of establishment fields

Using the dropdown, select the applicant's **state of establishment**.

Enter the applicant's date of establishment.

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter all assumed **names** used by the applicant in solicitation of contributions in the provided text box or via the browse attachment link.

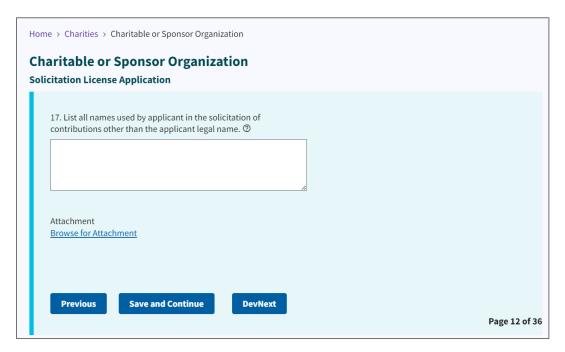


Figure 27. Names text box

Using the text box, enter the **states** where the applicant is authorized to solicit contributions other than North Carolina. You can attach a list of states by using the browse attachment link.

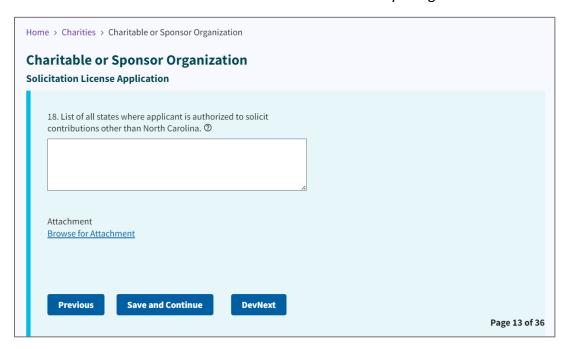


Figure 28. States text box

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter a list of **names** and **street addresses** of directors, officers, trustees, and salaried executive personnel for the current fiscal year. You can use the applicant's street address.

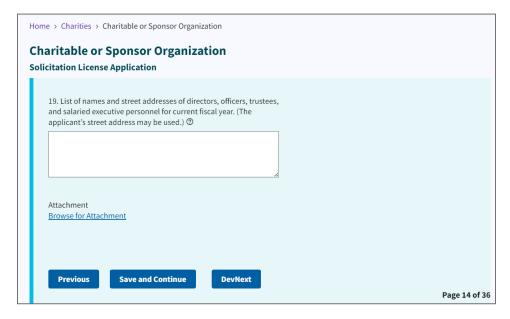


Figure 29. Names and street addresses text box

Enter a list of **names** of individuals or officers in charge of any solicitation activities.

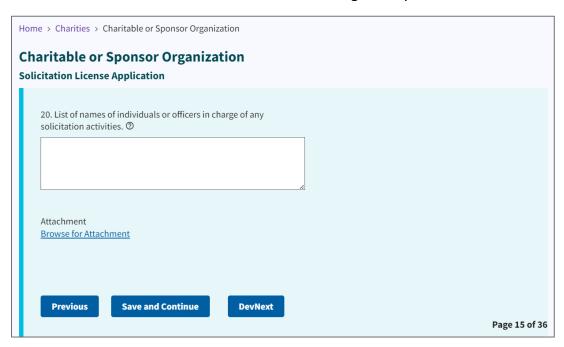


Figure 30. Officers in charge text box

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter a list names, street addresses, and phone numbers for officers with final responsibility.

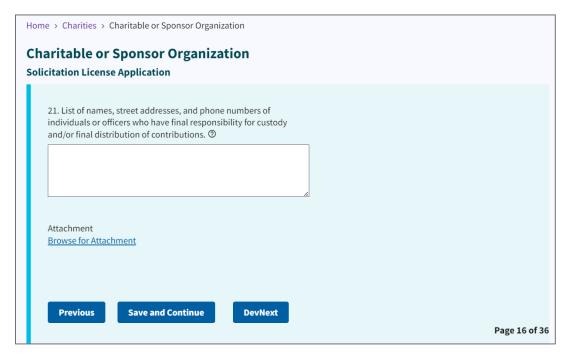


Figure 31. Text box for names, street addresses, and phone numbers

Enter the name for the individual who has custody of the applicant's financial records.

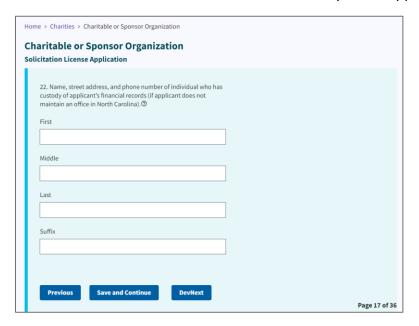


Figure 32. Name entry fields

#### Click Save and Continue.

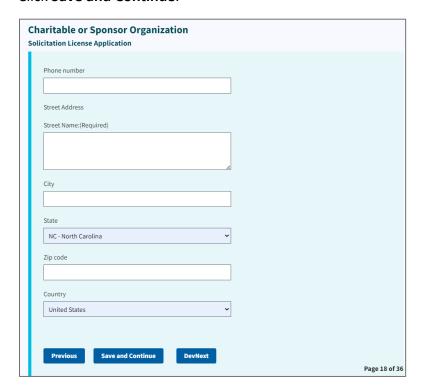


Figure 33. Street address entry fields

Enter the **street address** for the individual who has custody of the applicant's financial records.

Attach your financial records by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" links.

Using these links, you can attach IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ, audited financial statement, NC Annual Financial Report Form, and a proposed budget for the current fiscal year (newly established applicants).

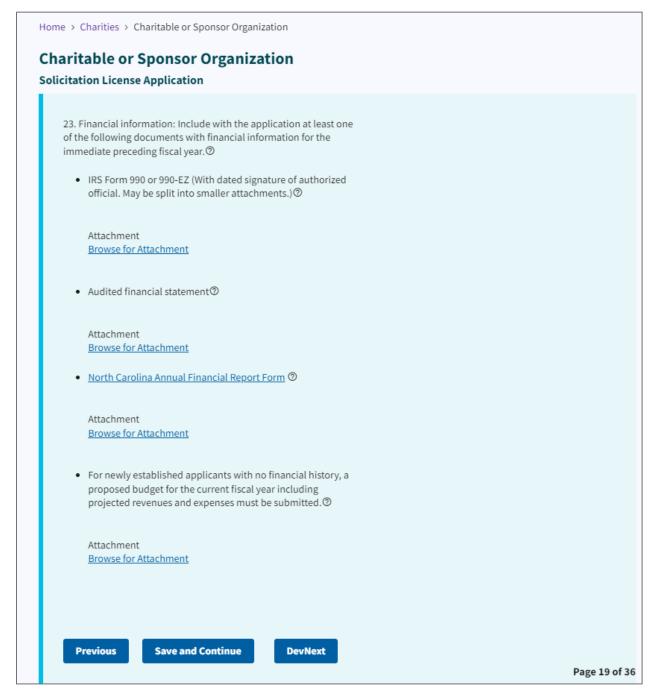


Figure 34. Financial information attachment links

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Does applicant intend to enter into, presently have a contract(s) with any person who qualifies as a fundraising consultant, solicitor, or coventurer?"

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Did the applicant have a contract(s) with any person who qualifies as a fundraising consultant, solicitor, or coventurer within the last 12-month period?"

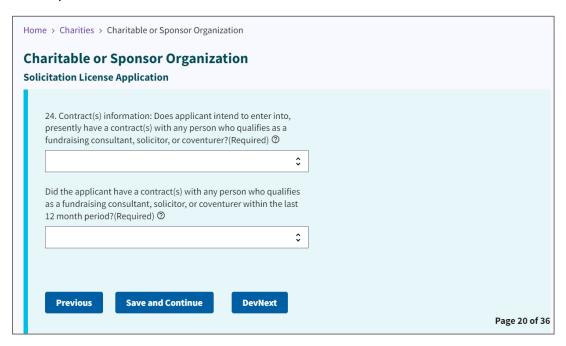


Figure 35. Contract information dropdowns

#### Click Save and Continue.

Select the answer to the question about **consolidated application information**.

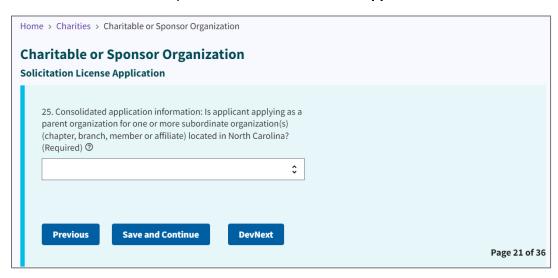


Figure 36. Consolidated application information dropdown

If you select "Yes," you will need to attach a list of the subordinate organizations. You can do this by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

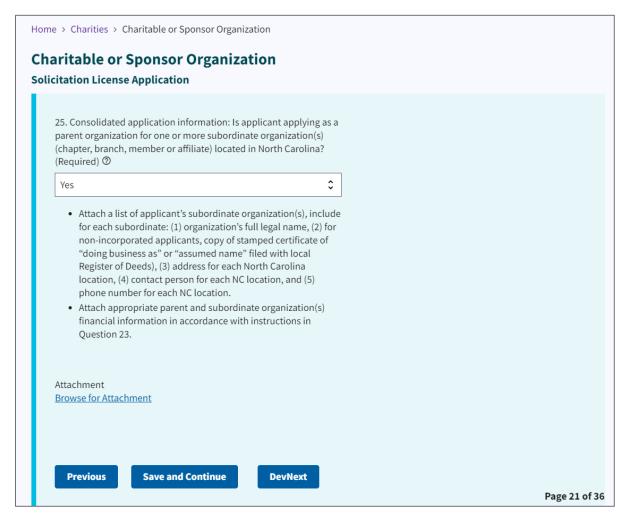


Figure 37. Attachment link for list of subordinate organizations

Select the answer for the following question: "Is the applicant a United Way, United Arts Fund, community chest, or other federation of independent charitable organizations which have voluntarily joined together for the purpose of raising and distributing contributions and where membership does not confer operating authority and control of the individual group organization upon the federated group organization?"

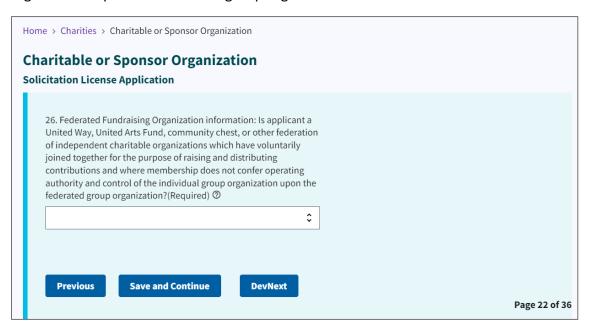


Figure 38. Federated Fundraising Organization dropdown

#### Click Save and Continue.

Select the answer to the following: "Does the applicant compensate (in any capacity) any officer, trustee, organizer, incorporator, fundraiser, or solicitor?"

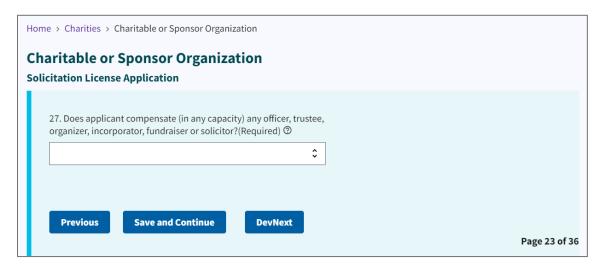


Figure 39. Compensation dropdown

Using the dropdown, select the answer to: "Has the applicant or any of its officers, directors, trustees, or salaried executive personnel been enjoined from soliciting contributions in any jurisdiction?"

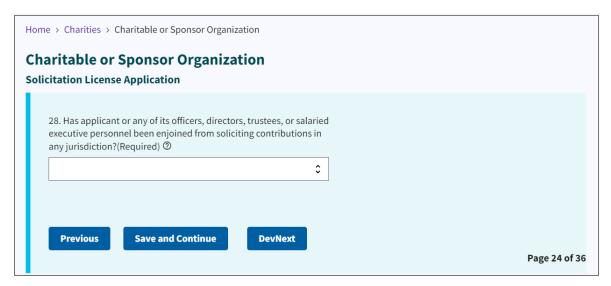


Figure 40. Soliciting contributions dropdown

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, select the answer to: "Has the applicant or any of its officers, directors, trustees, or salaried executive personnel been found to have engaged in unlawful practices in the solicitation of contributions or the administration of charitable assets in any jurisdiction within the last five years?"

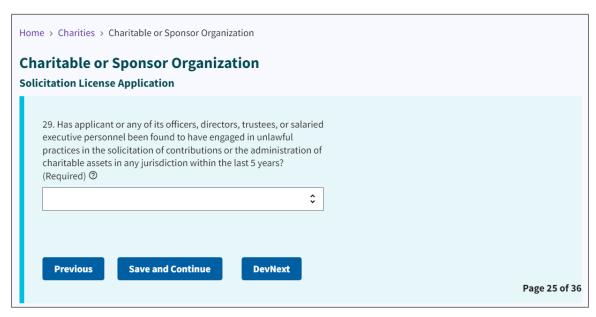


Figure 41. Unlawful practices dropdown

Using the dropdown, select the answer to: "Has the applicant had its authority denied, suspended, or revoked by any governmental agency within the last five years?"

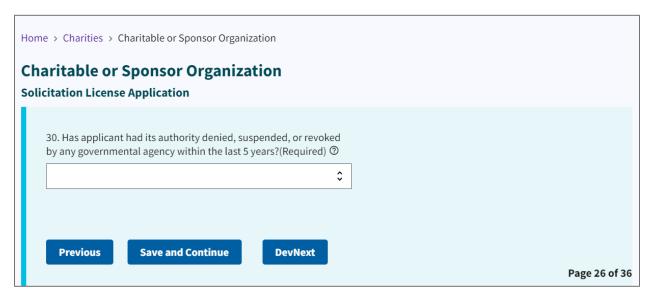


Figure 42. Revoked question dropdown

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, select the answer to: "Has the applicant entered into any assurance of voluntary compliance or similar agreement in any jurisdiction?"

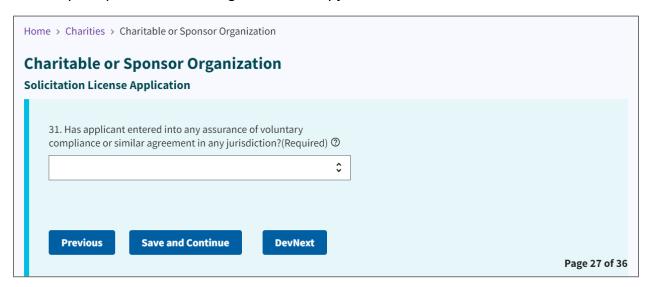


Figure 43. Assurance of voluntary compliance dropdown

Enter the amount of contributions in the top entry field.

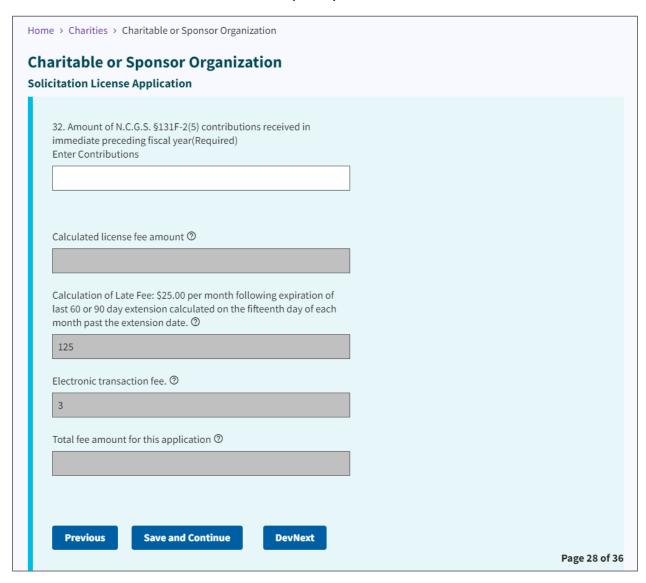


Figure 44. Contributions entry fields

Enter the organization's **contact name**, **title**, **email**, and **phone number**.

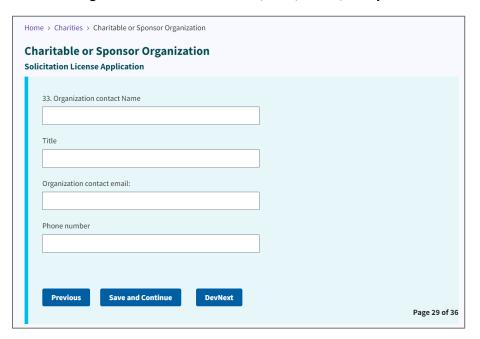


Figure 45. Organization contact entry fields

#### Click Save and Continue.

On the **Applicant Signature** page, attach the completed, signed, and notarized signature page via the **Browse for Attachment** link.

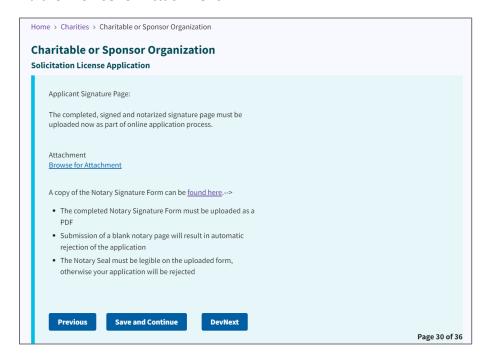


Figure 46. Applicant signature page

Using the dropdown, select either "Yes" or "No" to the agreement.

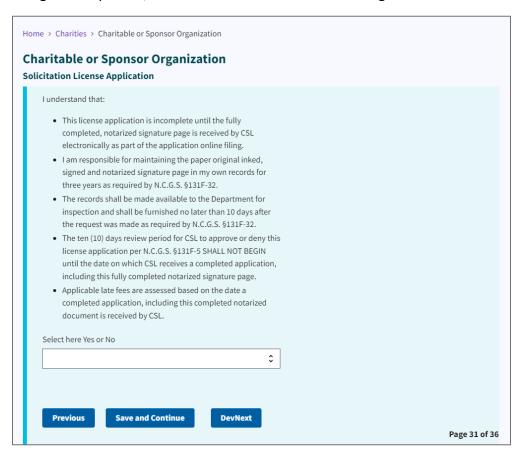


Figure 47. Signature page

#### Click Save and Continue.

#### Enter the contact name.

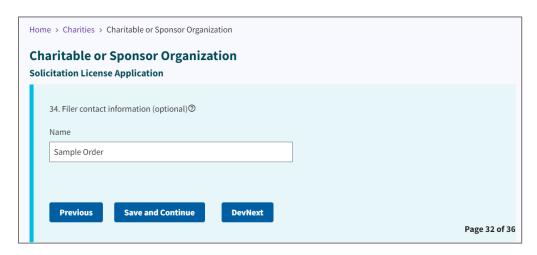


Figure 48. Filer contact information entry field

#### Enter the **street address**.

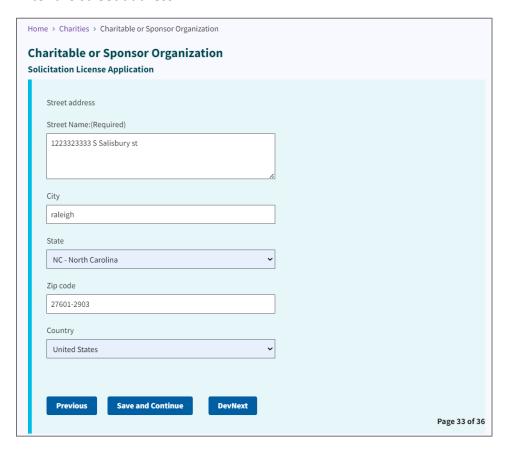


Figure 49. Street address entry fields

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the filer's phone number and email address.

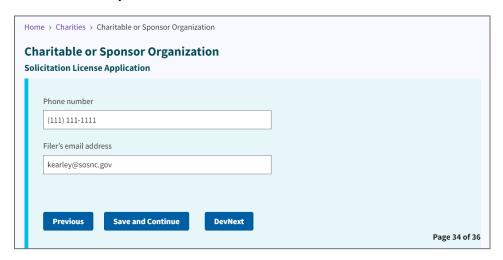


Figure 50. Phone and email entry fields

The **Preview Application and Attachments** page displays a dropdown field to select the document you would like to preview.

The preview window displays a PDF preview of the whole application with attachments. This document can be printed and saved by selecting the **print and save icons** in the top right corner of the preview window.

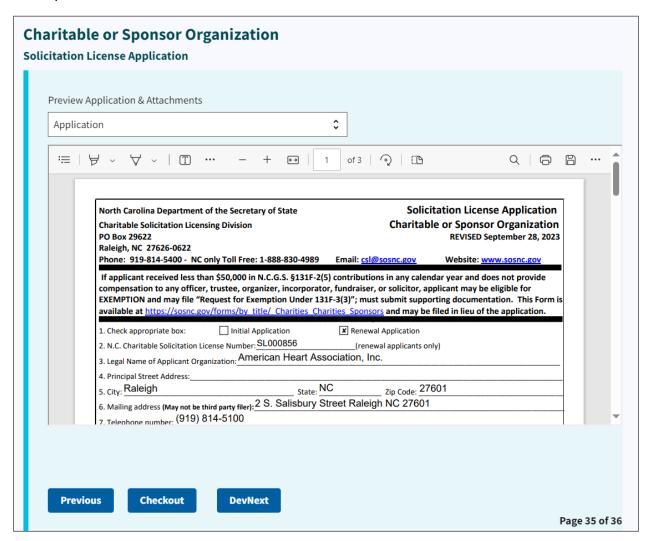


Figure 51. Application preview

Review each page of your application and attachments for accuracy.

Click Checkout.

The final step is selecting a payment type.

Select the **payment type** via the dropdown.

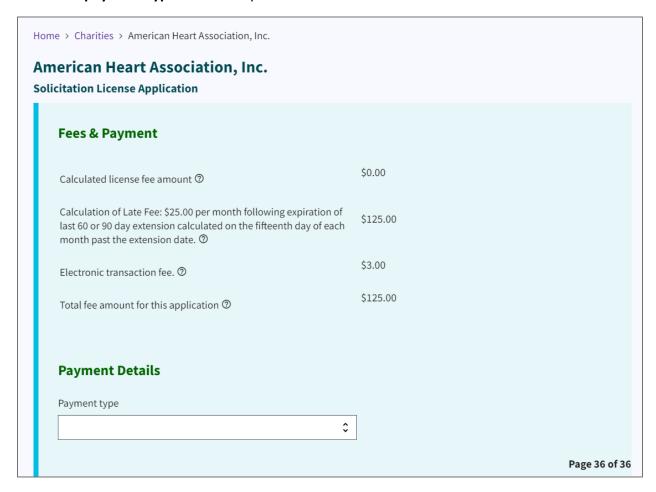


Figure 52. Checkout screen

You can pay either by check (ACH) or credit card.

Once you select the payment type, you will be prompted to enter your payment information like most online financial transactions.

After the payment is accepted, you will receive an email confirmation and receipt.

## **Renewal Request**

Select Renewal Request.



Figure 53. A red arrow points to the Renewal Request link

This link takes you to the **Search Charities** page.

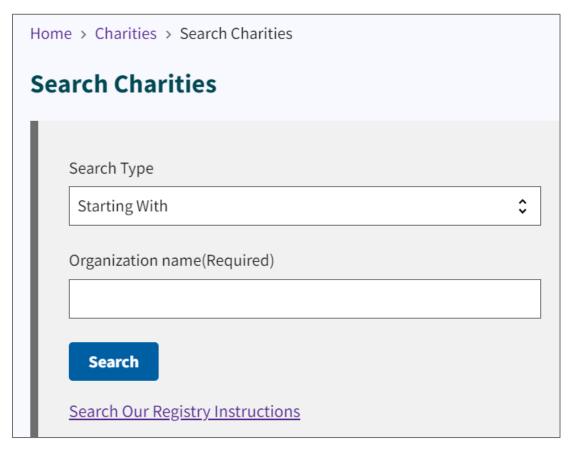


Figure 54. Search Charities page

Enter your charitable organization's name.

#### Click Search.

The **Search Results** display the organization's name, license number, and status.



Figure 55. Search Results

Click the **plus (+) sign** at the end of the organization name's row.

This expands the tile, offering more information and options.

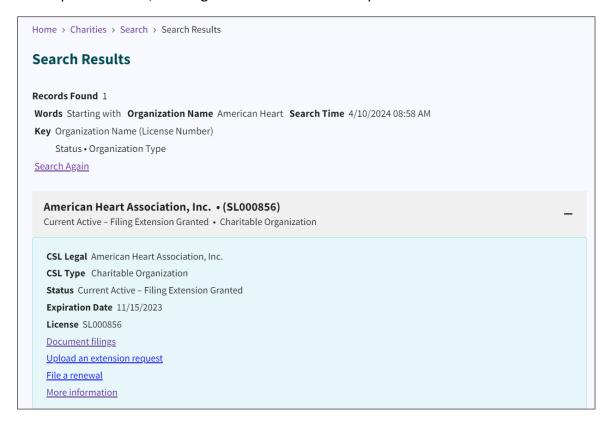


Figure 56. Expanded tile of linkable options

From here, you can check on document filings, upload an extension request, file a renewal, and get more information.

#### Select **Document Filings**.

This takes you to a listing of previous and current filings.

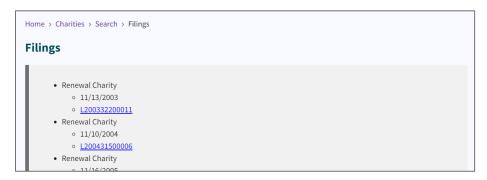


Figure 57. Document Filings page

If you select the **Upload an Extension Request** link, you are asked to upload an extension request.

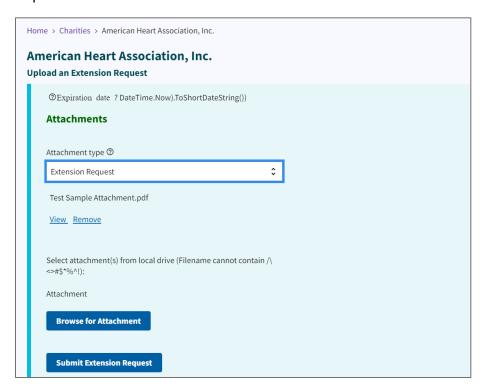


Figure 58. Upload an Extension Request page

#### Click Browse for Attachment.

Upload your extension request file.

#### Click **Submit Extension Request**.

A Success page confirms your submission uploaded successfully.

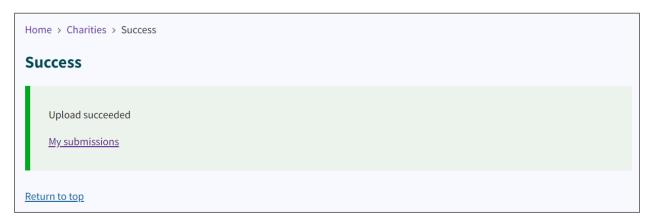


Figure 59. Success confirmation page

## Select My Submissions.

This link takes you to the My Submissions page where you can search for your new and previous submissions.

Select the date range or simply click Last 2 Days or Last 7 Days for the most recent submissions.

This is a good way to further confirm that your new submission was successful.

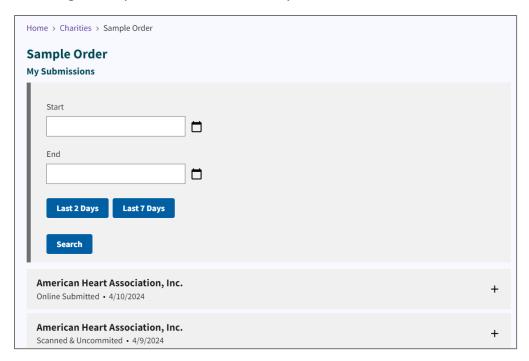


Figure 60. My Submissions page

Click Last 7 Days (for this example).

After clicking the **Last 7 Days** button, you are taken to the submissions within the last seven days. See **Figure 61**.

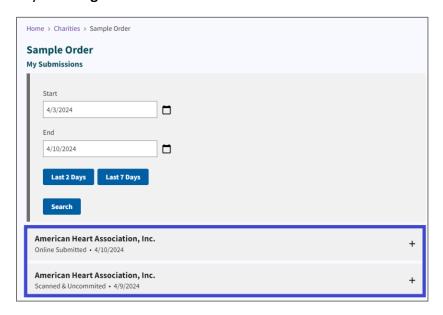


Figure 61. Search results

# **Initial Exemption Request**

Select Initial Exemption Request.



Figure 62. A red arrow points to the Initial Exemption Request link

This link takes you to the Organization's Legal Name page. This is the first of twelve steps of the process. You can see the number of your current page in the bottom right corner.

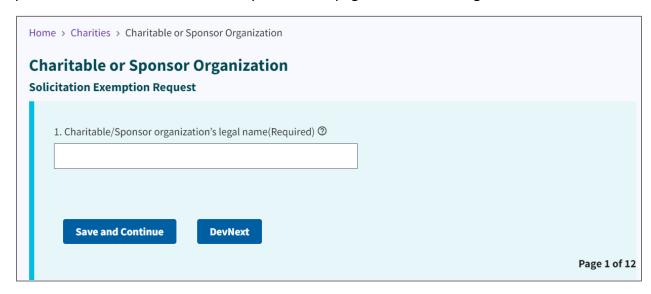


Figure 63. Organization's legal name entry field

# Enter the mailing address.

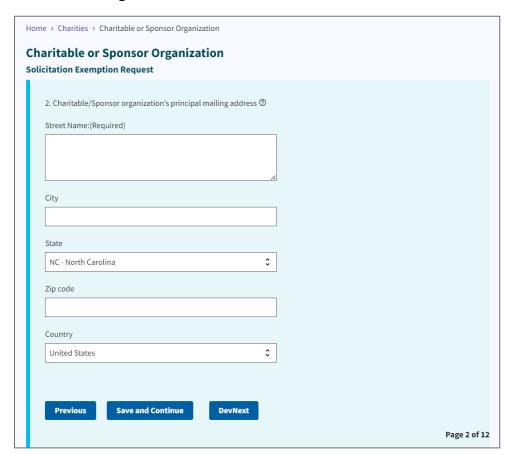


Figure 64. Mailing address entry fields

## Click Save and Continue.

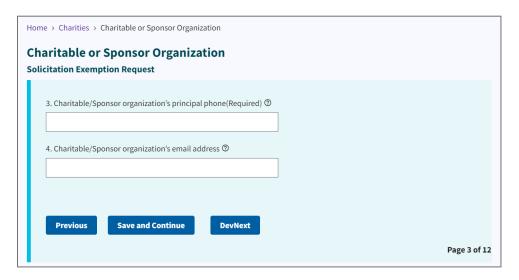


Figure 65. Phone and email entry fields

Enter the **name** under which you intend to solicit contributions (if different from the legal name.)

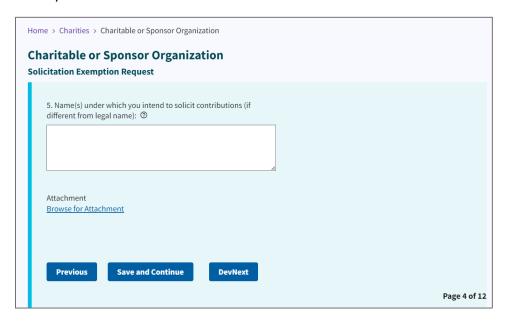


Figure 66. Solicitation name entry field

## Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **purpose** in the text box.

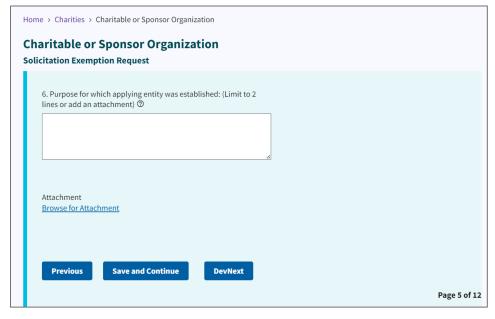


Figure 67. Purpose text box

## Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdowns, select the applicant's fiscal year end date.

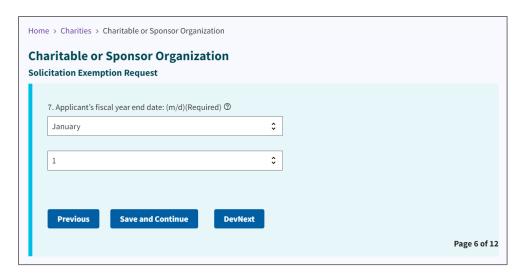


Figure 68. Applicant's fiscal year end date entry fields

## Click Save and Continue.

If the entity compensates an officer, trustee/board member, organizer, incorporator, or salaried employee, indicate so by using the dropdowns. See **Figure 69**.

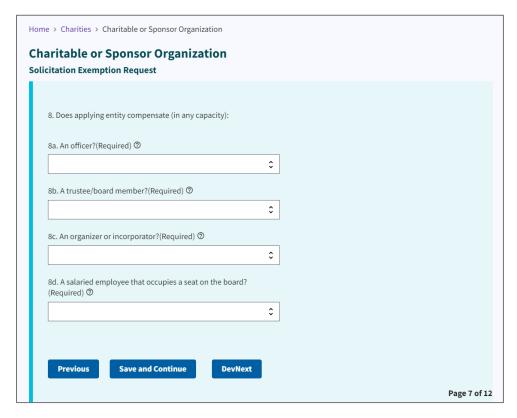


Figure 69. Compensation in any capacity dropdowns

Using the dropdown, select the answer to: "Does the applying entity currently contract for compensation or plan to contract for compensation during the current registration year with a Fund-Raising Consultant or Solicitor?"

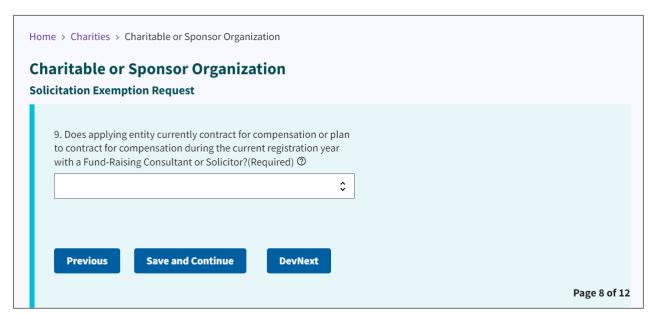


Figure 70. Contract compensation dropdown

## Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, select the answer to the question: "Does the applying entity have any financial history?"

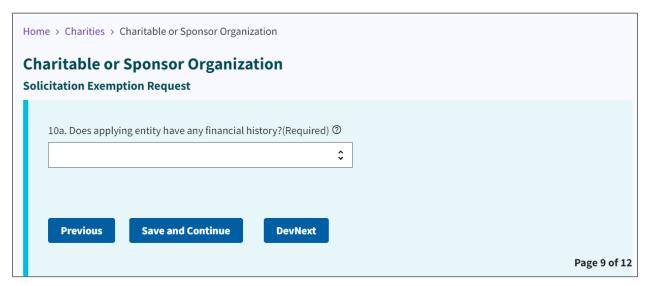


Figure 71. Financial history dropdown

If you select "No," you will be prompted to upload your proposed budget for the current fiscal year, including projected revenues and expenses.

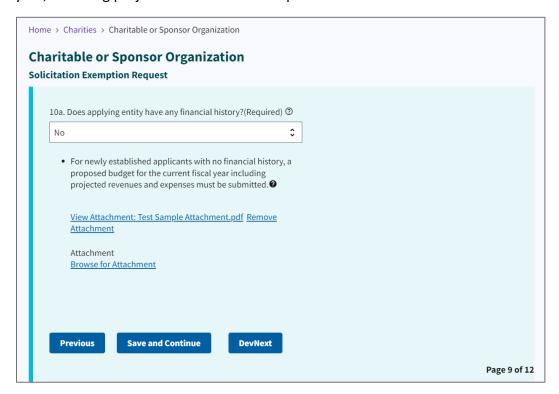


Figure 72. "No" selected for example

## Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, select an answer to the question: "Has the applying entity received a Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter?"

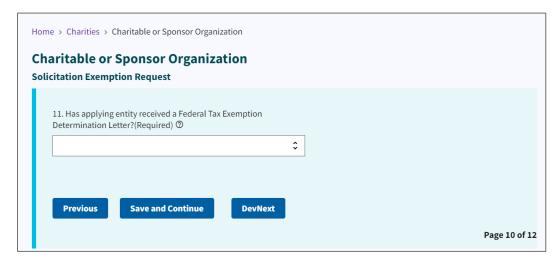


Figure 73. Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter dropdown

If you select "Yes," you are prompted to attach a copy of the Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter.

**Note**: This is not required; however, if not received, the organization will be listed as a "Non-Tax Exempt Entity."

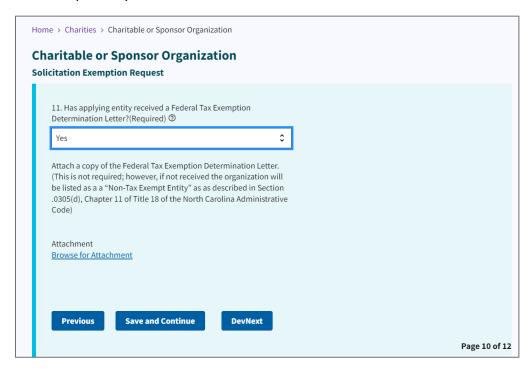


Figure 74. "Yes" example

## Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, select the answer to the question: "Has the applying entity received a Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter?"

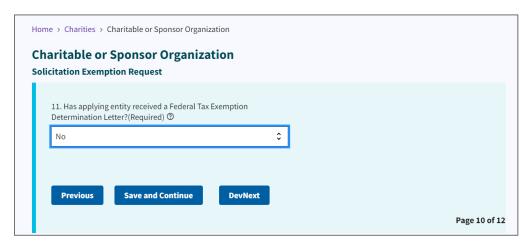


Figure 75. Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter dropdown

## Enter the officer's name and title.

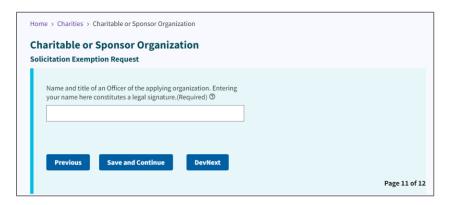


Figure 76. Officer name and title entry field

## Click Save and Continue.

The Preview Application and Attachments page displays a preview of the completed Exemption Request Form which is printable and downloadable. The print and save icons are in the top right-hand corner of the preview window.

You can select different sections of the document and attachments via the dropdown menu above the preview window.

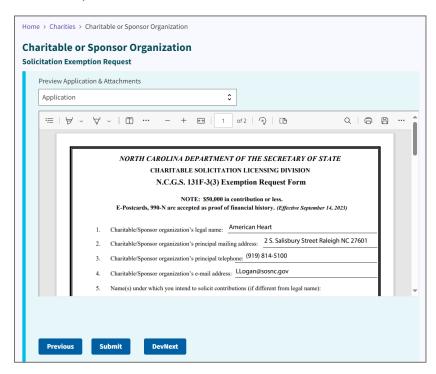


Figure 77. Preview window

Check the Exemption Request Form preview for accuracy.

## Click **Submit**.

The "Thank You" page confirms the submission of your Solicitation Exemption Request form and provides steps for what to do afterward.

Home > Charities > Charitable or Sponsor Organization

## **Charitable or Sponsor Organization**

**Solicitation Exemption Request** 

Thank you for submitting your request for an exemption under N.C.G.S. §131F-3(3).

What Happens Next?

- 1. Your exemption request will be reviewed within 10 working days.
- If your submission is incomplete, you will given an opportunity to submit
  missing information within 30 days. If you fail to provide the missing
  information within the time allowed, you exemption request will be
  denied.
- 3. If your submission is complete and meets legal requirements for granting an exemption, you will receive an exemption letter giving the basis of your exemption and its expiration date, if any.
- 4. If your organization does not qualify for an exemption under N.C.G.S. §131F-3(3), your exemption request will be denied and you will need to submit a license application. Note: You may file license applications

Thank you for submitting your filing. **Download a copy** 

Figure 78. Submission confirmation page

This page gives you information about what will happen next.

- 1. Your exemption request will be received within 10 working days.
- 2. If your submission is incomplete, you will be given an opportunity to submit missing information within 30 days. If you fail to provide the missing information within the time allowed, your exemption request will be denied.
- 3. If your submission is complete and meets legal requirements for granting an exemption, you will receive an exemption letter giving the basis of your exemption and its expiration date, if any.
- 4. If your organization does not qualify for an exemption under N.C.G.S. §131F-3(3), your exemption request will be denied and you will need to submit a license application.

**Note**: You may file license applications online.

You can download a copy of the filing by selecting the "**Download a Copy**" link. See **Figure 79**.

# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSING DIVISION N.C.G.S. 131F-3(3) Exemption Request Form

NOTE: \$50,000 in contribution or less.
E-Postcards, 990-N are accepted as proof of financial history. (Effective September 14, 2023)

1.	Charitable/Sponsor organization's legal name: American Heart		
2.	Charitable/Sponsor organization's principal mailing address: 2 S. Salisbury Street Raleigh NC 27601		
3.	Charitable/Sponsor organization's principal telephone: (919) 814-5100		
4.	Charitable/Sponsor organization's e-mail address: LLogan@sosnc.gov		
5. !	Name(s) under which you intend to solicit contributions (if different from legal name):  NC Chapter of American Heart		
6. F	Purpose for which applying entity was established:  Heart disease research		
7.	Charitable/Sponsor organization's fiscal year end month: 1/1		
8.	Does applying entity compensate (in any capacity):		
8a.	An Officer? YES NO		
8b.	A Trustee/Board Member? YES NO		
8c.	An Organizer or Incorporator? YES NO		

Figure 79. PDF copy of the exemption form

# **Renewal Exemption Request**

Select Renewal Exemption Request.



Figure 80. A red arrow points to the Renewal Exemption Request link

This link takes you to the **Search Charities** page.

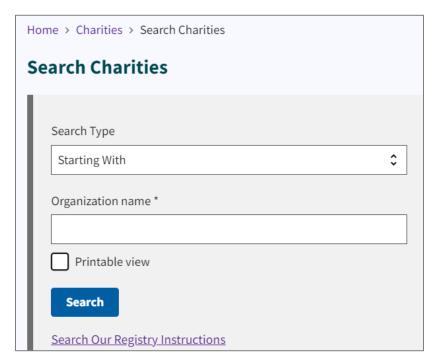


Figure 81. Search Charities page

Enter the **Organization Name**.

Click Search.

The **Search Results** display the organization names that match your search criteria.



Figure 82. Search Results

Click on the plus (+) sign beside your organization name.

A tile expands to display more information and options.

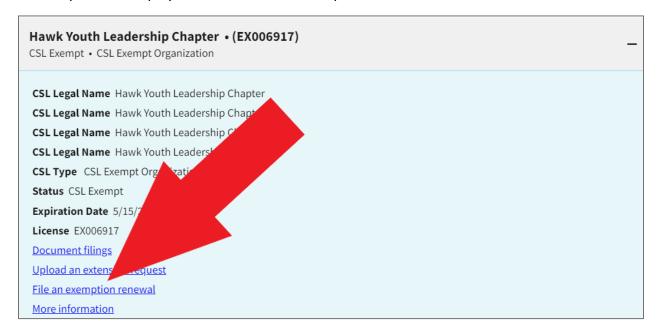


Figure 83. Expanded tile of link options

## Select File an Exemption Renewal.

If you haven't already logged into your NC SOS website account, you will be prompted to do so.

This takes you to the first of twelve screens for the online renewal exemption request process.

Enter the charitable organization's legal name.

Home > Charities > Hawk Youth Leadership Chapter		
Hawk Youth Leadership Chapter Solicitation Exemption Request		
Charitable/Sponsor organization's legal name * ③  Hawk Youth Leadership Chapter		
Save and Continue DevNext	Page 1 of 12	

Figure 84. First step of twelve for filing a renewal exemption request

# Click Save and Continue.

Enter the charitable organization's principal mailing address.

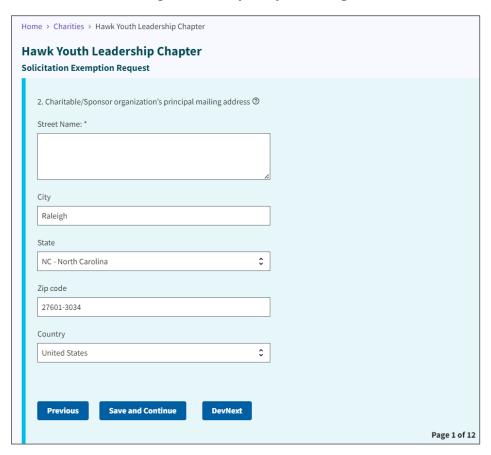


Figure 85. Actions page

Enter the principal phone number.

Enter the organization's email address.

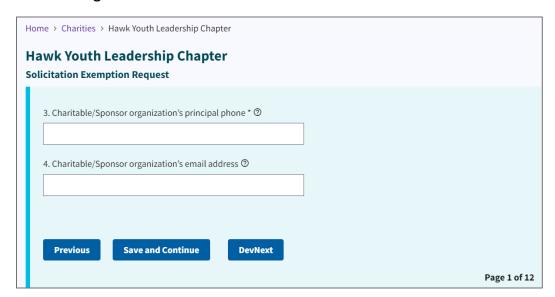


Figure 86. Online Filing Forms page

# Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **name(s) under which you intend to solicit** contributions (if different from the legal name).

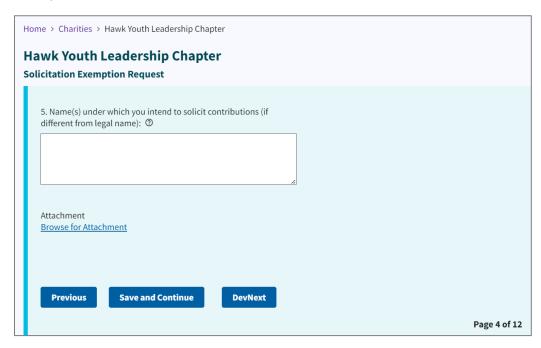


Figure 87. Solicitation name entry field

Enter the **purpose** for which the applying entity was established.

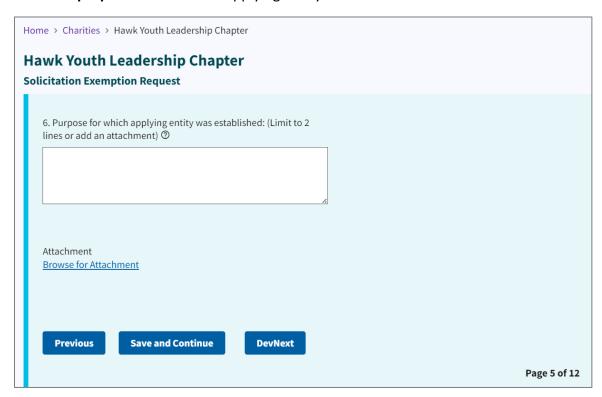


Figure 88. Purpose for entity entry field

# Click Save and Continue.

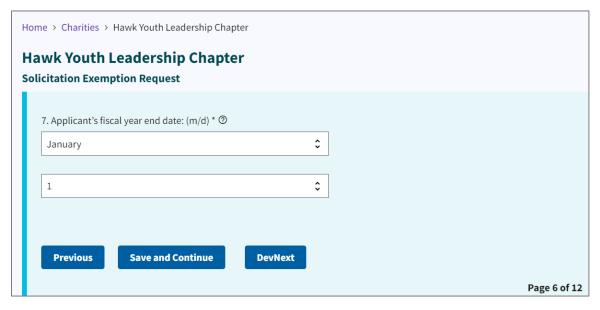


Figure 89. Applicant's fiscal year end date entry field

Use the dropdowns to answer the entity **compensation** questions.

Does the applying entity compensate (in any capacity)...

- An officer?
- A trustee/board member?
- An organizer or incorporator?
- A salaried employee that occupies a seat on the board?

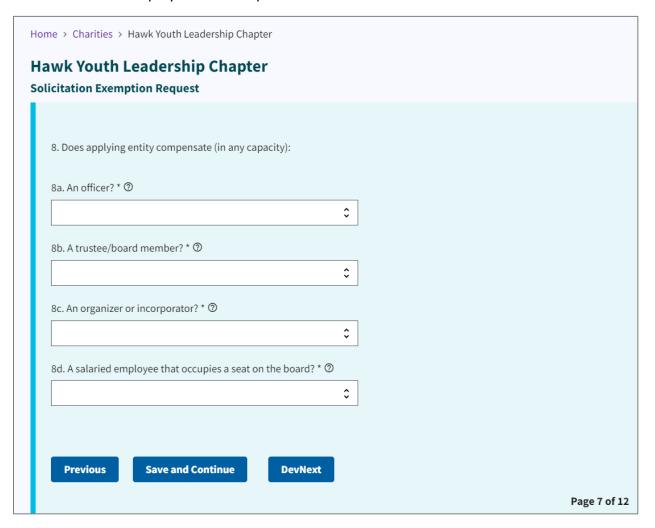


Figure 90. Compensation entry fields

Using the dropdown, answer the following question:

"Does the applying entity currently contract for compensation or plan to contract for compensation during the current registration year with a Fundraising Consultant or Solicitor?"

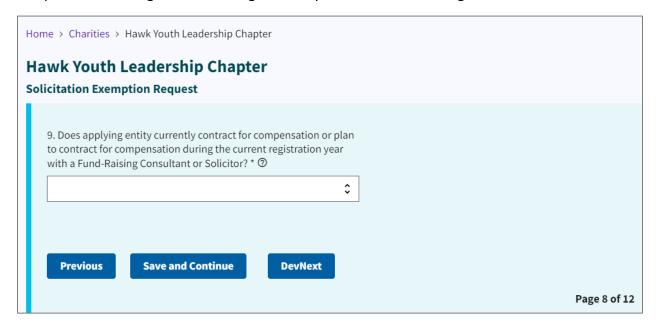


Figure 91. Dropdown for current registration year compensation information

## Click Save and Continue.

Use the dropdown to answer: "Does the applying entity have any financial history?"

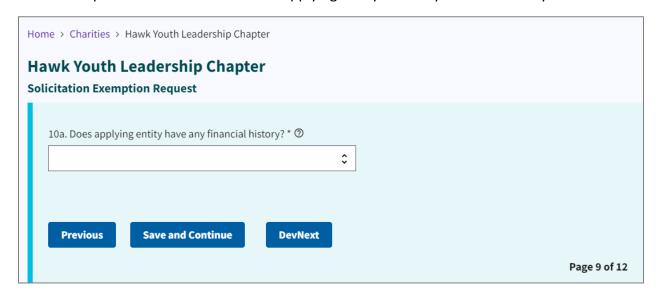


Figure 92. Financial history dropdown

Attach financial forms by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" links.

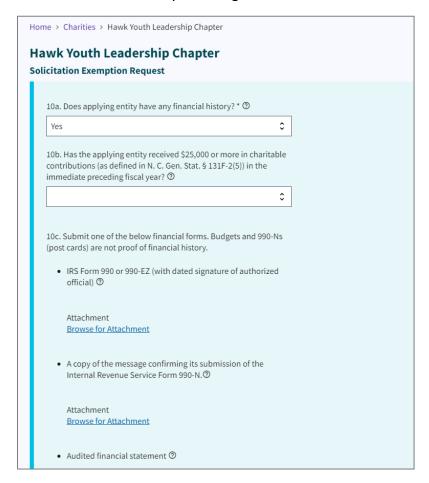


Figure 93. Financial history attachment links

## Click Save and Continue.

Use the dropdown to answer: "Has the applying entity received a Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter?"

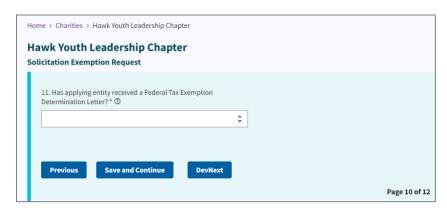


Figure 94. Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter dropdown

Enter the **name** and **title of the officer** of the applying organization.

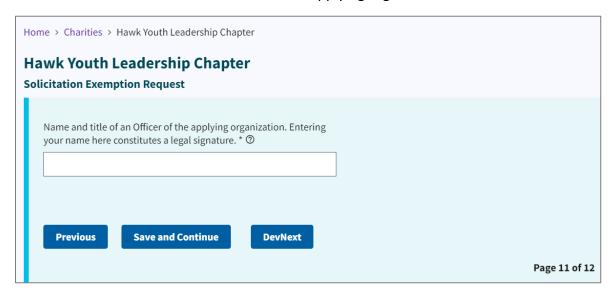


Figure 95. Officer name entry field

Review each page of your application and attachments for accuracy.

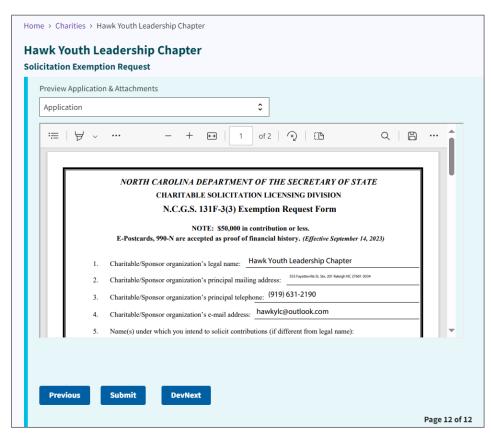


Figure 96. Preview application window

## Click Submit.

Home > Charities > Hawk Youth Leadership Chapter

# **Hawk Youth Leadership Chapter**

# **Solicitation Exemption Request**

Thank you for submitting your request for an exemption under N.C.G.S. §131F-3(3).

What Happens Next?

- 1. Your exemption request will be reviewed within 10 working days.
- If your submission is incomplete, you will given an opportunity to submit
  missing information within 30 days. If you fail to provide the missing
  information within the time allowed, you exemption request will be
  denied.
- 3. If your submission is complete and meets legal requirements for granting an exemption, you will receive an exemption letter giving the basis of your exemption and its expiration date, if any.
- 4. If your organization does not qualify for an exemption under N.C.G.S. §131F-3(3), your exemption request will be denied and you will need to submit a license application. Note: You may file license applications online.

Thank you for submitting your filing. Download a copy

Figure 97. Confirmation screen

# **Professional Fundraisers**

The **Professional Fundraisers** section of the Online Filing page has two hyperlinks: **Fundraising Application** and **Solicitor Application**.

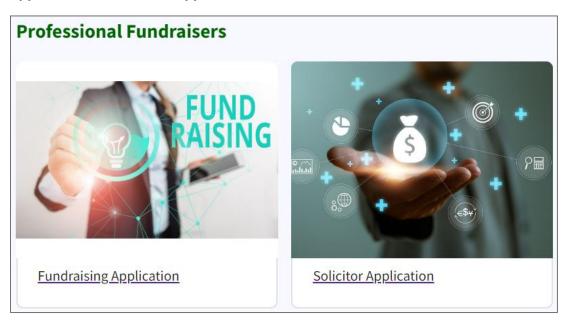


Figure 98. Professional Fundraisers section of the Online Filing page

# **Fundraising Application**

Select Fundraising Application.

This link takes you to the Charities Check page.

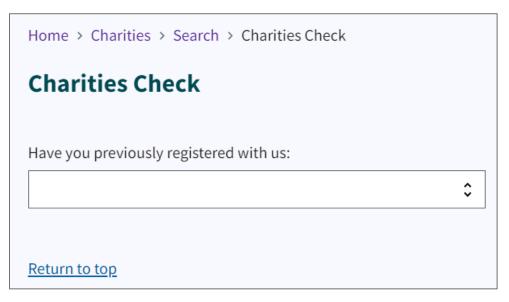


Figure 99. Charities Check page

Using the dropdown, select an answer to: "Have you previously registered with us?"

For this example, we select "No."

**Note:** Notice the "Initial Application" link below the "No" dropdown. If you select "Yes", the link below the dropdown will be "Renewal Request."

Select the **Initial Application** link.

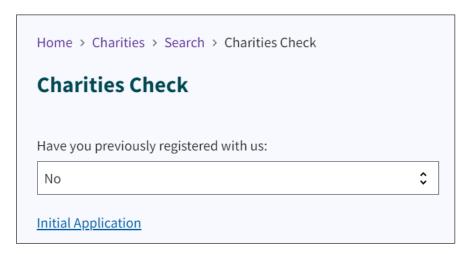


Figure 100. Initial Application link

# Enter the applicant's full legal name.

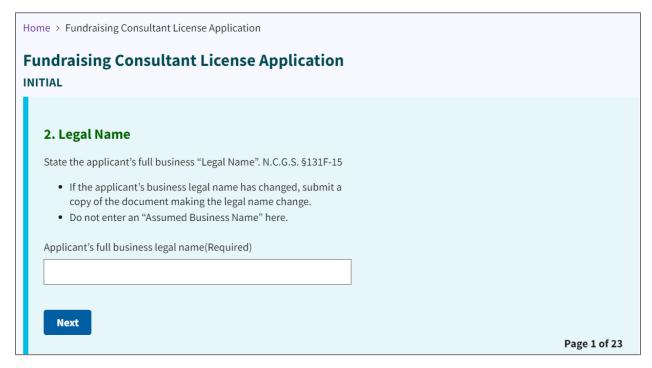


Figure 101. Legal name entry field

## Click Next.

Enter the applicant's principal phone number.

Make sure to include the area code.

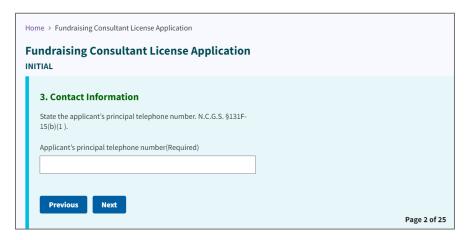


Figure 102. Applicant's principal phone number entry field

# Enter the applicant's principal street address.

This is the address used for delivery of certified mail. Post office box addresses are not acceptable. Also, do not use a third party filer's address.

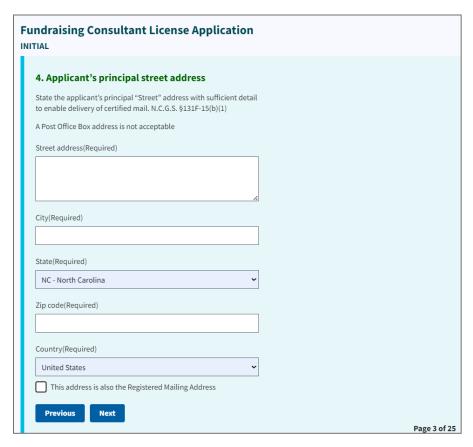


Figure 103. Street address entry fields

# Enter the applicant's mailing address.

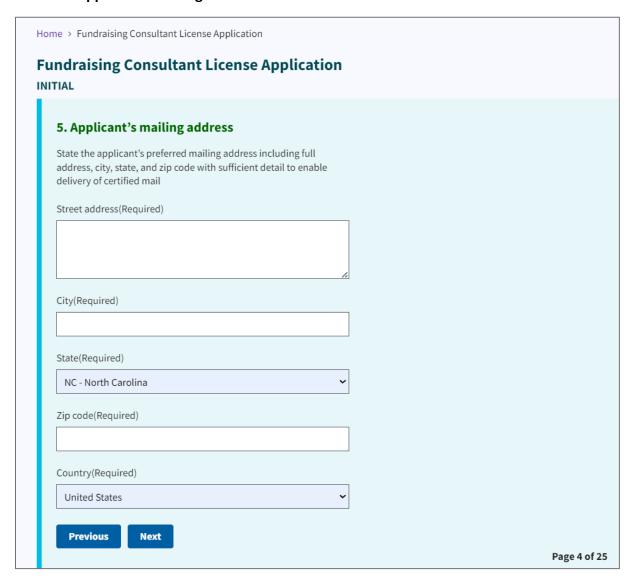


Figure 104. Applicant's mailing address

# Enter the applicant's website address.

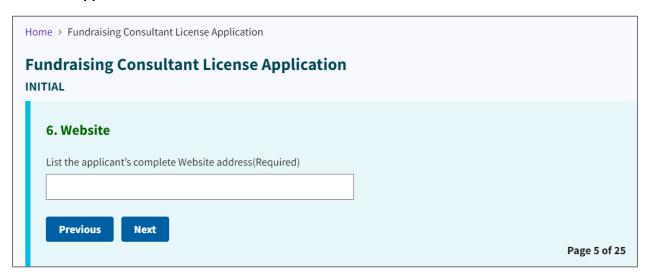


Figure 105. Applicant's website address entry field

# Enter the applicant's contact email address.

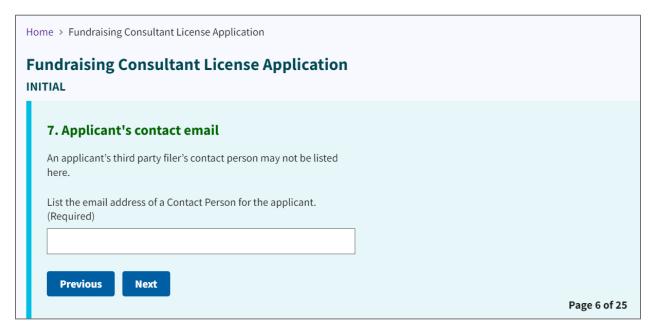


Figure 106. Applicant's contact email entry field

#### Click Next.

Check the appropriate box for applicant's legal form of business per N.C.G.S. §131F-16(b)(2): sole proprietor/individual, corporation, general partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, or other. See **Figure 107.** 

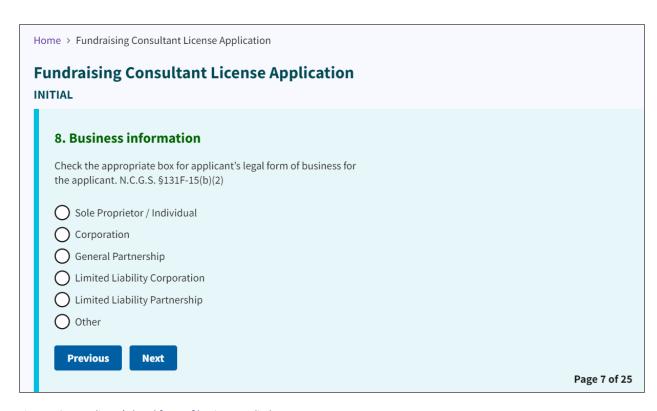


Figure 107. Applicant's legal form of business radio buttons

## Click Next.

Using the dropdown, select the applicant's state of establishment.

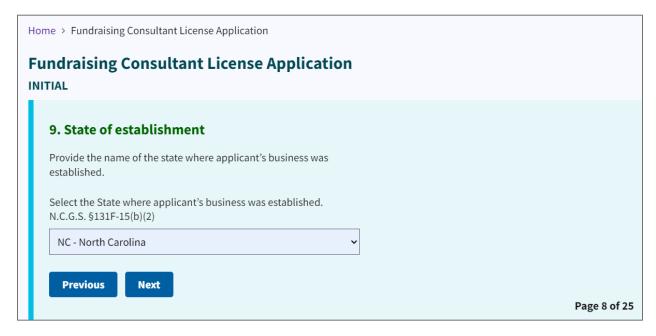


Figure 108. State of establishment dropdown

# Enter the applicant's date of establishment.

You can either type in the date or select the calendar icon to the right of the entry field.



Figure 109. Applicant's date of establishment dropdown

### Click Next.

Select the radio button indicating where your organization is incorporated.

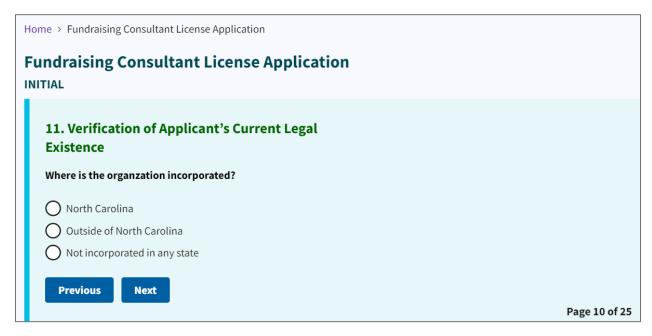


Figure 110. Radio buttons for location of incorporation

For this example, we selected **North Carolina**.

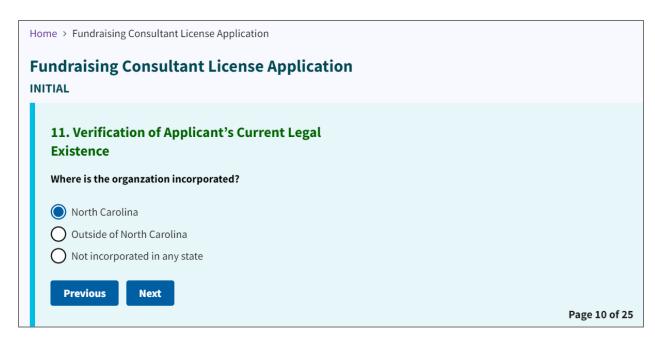


Figure 111. Question: "Where is the organization incorporated?"

## Click Next.

Answer whether you have an office in North Carolina.



Figure 112. Question: "Do you have an office in NC?"

## Click **Next**.

For this example, we selected "Yes."

An additional question displays below the first one.

Answer the additional question: "Is the applicant's principal place of business located outside North Carolina?"

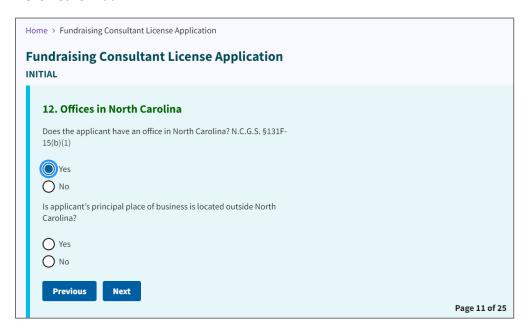


Figure 113. Question: "Is the applicant's principal place of business located outside of NC?"

For this example, we selected "No." See Figure 114.

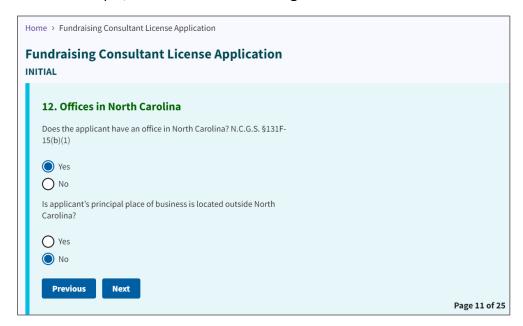


Figure 114. Offices in North Carolina page

Using the radio buttons, select the answer to the question: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to any of the applicant's other directors, officers, owners, or employees?"

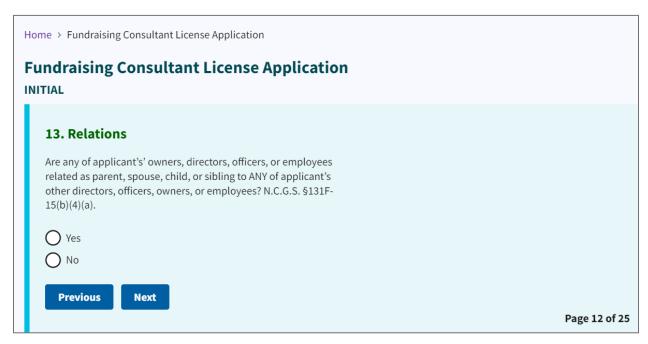


Figure 115. Relationship question

For this example, we selected "No." See Figure 116.

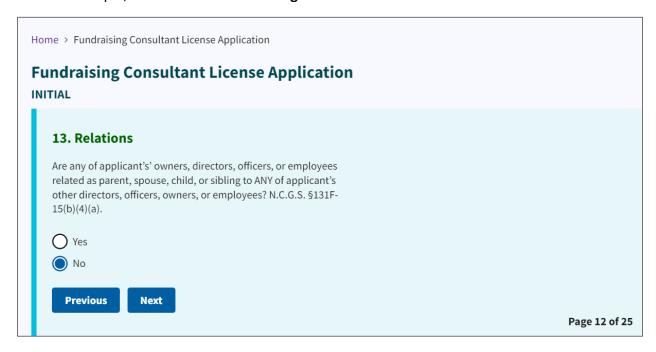


Figure 116. Example with "No" selected

Select the answer to the question: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to any officer, director, trustee, or employee of any charitable organization or sponsor under contract with the applicant?"



Figure 117. Contract relations question

For this example, we selected "No."

## Click Next.

Select the answer to the question: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to any supplier or vendor providing goods or services to any charitable organization or sponsor under contract with the applicant?"

For this example, we selected "No."

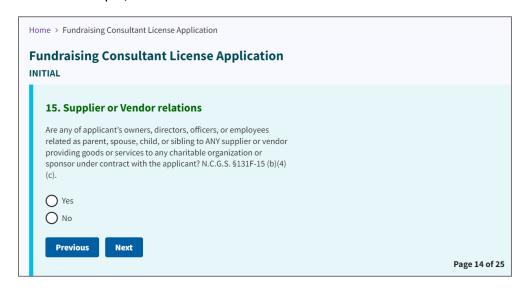


Figure 118. Supplier or Vendor Relations question

Select the answer to the question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been convicted of any felony?

For this example, we selected "No."

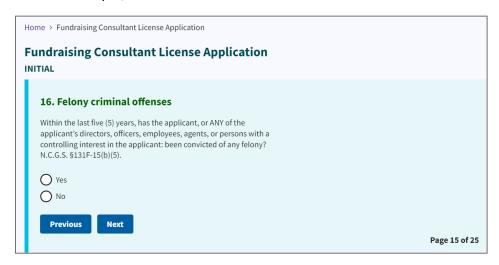


Figure 119. Felony criminal offenses question

## Click Next.

Select the answer to the question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been convicted of any misdemeanor arising from the conduct of a solicitation for any charitable organization or sponsor or charitable or sponsor purpose?"

For this example, we selected "No."

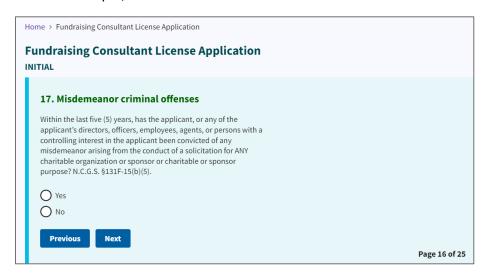


Figure 120. Misdemeanor criminal offenses question

Select the answer to the question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been enjoined from violating any charitable solicitation law in this or any other state?"

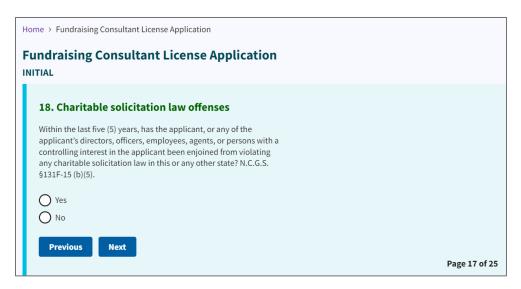


Figure 121. Charitable solicitation law offenses question

For this example, we selected "No."

# Click Next.

Attach a list of names and physical addresses of all of the applicant's officers, directors, and owners. Select the **Browse for Attachment** link to upload the document.

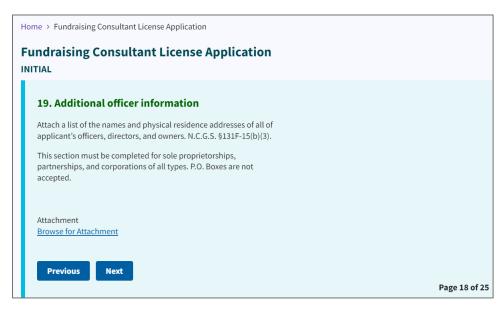


Figure 122. Additional officer information

After you upload the attachment, you will see the file name displayed as "View Attachment: FileName.pdf." See **Figure 123**.

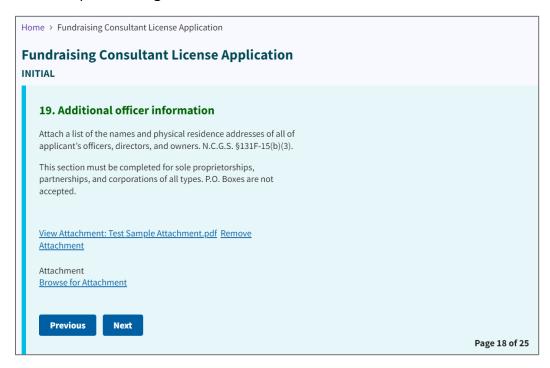


Figure 123. Additional officer information

## Click Next.

Select the answer to the question: "If Partnership or Corporation, does the applicant intend to cover multiple individuals with this single license?"

For this example, we selected "Yes."



Figure 124. License question

Select **Browse for Attachment** to attach a list containing names and street addresses for all partners, members, officers, directors, employees, and agents of the applicant.

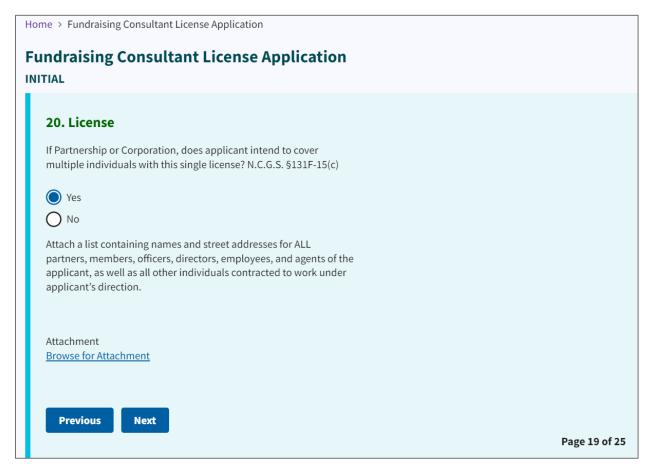


Figure 125. "Browse for Attachment" link on License page

The file name will appear on the page after you upload it.

Enter the contact information for the organizational member who can verify information about this application if needed by the Secretary of State's office.

Enter the **organization contact name**, **title**, **email**, and **phone number**.

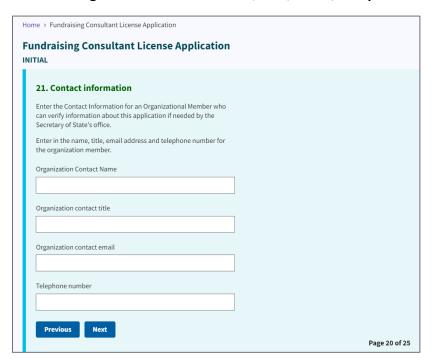


Figure 126. Organization contact information entry fields

### Click Next.

Select the **Browse for Attachment** link to upload a completed and signed Notary Page. This is a required document for your online application.

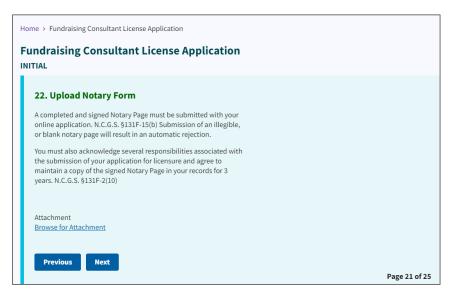


Figure 127. Upload Notary Form page

The file name appears on the page after you upload it.

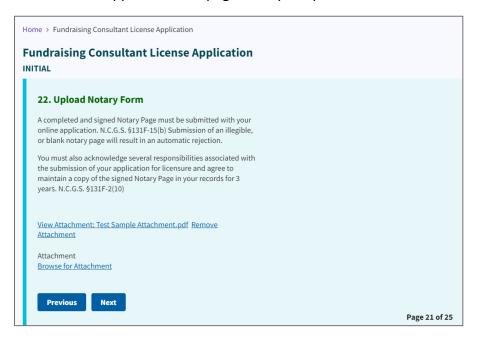


Figure 128. File name of attachment

#### Click Next.

Enter the **contact information** for your Third Party Filer, if applicable.

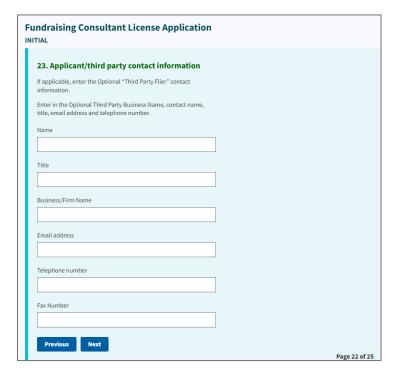


Figure 129. Third party filer contact information entry fields

Review your application in the preview window. See **Figure 130**.

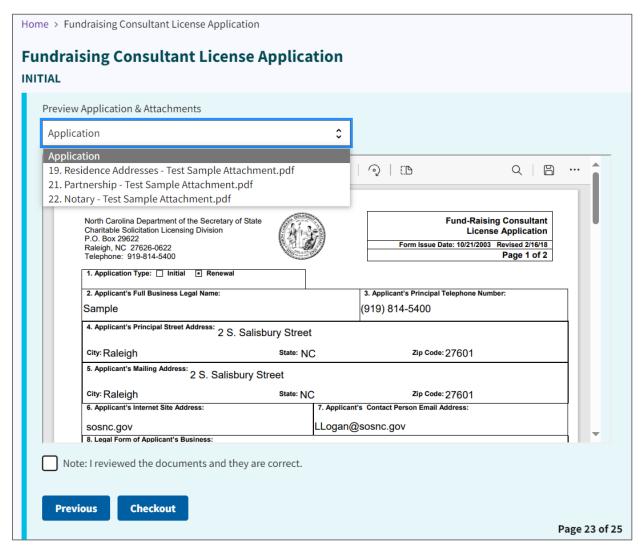


Figure 130. Application and document options dropdown

After reviewing your application, select the check box confirming that you reviewed the documents for accuracy.

Click Checkout.

The **Fees Payment** page displays your fees with a total amount owed.

## Select your **Payment Type**.

For this example, we selected Checking Account (ACH).

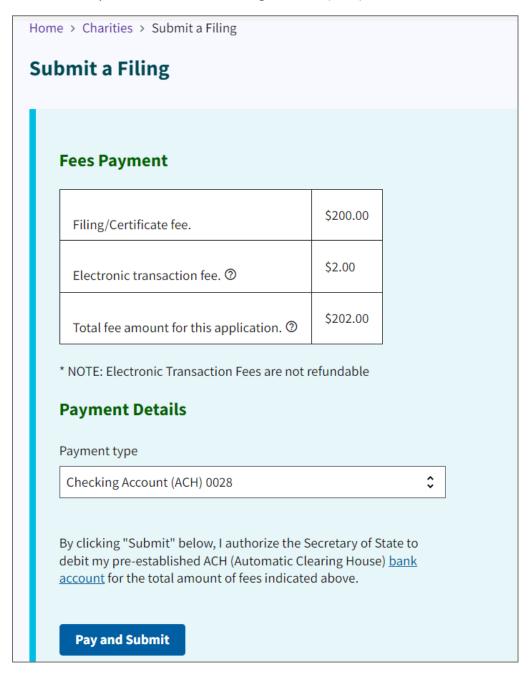


Figure 131. Payment Details page

## Click **Pay and Submit**.

This completes the Fundraising Application process.

# **Solicitor Application**

Select **Solicitor Application**.



Figure 132. A red arrow points to the "Solicitor Application" link

This link takes you to the **Charities Check** page.

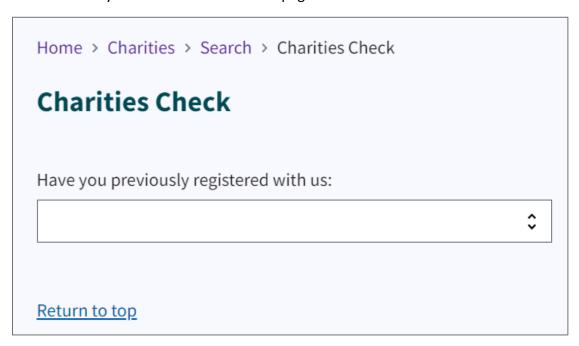


Figure 133. Charities Check page

Answer "Yes" or "No" using the dropdown.

For this example, we selected "No."

An "Initial Application" link appears beneath the dropdown.

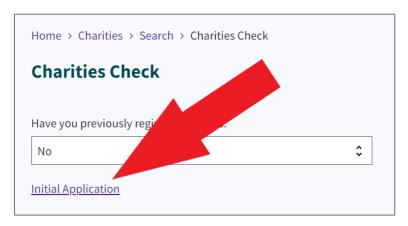


Figure 134. A red arrow points to the "initial Application" link

## Select Initial Application.

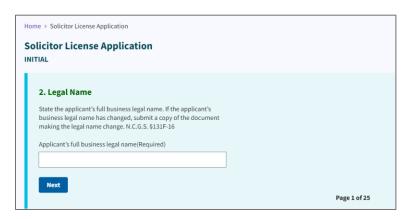


Figure 135. Legal Name entry field

## Enter the Applicant's Full Business Legal Name.

## Click Next.

## Enter the **principal phone number**.

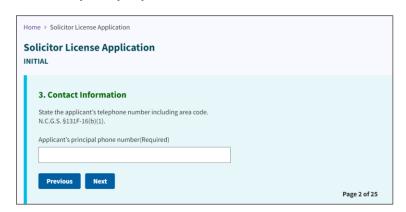


Figure 136. Contact Information - principal phone number

# Enter the applicant's principal street address.

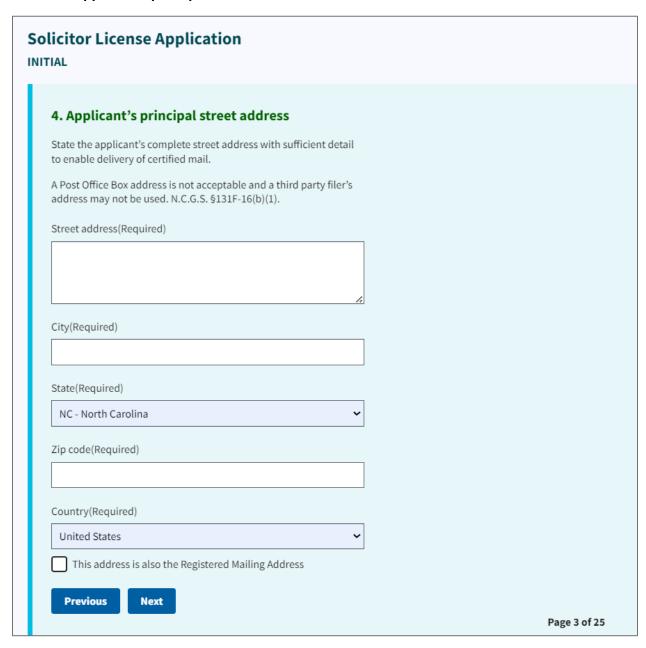


Figure 137. Address entry fields

# Enter the applicant's mailing address.

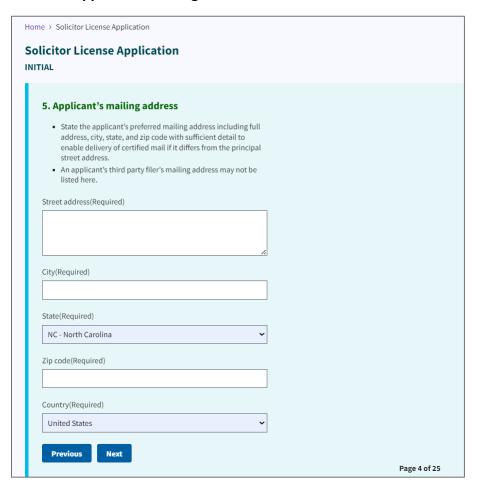


Figure 138. Applicant's mailing address entry fields

## Click Next.

## Enter the applicant's website address.



Figure 139. Website entry field

## Enter the applicant's contact person email address.

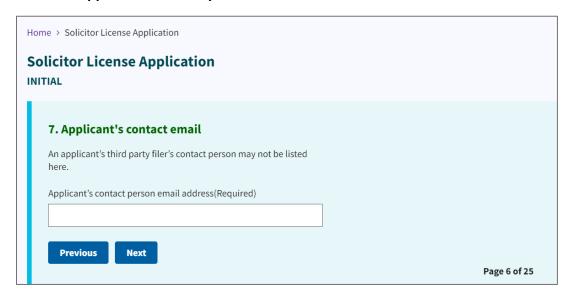


Figure 140. Email address entry field

## Click Next.

Select the radio button for your **business type**.

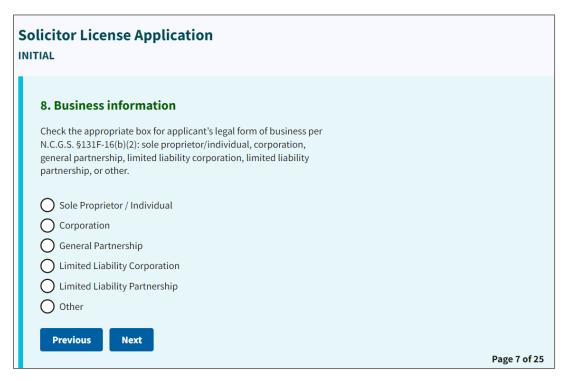


Figure 141. Business type radio buttons

For this example, we selected "Limited Liability Corporation."

Using the dropdown, select the state of establishment.

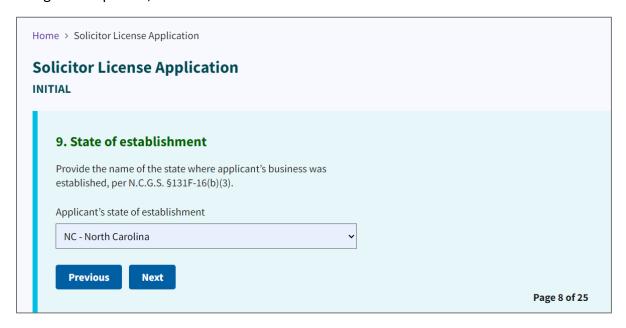


Figure 142. State of Establishment dropdown

### Click Next.

### Enter the date of establishment.

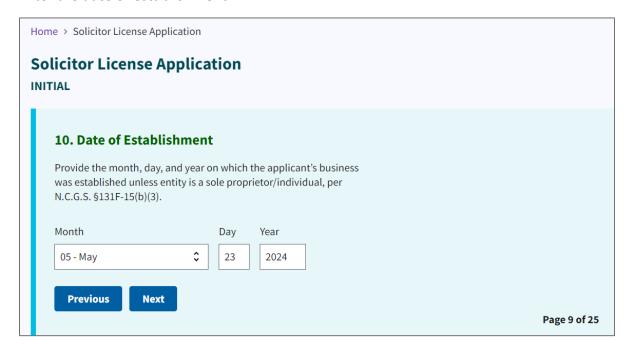


Figure 143. Date of Establishment entry fields

## Click Next.

Select where the entity is incorporated.

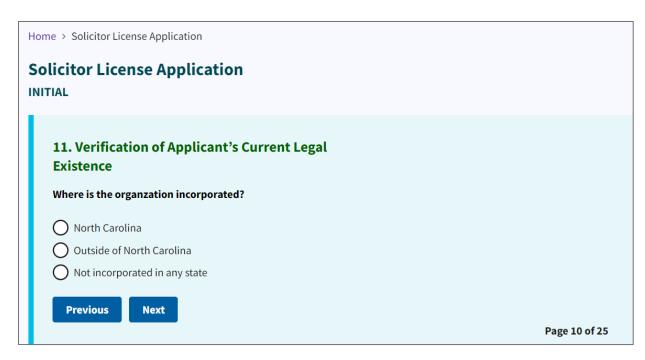


Figure 144. Location of incorporated organization

### Click Next.

For this example, we selected "North Carolina."

Select whether the applicant has a North Carolina office.

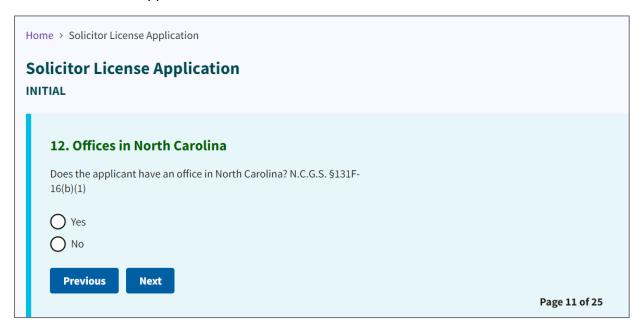


Figure 145. North Carolina office question and radio buttons

For this example, we selected "Yes."

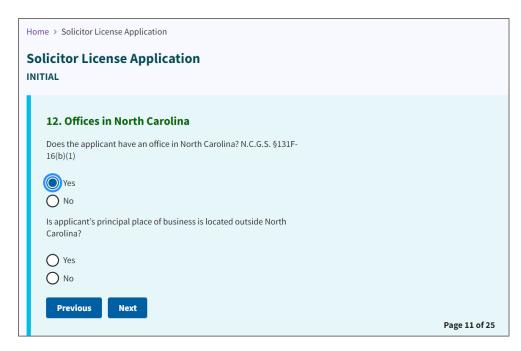


Figure 146. Principal place of business location question

Another question appears, asking if the applicant's principal place of business is located outside of North Carolina. See **Figure 146**.

For this example, we selected "No."

Click Next.

Answer the **related employees** question.

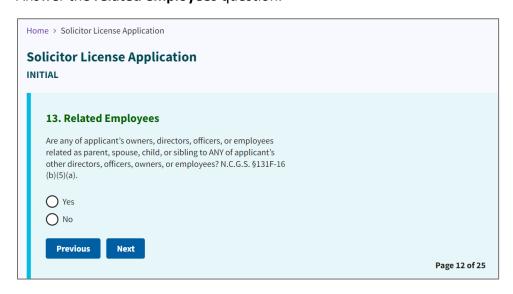


Figure 147. Related Employees question

For this example, we selected "No."

## Answer the **Contract Relations** question.

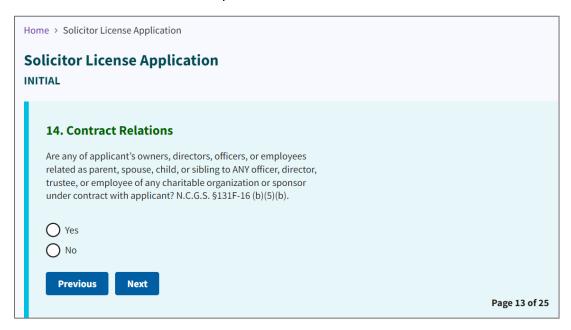


Figure 148. Contract Relations question

For this example, we selected "No."

### Click Next.

Answer the **Vendor Relations** question. See **Figure 149**.

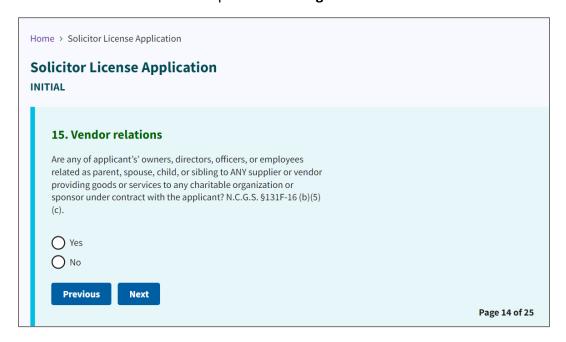


Figure 149. Vendor relations question

Answer the Felony Criminal Offenses question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant: been convicted of any felony?"

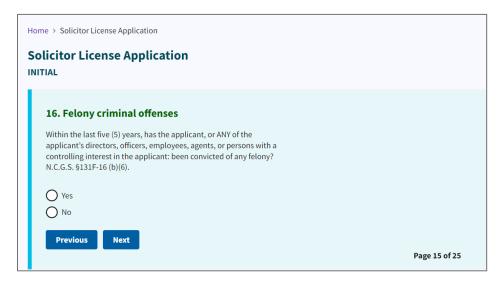


Figure 150. Felony criminal offenses question

#### Click Next.

Answer the Misdemeanor Criminal Offenses question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been convicted of any misdemeanor arising from the conduct of a solicitation for any charitable organization or sponsor or charitable or sponsor purpose?"

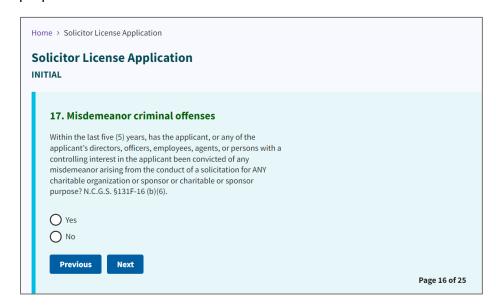


Figure 151. Misdemeanor criminal offenses question

Answer the Charitable Solicitation Law Offenses question: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been enjoined from violating any charitable solicitation law in this or any other state?"

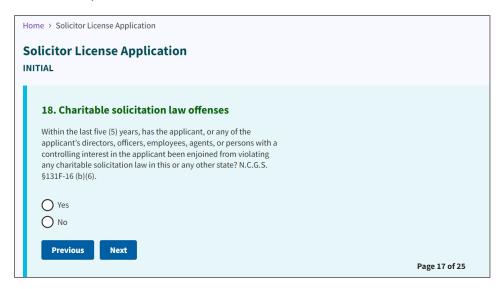


Figure 152. Charitable Solicitation Law Offenses question

#### Click Next.

Attach a list of names and physical residence addresses of all of the applicant's officers, directors, and owners.

Select **Browse for Attachment** to upload the list.

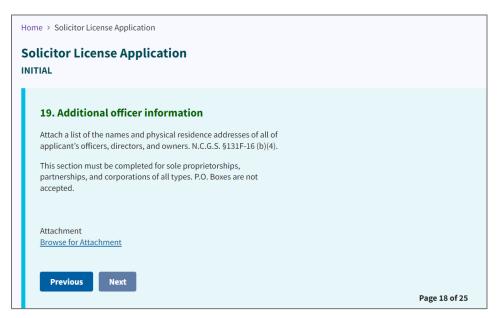


Figure 153. Additional Officer Information upload attachment screen

After uploading the list, the file name appears.

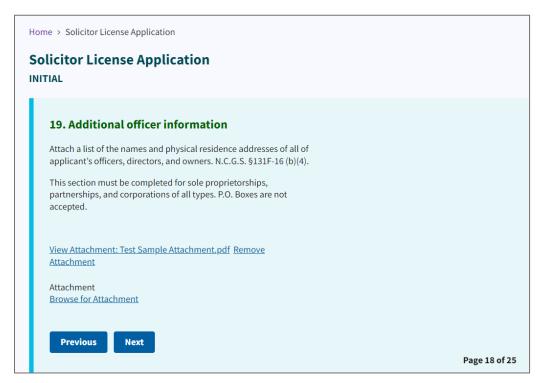


Figure 154. File name of uploaded file

### Click Next.

Select the **Browse for Attachment** link to attach a list of names for those in charge of any solicitation activity.

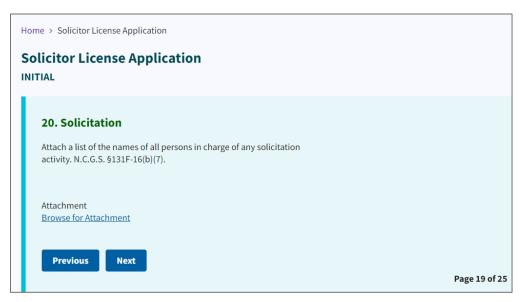


Figure 155. Solicitation attachment

Select the answer to: "If Partnership or Corporation, does the applicant intend to cover multiple individuals with this single license?"

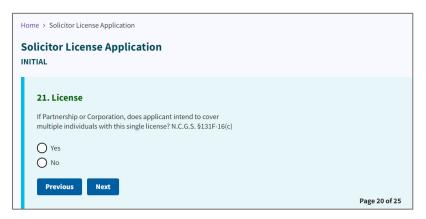


Figure 156. License question

### Click Next.

For this example, we selected "No."

Select Browse for Attachment to upload an applicable bond or other surety.

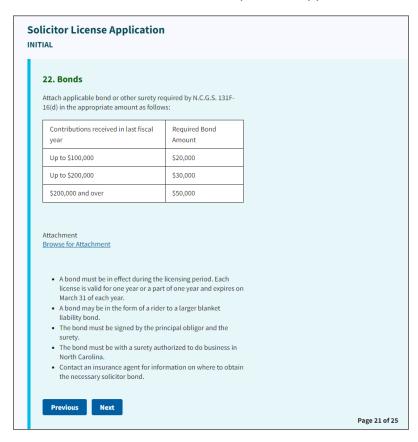


Figure 157. "Browse for Attachment" link to upload bonds

## Select **Browse for Attachment** to upload your notarized form.

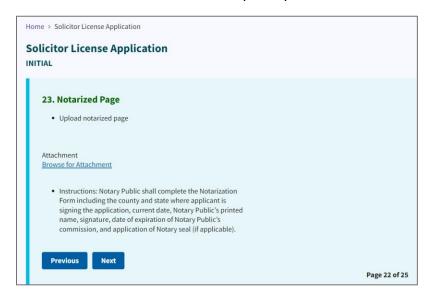


Figure 158. "Browse for Attachment" link to upload notarized form

### Click Next.

Enter the name, title, business name, email address, phone, and fax.

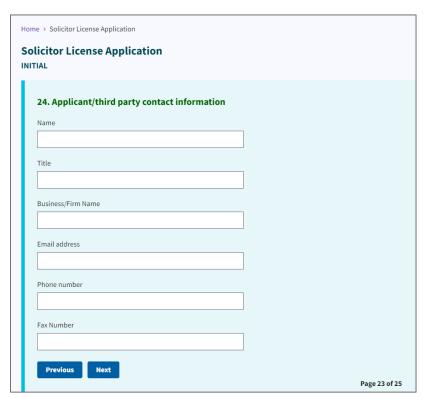


Figure 159. Applicant/third party contact information entry fields

Review your application and attachments by selecting the dropdown.

Make sure your application is error-free to avoid extra fees.

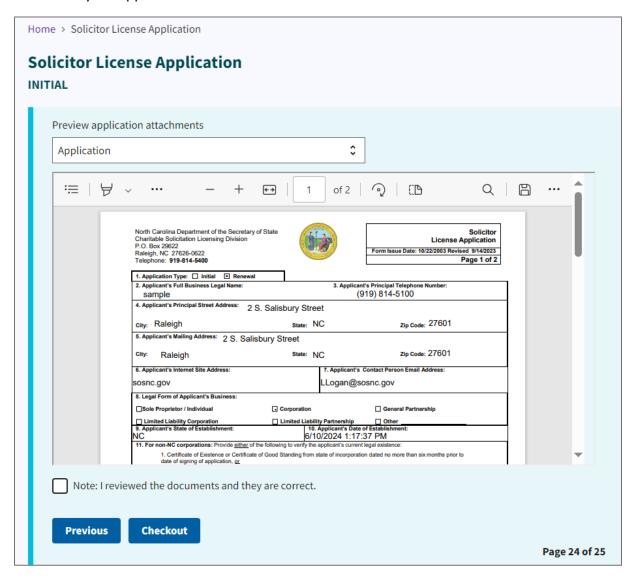


Figure 160. Preview application window

Select the checkbox that confirms you reviewed the documents for accuracy.

Click Checkout.

## Select a Payment Type.

For this example, we selected "Checking Account (ACH)."

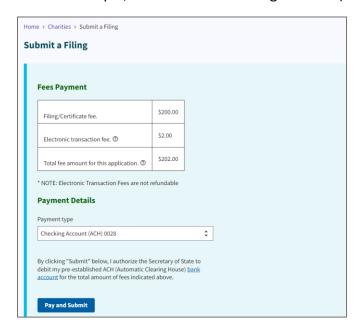


Figure 161. Payment Details and Payment Type dropdown

## Click Pay and Submit.

Select **Print a Receipt for Your Records** to download a PDF of your application for printing.

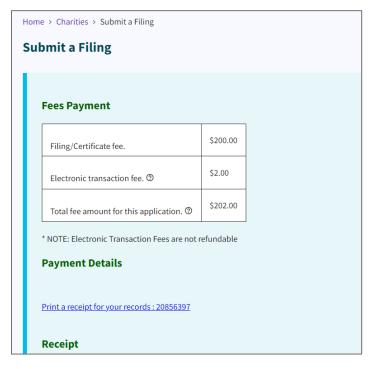


Figure 162. Print a Receipt link on the Fees Payment page

The PDF copy of the receipt displays a description of invoiced items.

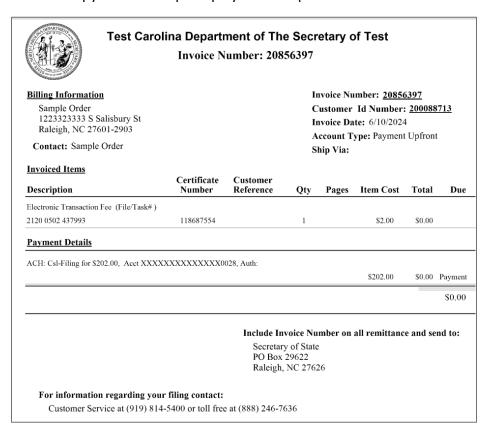


Figure 163. Downloadable and printable PDF of receipt

# Solicitor Initial Application for Foreign (Outside NC) Applicants

This section is for Foreign Corporation Verification which means these are corporations outside of North Carolina.

Non-North Carolinian applicants must provide either of the following to verify the applicant's current legal existence: Certificate of Existence or Certificate of Good Standing.

Attach the Certificate of Existence or Certificate of Good Standing.

Solicitor License Application
INITIAL

Foreign corporation verification

For non-NC corporations: provide either of the following to verify the applicant's current legal existence provide either of the following documents.

Certificate of Existence or Certificate of Good Standing

Must be from the state of incorporation, and dated no more than six (6) months prior to date of signing of application.

Attachment Browse for Attachment

OR

## Webpage screenshot

Must be found on a publicly accessible regulatory authority website dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date the license application was signed. The screenshot should include:

Figure 164. Attach certificate links

To attach the document, select the "Browse for Attachment" link.

You can also attach a screenshot of your organization's webpage.

Make sure the screenshot includes:

- Exact name of the entity as it appears on the license application
- Language clearly verifying its status as a corporation in good standing in the state of incorporation
- Date the information was printed on the face of the document

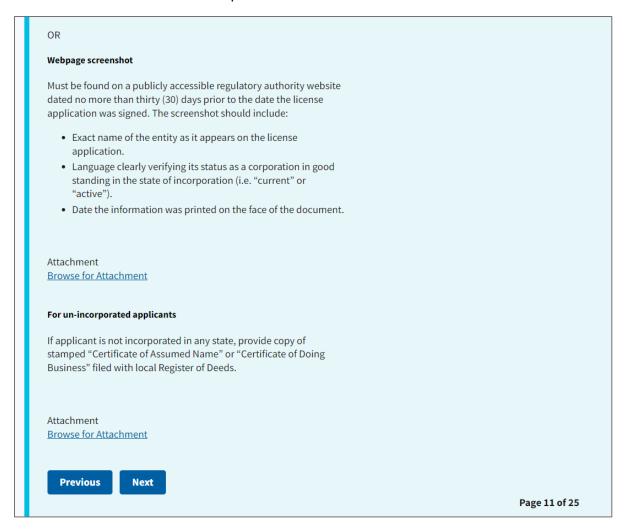


Figure 165. Webpage screenshot attachment link

## For un-incorporated applicants:

If the applicant is not incorporated in any state, provide a copy of the stamped "Certificate of Assumed Name" or "Certificate of Doing Business" filed with the local Register of Deeds.

Select the "Browse for Attachment" link to attach this document.

Select the radio button to answer: "If the applicant's principal place of business is located outside of North Carolina, does the applicant have any offices located in North Carolina?"

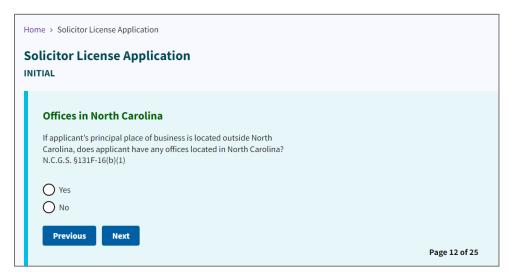


Figure 166. Offices in North Carolina radio buttons

For this example, we selected "No."

## Click Next.

Select the radio button that answers: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to ANY of the applicant's other directors, officers, owners, or employees?"

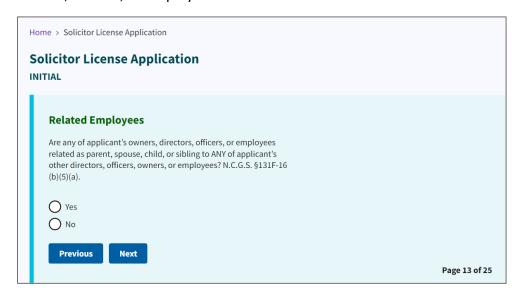


Figure 167. Related Employees radio buttons

For this example, we selected "No."

Select the radio button that answers: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to ANY officer, director, trustee, or employee of any charitable organization or sponsor under contract with the applicant?"

For this example, we selected "No."

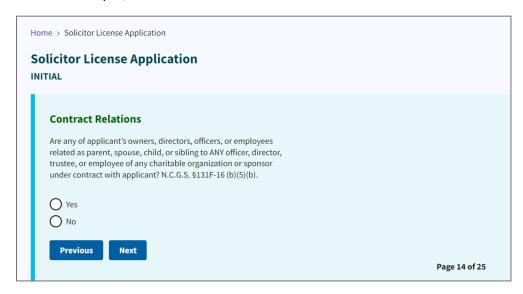


Figure 168. Contract relations radio buttons

### Click Next.

Using the radio buttons, select whether or not the applicant has been convicted of a felony crime within the last five years.

For this example, we selected "No."

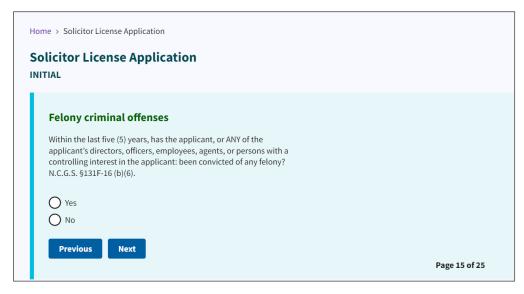


Figure 169. Felony crimes radio button

Select the answer for whether or not the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor criminal offense within the last five years.

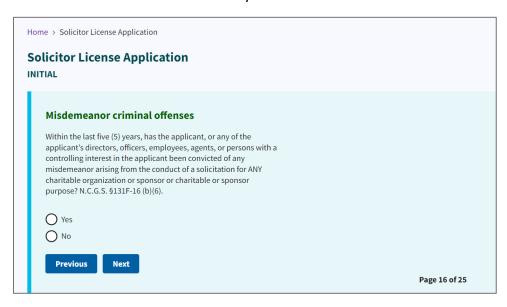


Figure 170. Misdemeanor criminal offense radio buttons

For this example, we selected "No."

#### Click Next.

Select the radio buttons that answers whether or not the applicant has been convicted of a charitable solicitation law offense within the last five years.

For this example, we selected "No."

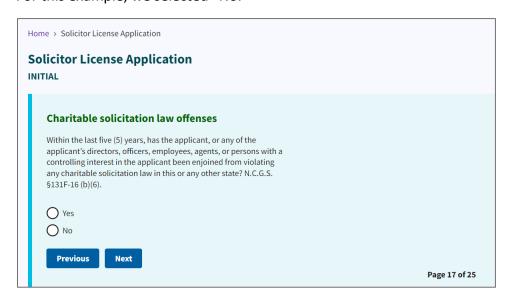


Figure 171. Charitable solicitation law offense radio buttons

Attach additional officer information by using the "Browse for Attachment" link.

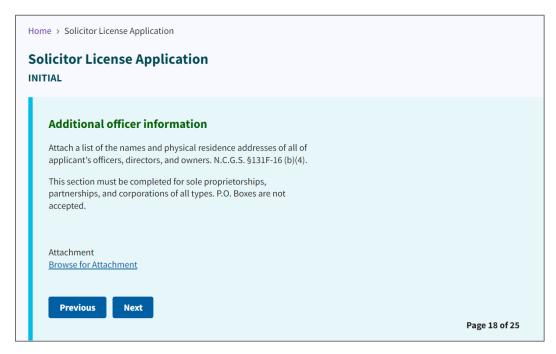


Figure 172. Additional officer information attachment link

This section must be completed for sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations of all types. Post office boxes are not accepted.

### Click Next.

Attach the list of names for all persons in charge of any solicitation activity.

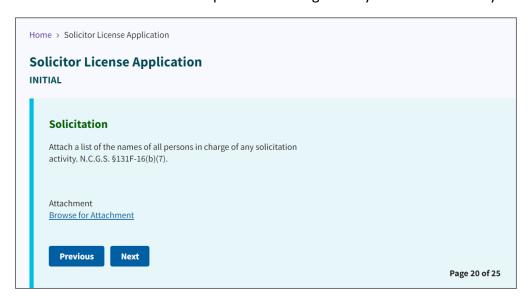


Figure 173. List of names in charge of solicitation attachment link

Select the radio button that answers: "If Partnership or Corporation, does the applicant intend to cover multiple individuals with this single license?"

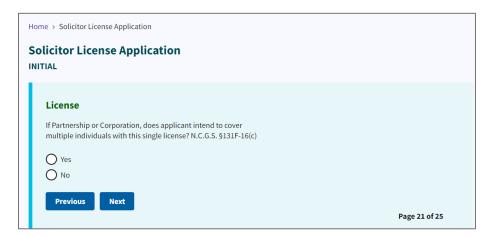


Figure 174. Attach the list

For this example, we select "Yes."

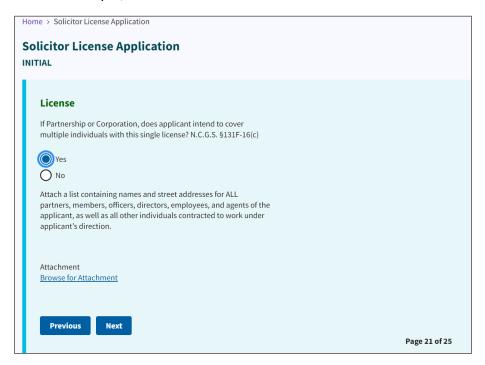


Figure 175. Radio button "yes" selected

After you select the "Yes" radio button, the "Browse for Attachment" link appears.

Attach a list of names and street addresses for ALL partners, members, officers, directors, employees, and agents of the applicant, as well as all other individuals contracted to work under the applicant's direction.

Attach an applicable bond or other surety in the appropriate amount as follows:

- If contributions received in the last fiscal year were up to \$100,000, then the required bond amount is \$20,000.
- If contributions received in the last fiscal year were up to \$200,000, then the required bond amount is \$30,000.
- If contributions received in the last fiscal year were \$200,000 and over, then the required bond amount is \$50,000.

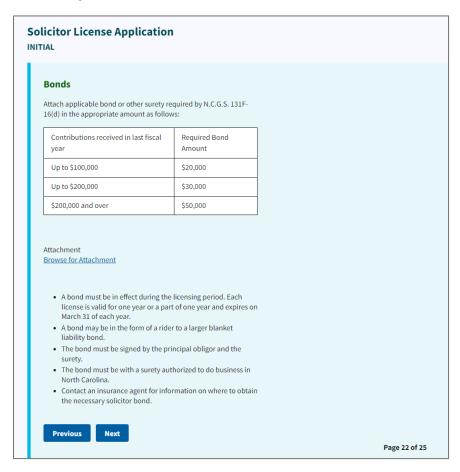


Figure 176. Bonds attachment page

## **Bond Information**

- The bond must be in effect during the licensing period. Each license is valid for one year and expires on March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- The bond may be in the form of a rider to a larger blanket liability bond.
- The bond must be signed by the principal obligor and the surety.
- The bond must be with a surety authorized to do business in North Carolina.
- Contact an insurance agent for information on where to obtain the necessary solicitor bond.

Select the **Browse for Attachment** link to upload your bond document.

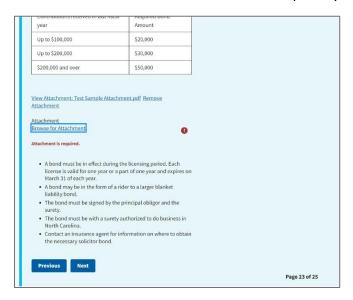


Figure 177. Browse for Attachment link

#### Click Next.

Select the Browse for Attachment link to upload the Notarized Page.

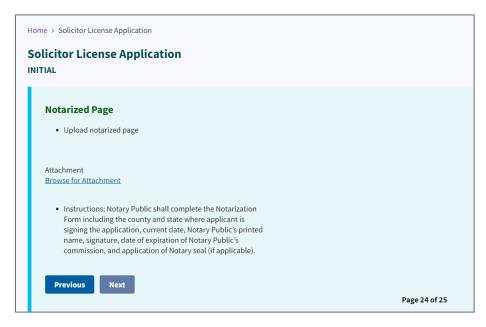


Figure 178. Notarized page

Have a Notary Public complete the Notarization Form, including the county and state where the applicant is signing the application, current date, the Notary Public's printed name, signature, date of expiration of Notary Public's commission, and application of Notary seal (if applicable).

# Enter the applicant/third party contact information.

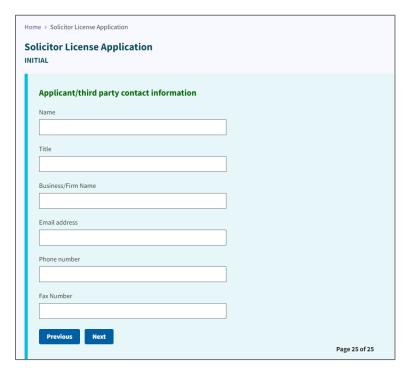


Figure 179. Name and address entry fields

### Click Next.

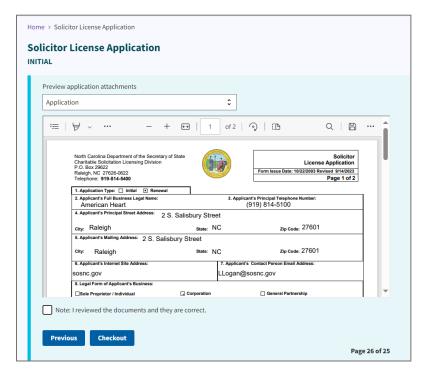


Figure 180. Checkout button

## Click Checkout.

Select the checkbox indicating that you have reviewed the application for accuracy.

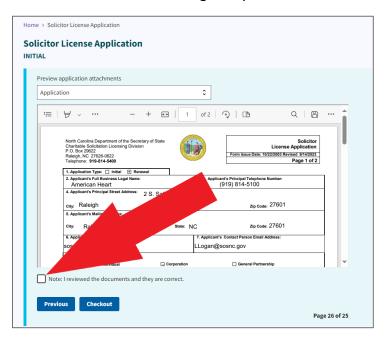


Figure 181. Don't forget to select the "Note" checkbox

## Click Checkout.

## Select **Payment Type**.

For this example, we selected "Checking Account (ACH)."

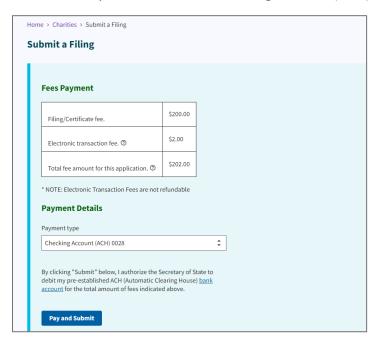


Figure 182. Pay and Submit button

## Click Pay and Submit.

Select **Print a Receipt for Your Records** to print a copy of your receipt.

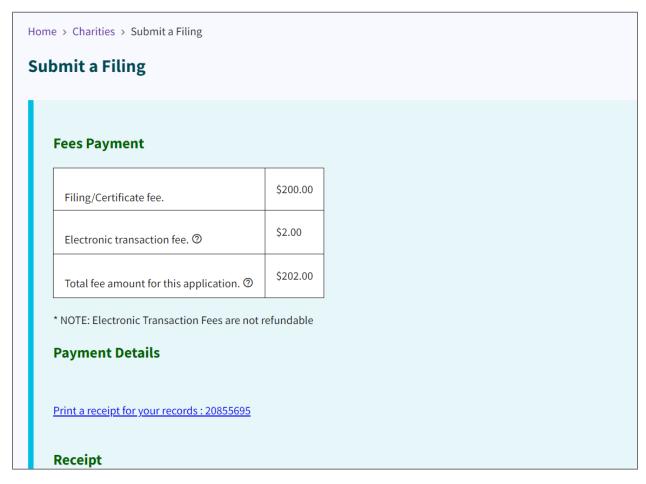


Figure 183. Print receipt link

This is the end of the Solicitors Initial Application process.

# Solicitor's Renewal Request

This if for applicants who say "Yes" to the question: "Have you already registered with the Secretary of State's office?"

## Select Renewal Request.



Figure 184. Select Renewal Request

This link takes you to the **Charities Check** page.

Select whether or not you have previously registered with the NC Secretary of State's Office.

Select **Yes** from the dropdown.

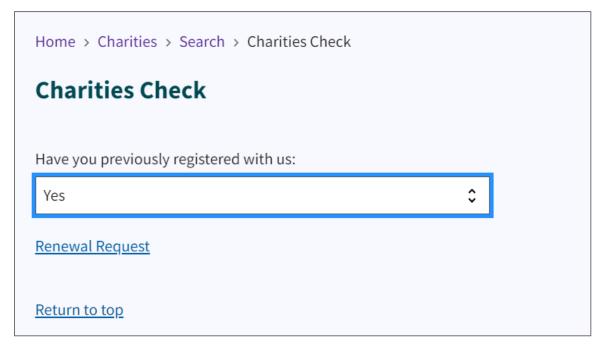


Figure 185. Yes selected

Click Renewal Request.

## Enter the organization name.

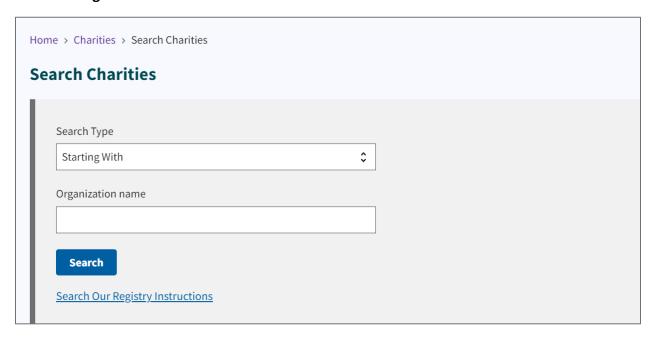


Figure 186. Organization name entry field

## Click Search.

The Search Results display the name, status, and license number of the charitable organization.

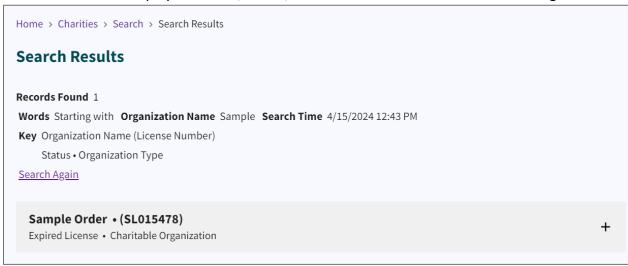


Figure 187. Search results

Select the **plus (+) sign** beside the name to expand a tile of options.

#### Select File a Renewal Online.

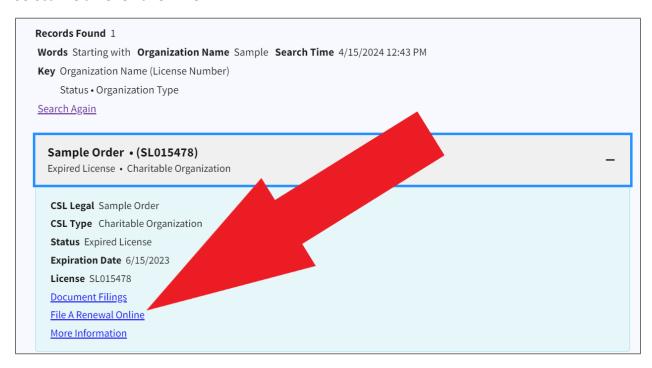


Figure 188. A red arrow points to the Renewal Online link

### Enter the applicant's full business legal name.

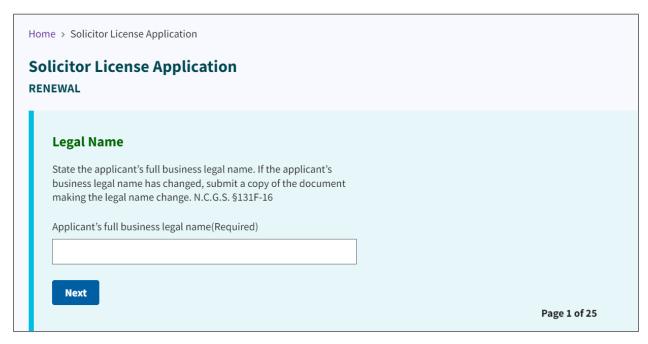


Figure 189. Legal name entry field

# Enter the applicant's principal phone number.

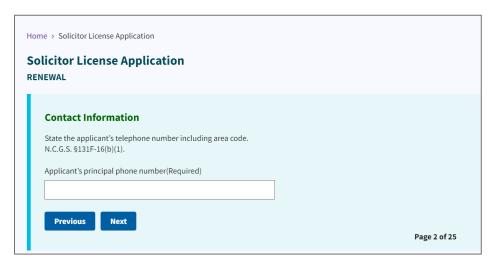


Figure 190. Principal phone number entry field

#### Click Next.

### Enter the applicant's principal street address.

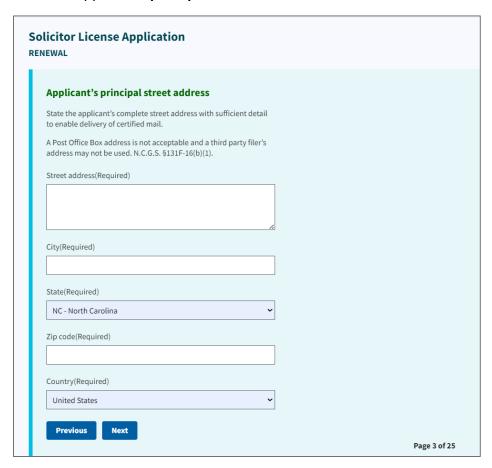


Figure 191. Principal's street address

# Enter the applicant's mailing address.

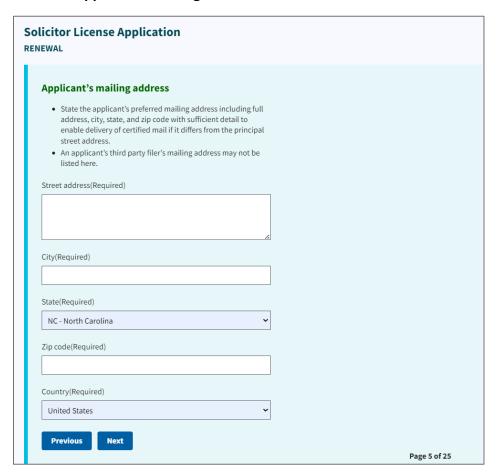


Figure 192. Applicant's mailing address

### Click Next.

### Enter the applicant's website URL.

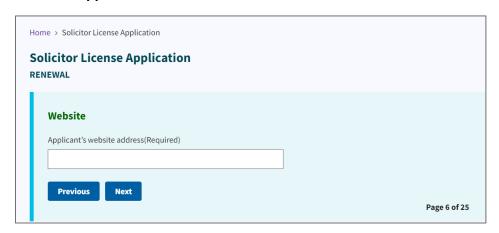


Figure 193. Applicant's website address entry field

### Enter the applicant's contact email address.

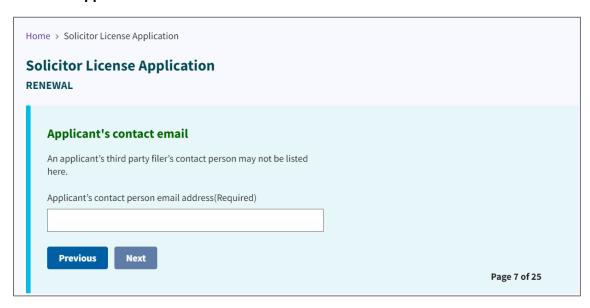


Figure 194. Applicant's contact email entry field

### Click Next.

Select the **business type** radio button. See **Figure 195**.

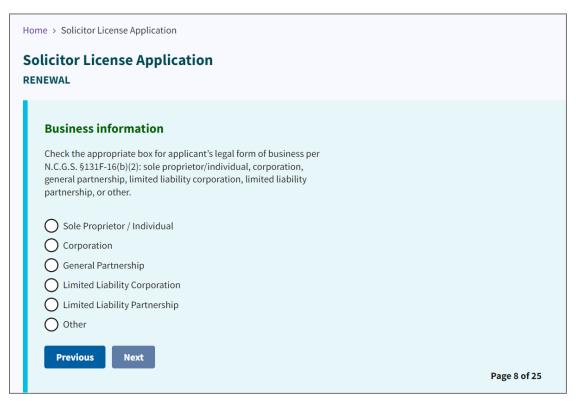


Figure 195. Business information radio buttons

For this example, we selected **Sole Proprietor/Individual**.

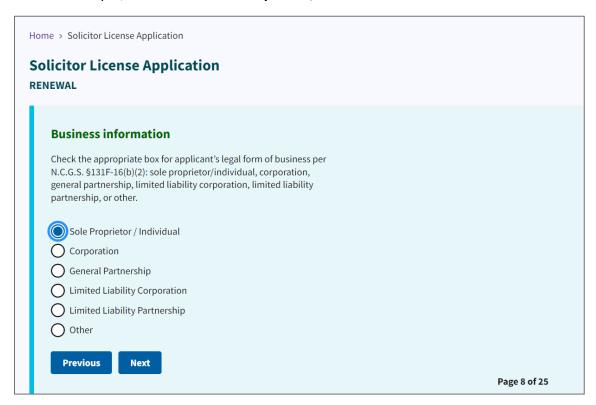


Figure 196. Business type radio buttons example

### Click Next.

Select the applicant's state of establishment.

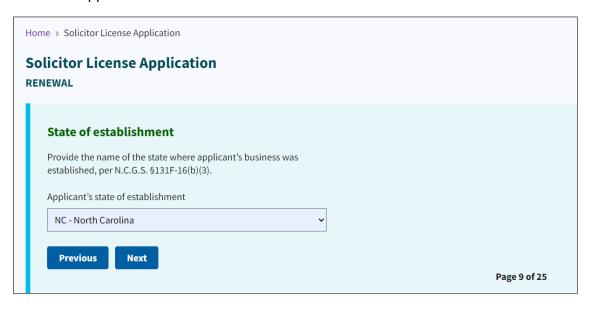


Figure 197. State of establishment dropdown

### Enter the applicant's date of establishment.

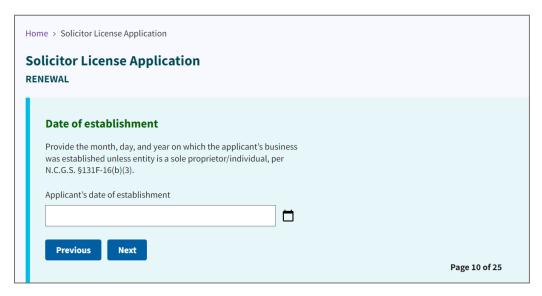


Figure 198. Date of establishment entry field

#### Click Next.

Attach documents that apply to your organization.

If you are a non-North Carolina (foreign) corporation, attach either a **Certificate of Existence** or **Certificate of Good Standing**.

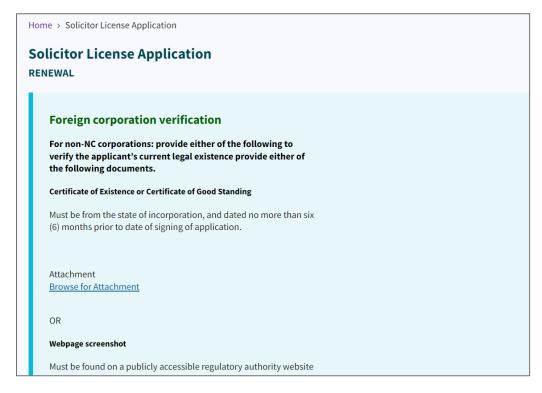


Figure 199. Attach document links for foreign (non-NC) corporations

You can attach a webpage screenshot by selecting the **Browse for Attachment** link.

The webpage must be found on a publicly accessible regulatory authority website dated no more than 30 days prior to the date the license application was signed.

#### Screenshot must include:

- Exact name of the entity as it appears on the license application
- Language clearly verifying its status as a corporation in good standing in the state of incorporation (i.e. "current" or "active")
- Date the information was printed on the face of the document

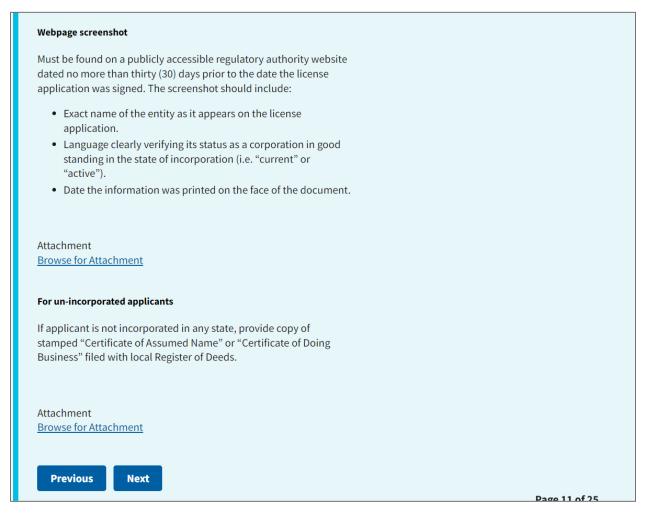


Figure 200. Webpage screenshot attachment link

Upload the webpage screenshot.

Select the radio button that answers: "If the applicant's principal place of business is located outside North Carolina, does the applicant have any offices located in North Carolina?"

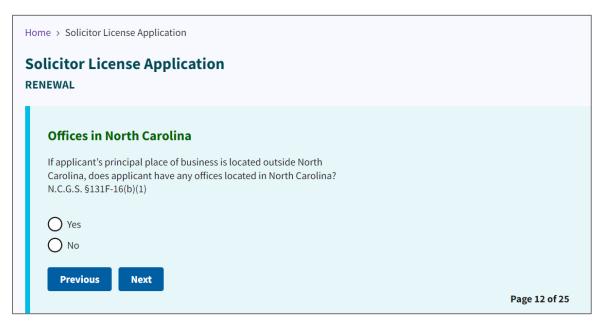


Figure 201. Offices in NC radio buttons

#### Click Next.

Select the radio button that answers: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to ANY of the applicant's other directors, officers, owners, or employees?"

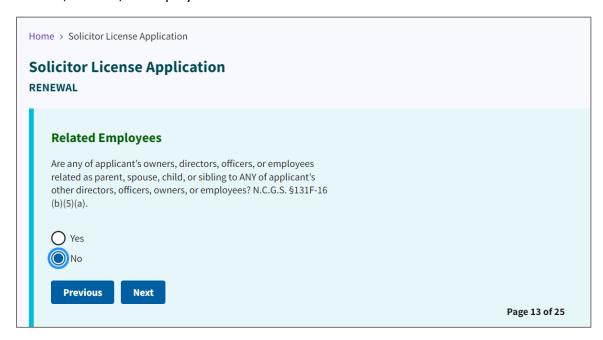


Figure 202. Related employees radio buttons

Select the radio button to answer: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related as parent, spouse, child, or sibling to ANY officer, director, trustee, or employee of any charitable organization or sponsor under contract with the applicant?"

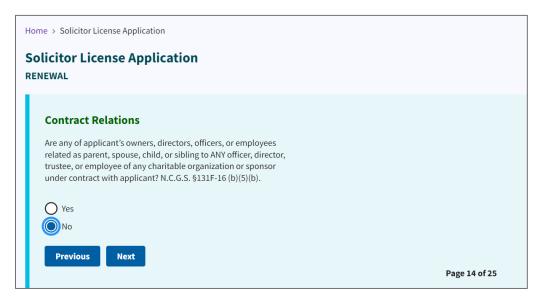


Figure 203. Contract Relations radio buttons

#### Click Next.

Select the radio button that answers: "Are any of the applicant's owners, directors, officers, or employees related to ANY supplier or vendor providing goods or services to any charitable organization or sponsor under contract with the applicant?"

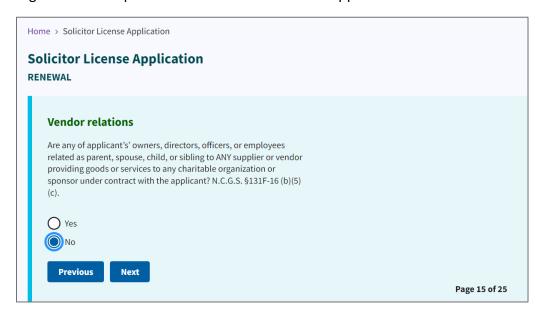


Figure 204. Vendor Relations radio buttons

Select the radio button that answers: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or ANY of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been convicted of any felony?"

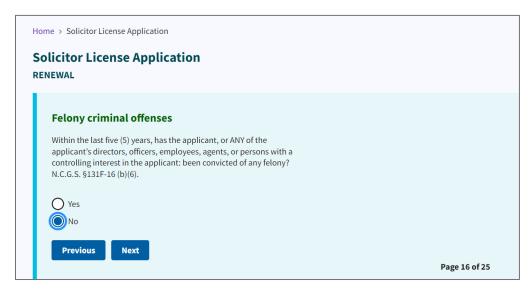


Figure 205. Felony criminal offenses radio buttons

#### Click Next.

Select the radio button that answers: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been convicted of any misdemeanor arising from the conduct of a solicitation for ANY charitable organization or sponsor or charitable or sponsor purpose?"

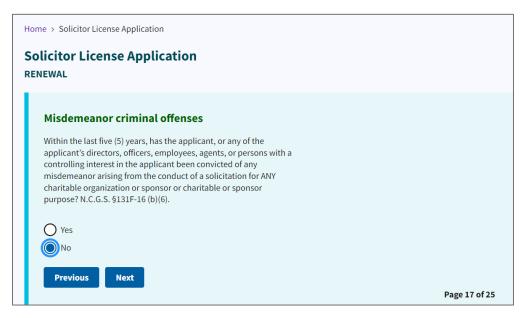


Figure 206. Misdemeanor criminal offenses radio buttons

Select the radio button that answers: "Within the last five years, has the applicant, or any of the applicant's directors, officers, employees, agents, or persons with a controlling interest in the applicant been enjoined from violating any charitable solicitation law in this or any other state?"

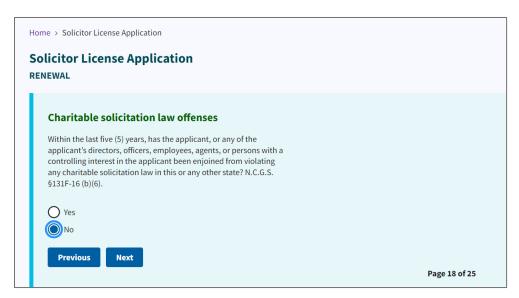


Figure 207. Charitable solicitation law offenses radio buttons

#### Click Next.

Select **Browse for Attachment** to attach a list of the names and physical addresses of all of the applicant's officers, directors, and owners.

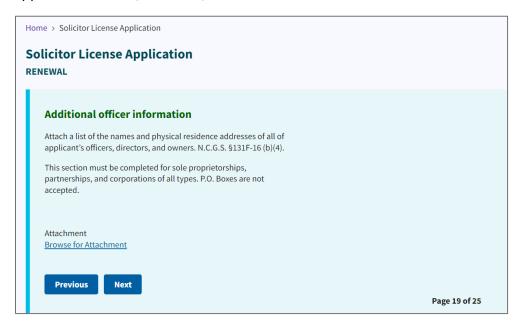


Figure 208. Additional officer information upload attachment link

Using the **Browse for Attachment** link, attach a list of the name of all persons in charge of any solicitation activity.

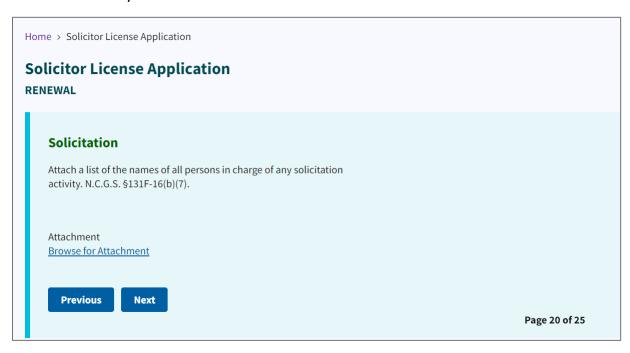


Figure 209. Solicitation list attachment link

#### Click Next.

Select the radio button to answer: "If Partnership or Corporation, does the applicant intend to cover multiple individuals with this single license?"

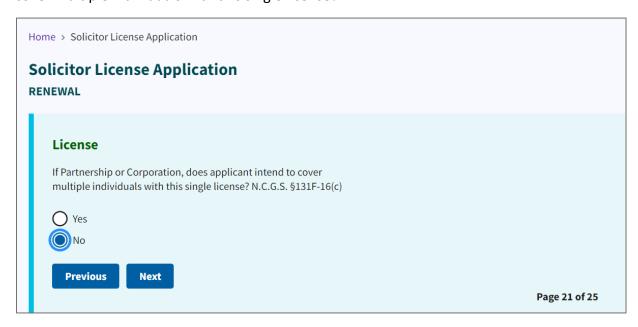


Figure 210. License radio buttons

Select the **Browse for Attachment** link to attach an applicable bond or surety.

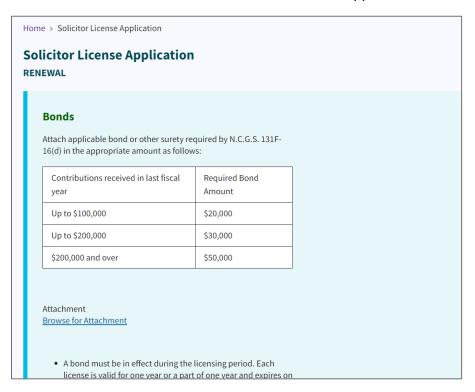


Figure 211. Bond attachment link

### Click Next.

Upload the Notarized Page by selecting the Browse for Attachment link.

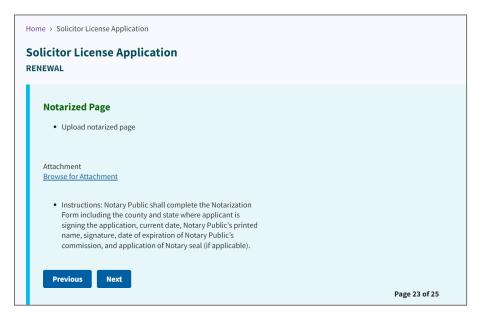


Figure 212. Notarized Page upload attachment link

Enter the applicant's or third party's **name**, **title**, **business name**, **email address**, **phone number**, and **fax number**.

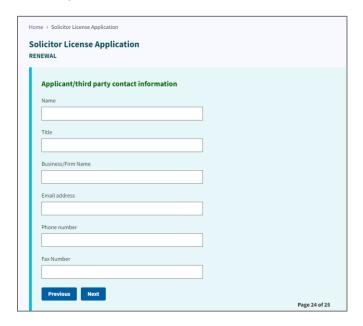


Figure 213. Contact information entry fields

#### Click Next.

A preview of the application displays all attached documents. Review your application and attachments.

Makes sure to select the "Note" checkbox.

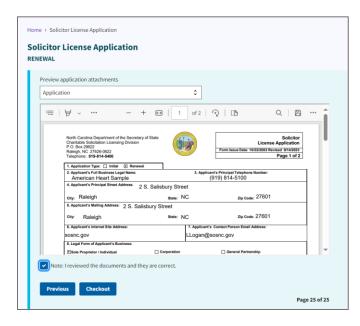


Figure 214. Application preview window

### Click Checkout.

### Select the **Payment Type**, using the dropdown.

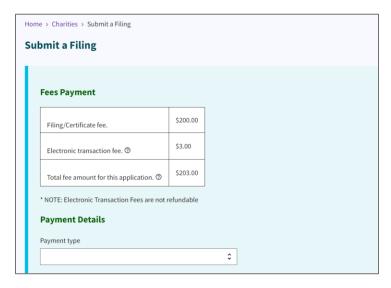


Figure 215. Payment Type dropdown

You can pay by either credit card or check (ACH).

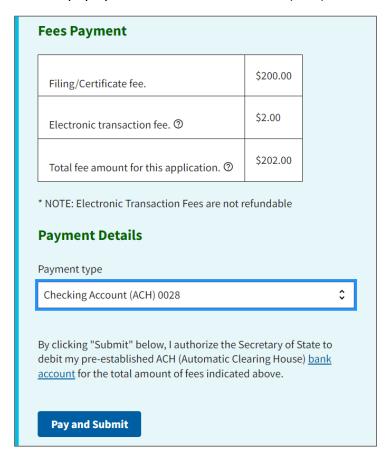


Figure 216. Pay and Submit button

### Click Pay and Submit.

# Other

The **Other** section of the Online Filing page has two hyperlinks: **Amend a Filing** and **Continue a Filing**. See **Figure 217**.

# Amend a Filing

Select Amend a Filing.

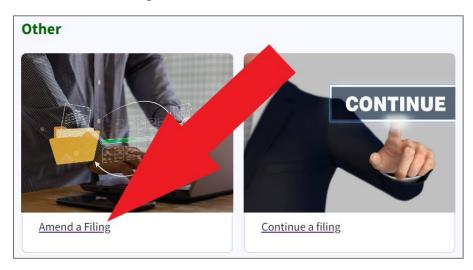


Figure 217. A red arrow points to the "Amend a Filing" link

You are prompted to log into your NC SOS website account if you have not done so already.

The link takes you to the Amend an Existing Filing page for your organization. See Figure 218.



Figure 218. Document ID Number

### Enter your organization name.

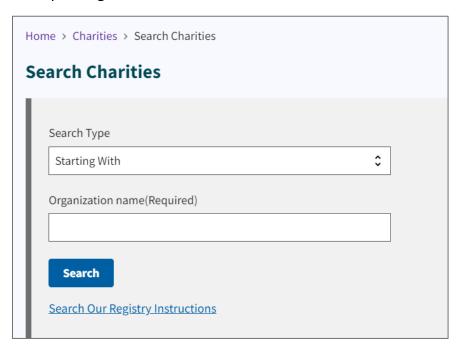


Figure 219. Search entry fields

The Search Results display your organization's information.

Select the plus (+) sign at the end of the row.

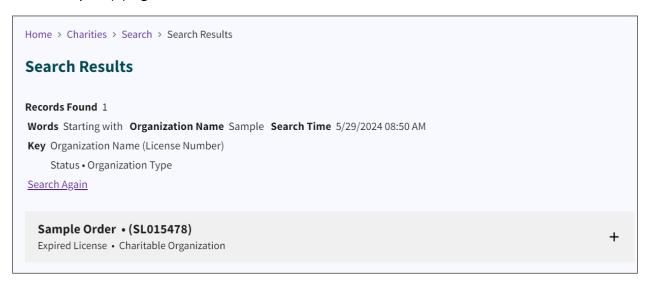


Figure 220. Search Results page with plus sign

When you select the plus sign, a tile expands beneath the organization name row. See **Figure 221**.

Several linkable options display in the tile.

#### Select More Information.

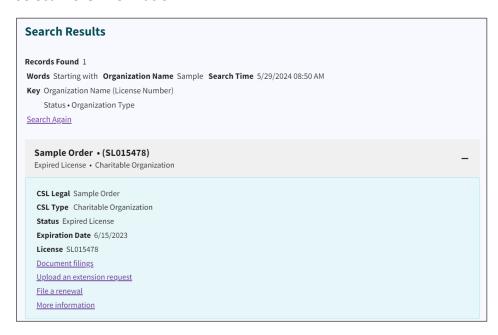


Figure 221. Expanded tile with links

When you select **More Information**, a more detailed screen with the organization's information displays. See **Figure 222**.

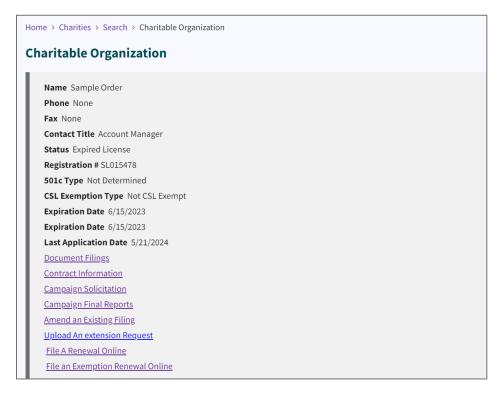


Figure 222. Linkable options

### Select Amend an Existing Filing.

### Select Upload an Attachment.

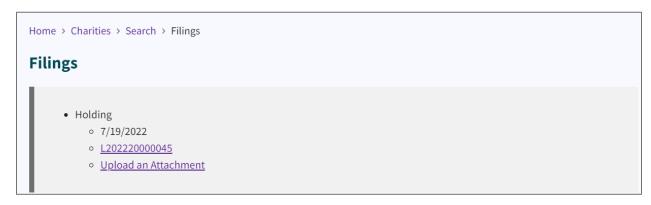


Figure 223. The Upload an Attachment link

Your Document ID Number appears in the Document ID# entry field.

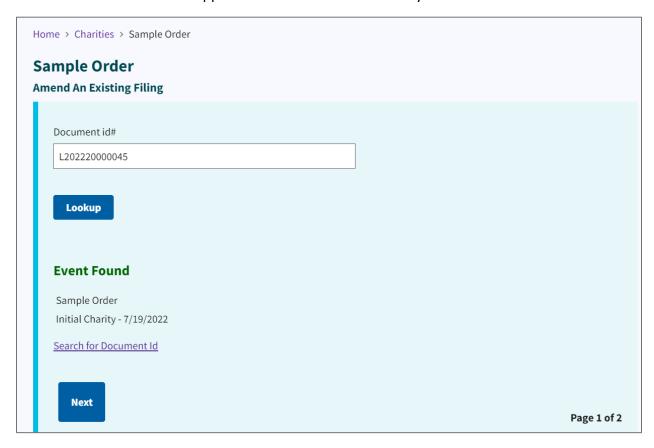


Figure 224. Document ID Number entry field

### Click Browse for Attachment.

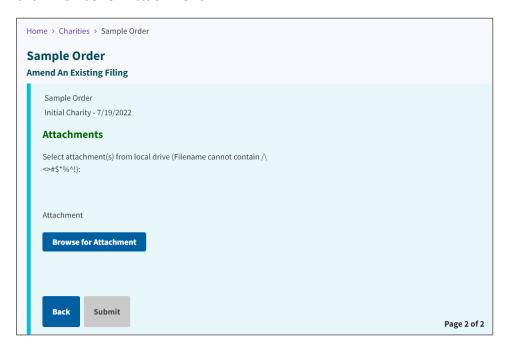


Figure 225. Browse for Attachment button

Select the file for uploading.

### Click **Submit**.

The Document ID # entry field displays a document ID number.

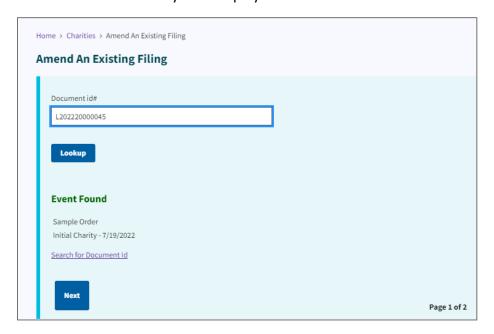


Figure 226. Document ID Number search entry field

### Click Lookup.

### Attach your document by clicking **Browse for Attachment**.

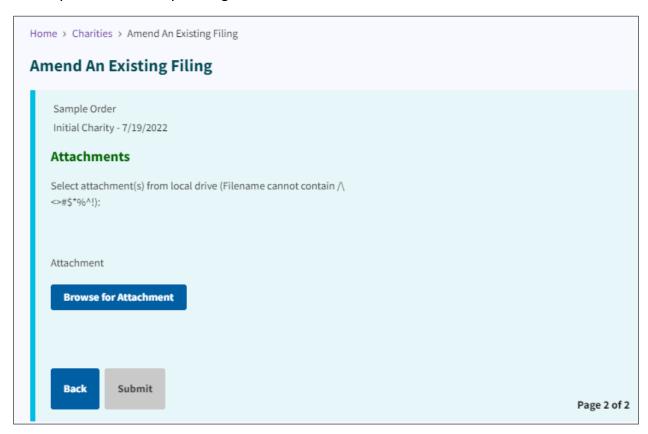


Figure 227. "Browse for Attachment" button

### Select the file you want to upload.

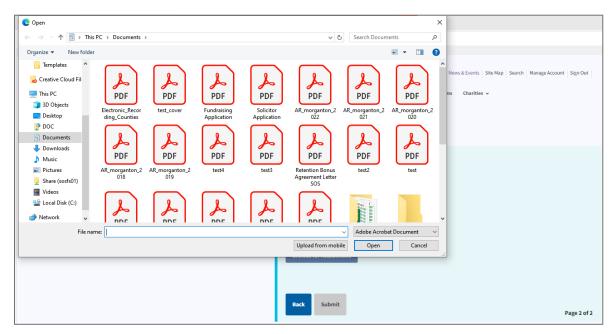


Figure 228. File selection box

The document you selected appears below the **Attachment Type** dropdown.

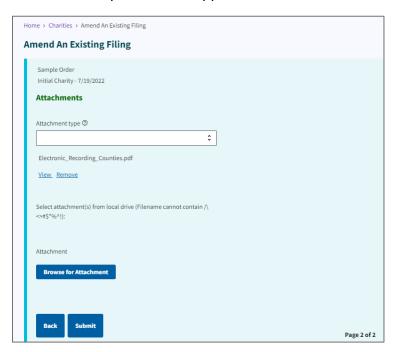


Figure 229. Attachment Type dropdown with selected file name

Select the **Attachment Type** from the dropdown.

The attachment types are listed in **Figure 230**.

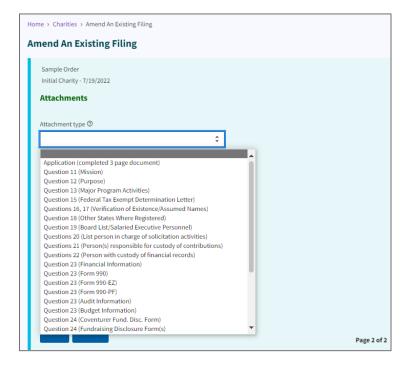


Figure 230. Attachment types

Click **Submit**.

A message displays telling you that your upload is processing.

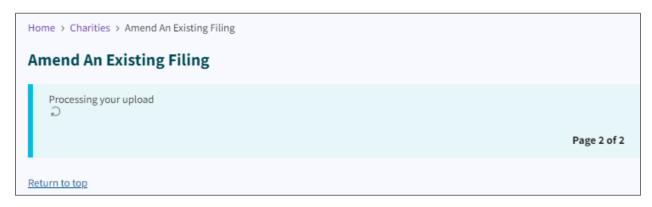


Figure 231. Upload processing message

A "Success" message tells you the Upload a submission succeeded.



Figure 232. "Success" message

This is the end of the Amend a Filing process. You can select the "My Submission" link to view the filings on your profile.

# Continue a Filing

On the Online Filing page, select Continue a Filing.

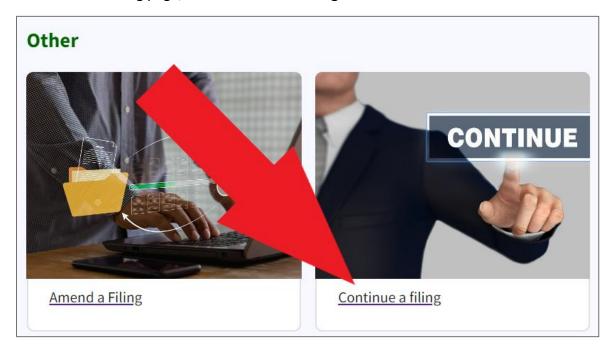


Figure 233. A red arrow points to the "Continue a Filing" link

# This link takes you to the **Continue a Filing** page.

Home > Business Registration > Sample Order

Sample Order
Continue a Filing

• 12by12by12, Inc.

• Initial Charity

• 5/24/2024

• Continue

• Delete

• ABCD, Inc.

• Initial Charity

• 5/8/2024

• Continue

• Delete

Figure 234. Continue a Filing page with links

### Select **Continue**.

# Enter the **legal name** of the applicant organization.

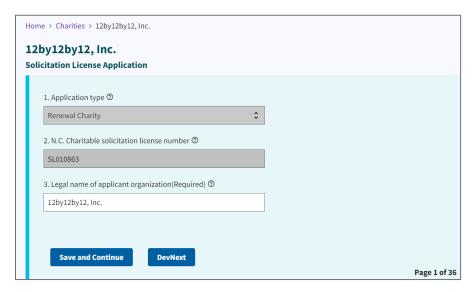


Figure 235. Legal name entry field

### Click Save and Continue.

### Enter the principal street address.

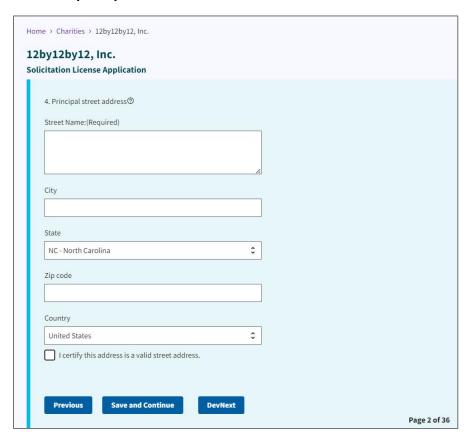


Figure 236. Principal street address

### Enter the mailing address.

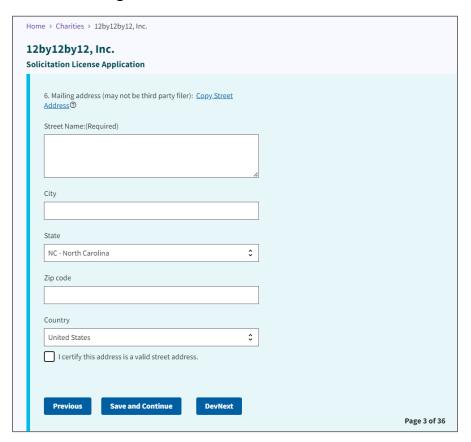


Figure 237. Mailing address

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the phone number, email address, and applicant website.

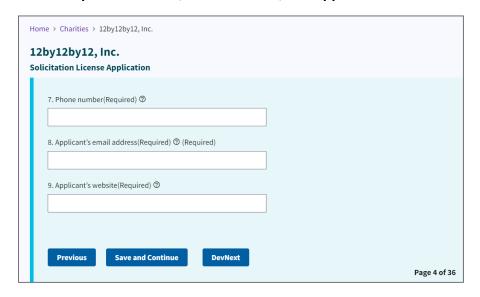


Figure 238. Phone, email address, and website entry fields

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Does the applicant have other locations in NC?"

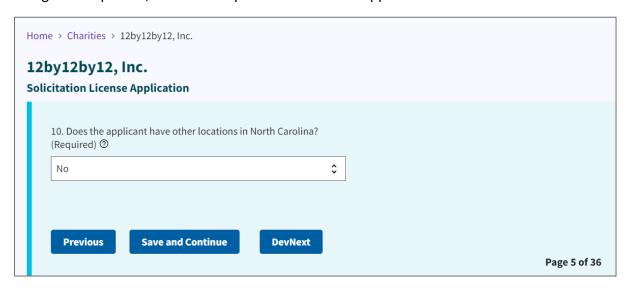


Figure 239. Dropdown for question

### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the organization's charitable purpose.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

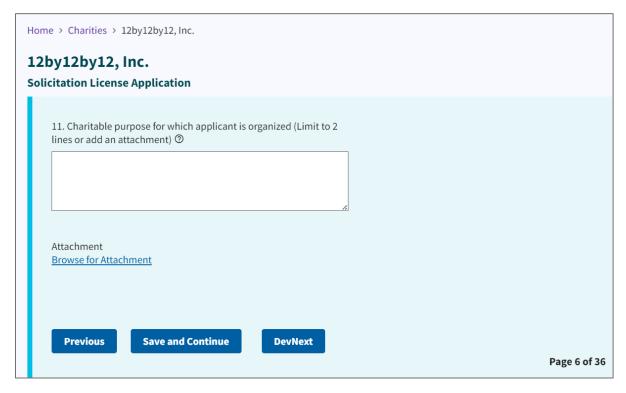


Figure 240. Charitable purpose entry field

For this example, we entered a charitable purpose in Figure 241.

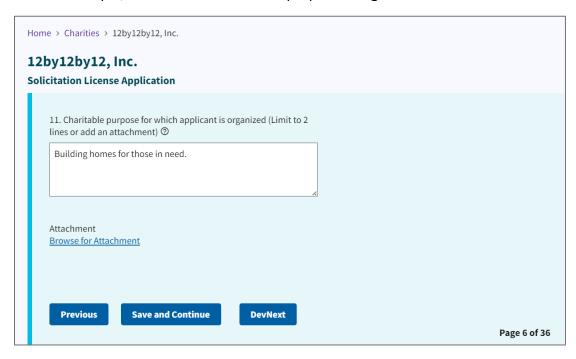


Figure 241. Charitable purpose entry field

Enter the charitable purpose for the solicited contributions.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

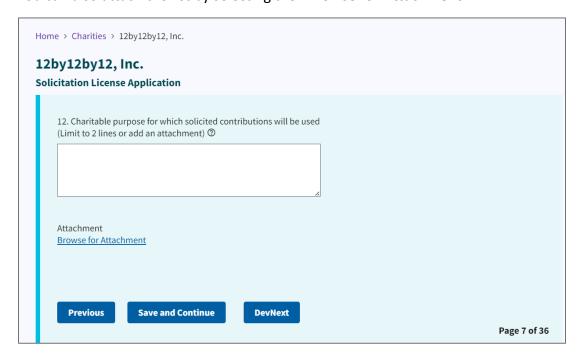


Figure 242. Charitable purpose for solicited contributions entry field

### For this example, we entered "Materials."

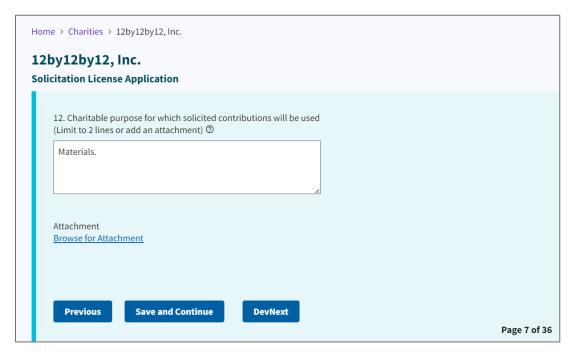


Figure 243. Example with "Materials" in the entry field

#### Click Save and Continue.

### Enter the major program activities.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

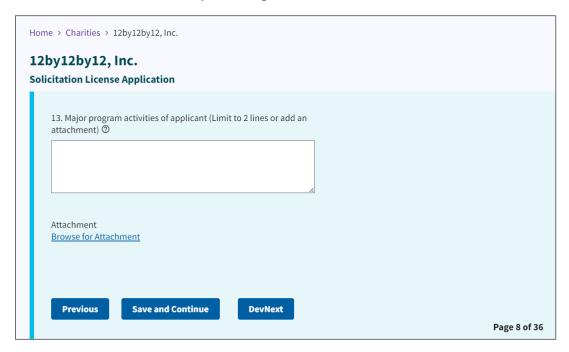


Figure 244. Major program activities entry field

For this example, we entered "Builder and organizer of volunteers." See Figure 245.

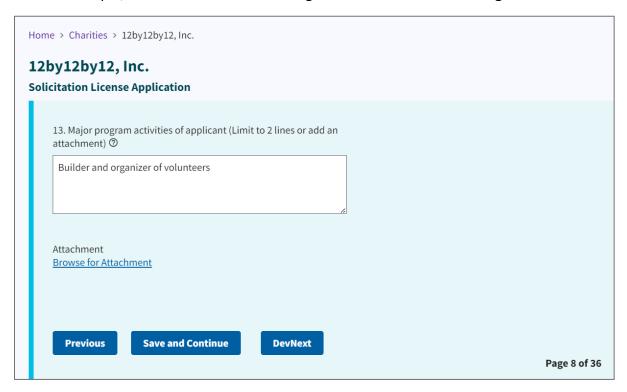


Figure 245. Example entry of "Builder and organizer of volunteers"

### Click Save and Continue.

Select the fiscal year end date.

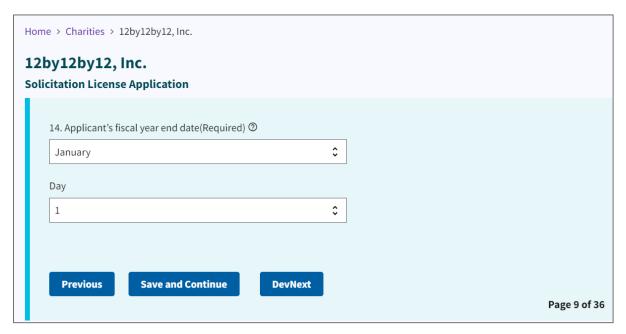


Figure 246. Applicant's fiscal year end date

Using the dropdown, answer if your organization has received a federal tax exemption determination letter.

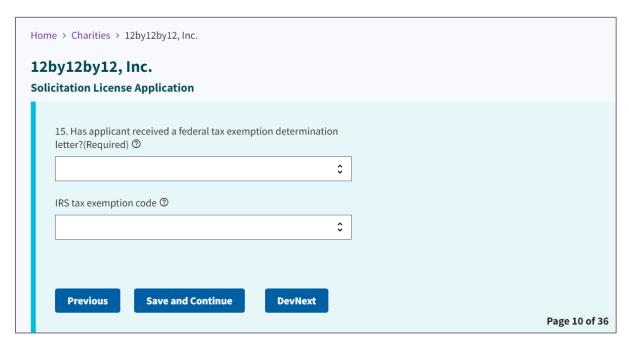


Figure 247. Federal tax exemption determination letter dropdowns

#### Click Save and Continue.

Select the state of establishment.

Select the date of establishment.

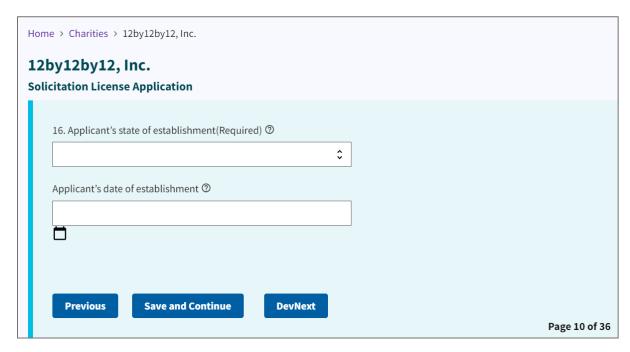


Figure 248. State and date of establishment dropdown and entry field

Enter a **list of names** used by the applicant in solicitation of contributions other than the applicant's legal name.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

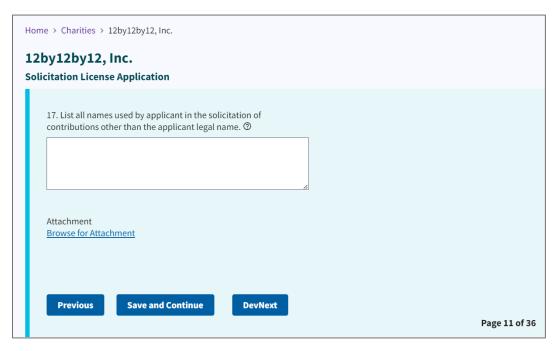


Figure 249. Name list of other names used in the solicitation of contributions

### Click Save and Continue.

Enter a list of all the states where the applicant is authorized to solicit in other than NC.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

Enter a **list of names and street addresses** for directors, officers, trustees, and salaried executive personnel for the current fiscal year.

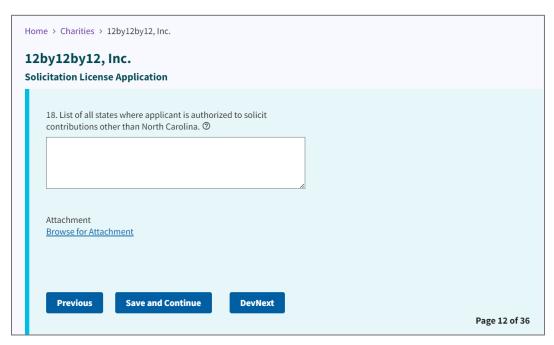


Figure 250. List of states the applicant is authorized to solicit in other than NC - entry field

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

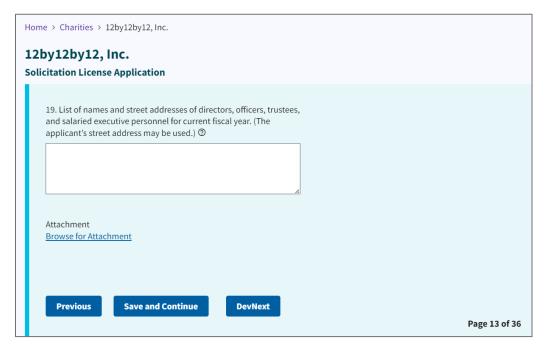


Figure 251. Entry field for a list of names and street addresses

Enter a list of names of individuals or officers in charge of any solicitation activities.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

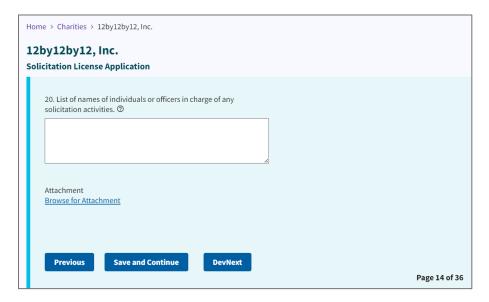


Figure 252. Entry field for a list of names of individuals or officers in charge of solicitation

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter a **list of names, street addresses, and phone numbers** of individuals or officers who have final responsibility for custody and/or final distribution of contributions.

You can also attach the list by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" link.

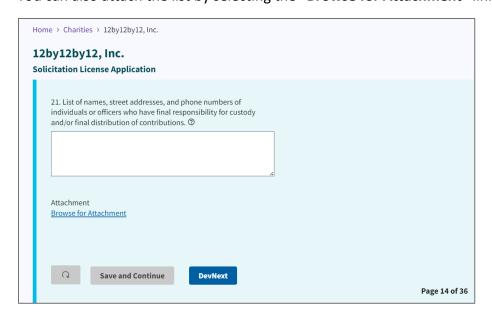


Figure 253. Entry field for a list of names, street addresses, and phone numbers

Enter the **name**, **street address**, and **phone number** for the individual who has custody of the applicant's financial records (if the applicant does not maintain an office in NC).

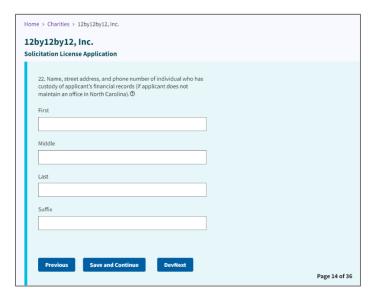


Figure 254. Entry fields for the name of individual with custody of the applicant's financial records

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the **phone number** and **street address** of the individual with custody of the applicant's financial records.

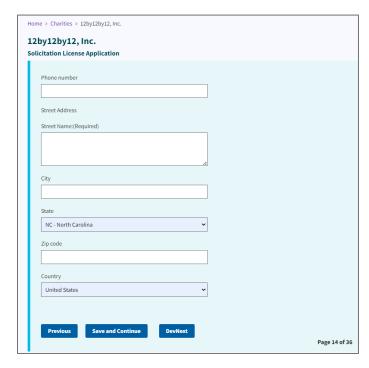


Figure 255. Entry fields for the phone number and street address of the individual with custody of the financial records

Attach financial information by selecting the "Browse for Attachment" links that apply to your situation.

On this page, you can attach the following:

- IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ (with dated signature of authorized official)
- Audited financial statement
- North Carolina Annual Financial Report Form
- Proposed budget for current fiscal year (if newly established)

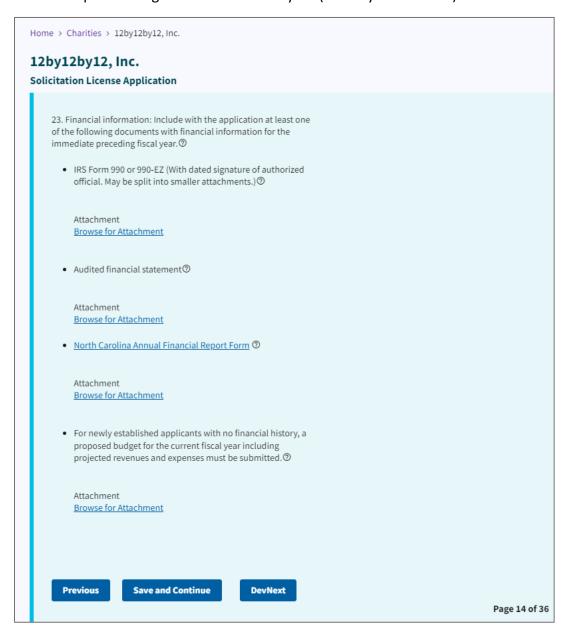


Figure 256. "Browse for Attachment" links for financial documents

Using the dropdown, select the answer to "Does the applicant intend to enter into, presently have contract(s) with any person who qualifies as a fundraising consultant, solicitor, or coventurer?"

Using the second dropdown, answer the question: "Did the applicant have a contract(s) with any person who qualifies as a fundraising consultant, solicitor, or coventurer within the last 12 month period?"

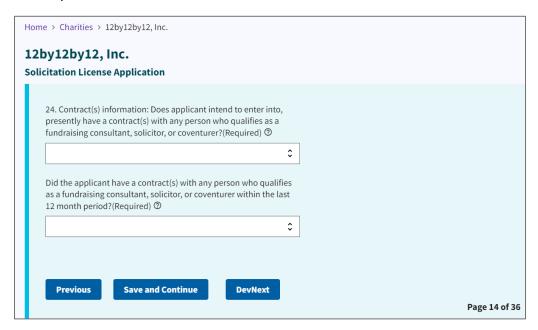


Figure 257. Entry fields for answers to two questions

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Is the applicant applying as a parent organization for one or more subordinate organizations located in North Carolina?" See **Figure 258**.

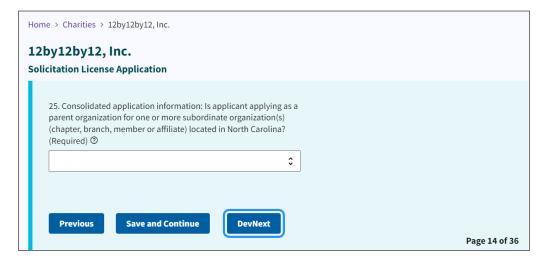


Figure 258. Dropdown for the question: "Is the applicant applying as a parent organization for one or more subordinate organizations located in NC?"

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Is the applicant a United Way, United Arts Fund, community chest, or other federation of independent charitable organizations which have voluntarily joined together for the purpose of raising and distributing contributions and where membership does not confer operating authority and control of the individual group organization upon the federated group organization?"

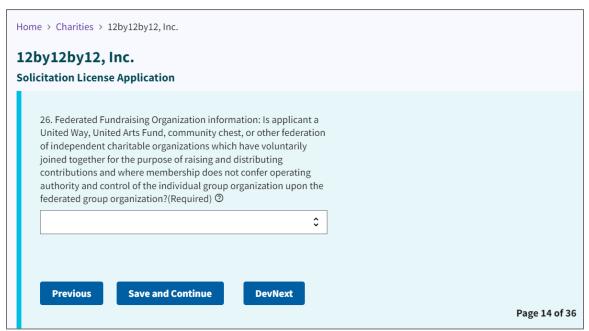


Figure 259. Dropdown for the federation of independent charitable organizations question

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Does the applicant compensate (in any capacity) any officer, trustee, organizer, incorporator, fundraiser, or solicitor?"

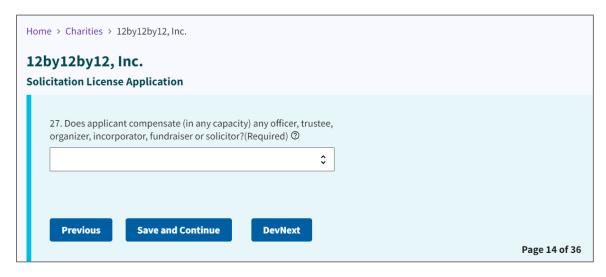


Figure 260. Dropdown for applicant compensation of others question

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Has the applicant or any of its officers, directors, trustees, or salaried executive personnel been enjoined from soliciting contributions in any jurisdiction?"

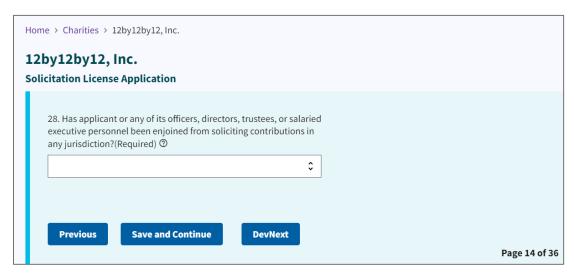


Figure 261. Dropdown for enjoinment question

#### Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Has the applicant or any of its officers, directors, trustees, or salaried executive personnel been found to have engaged in unlawful practices in the solicitation of contributions or the administration of charitable assets in any jurisdiction within the last five years?"

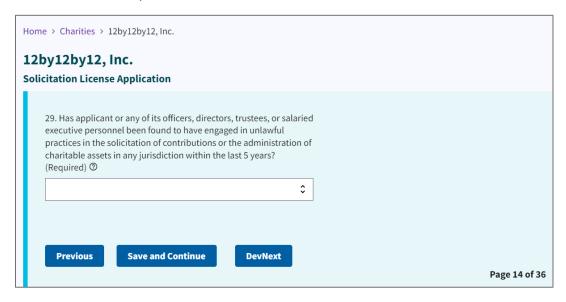


Figure 262. Dropdown for the unlawful practices question

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Has the applicant had its authority denied, suspended, or revoked by any governmental agency within the last five years?"

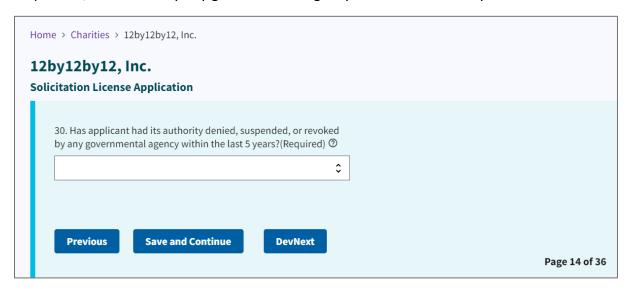


Figure 263. Dropdown for the authority denied question

## Click Save and Continue.

Using the dropdown, answer the question: "Has the applicant entered into any assurance of voluntary compliance or similar agreement in any jurisdiction?"

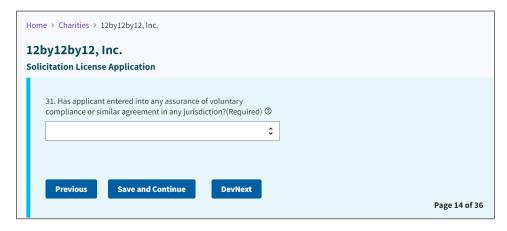


Figure 264. Dropdown for the assurance of voluntary compliance question

Enter the amount of contributions received in the immediate preceding fiscal year.

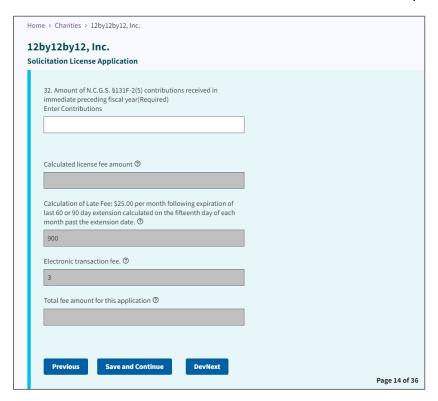


Figure 265. Entry fields for amount of contributions received

#### Click Save and Continue.

Enter the organization contact name, title, email address, and phone number.

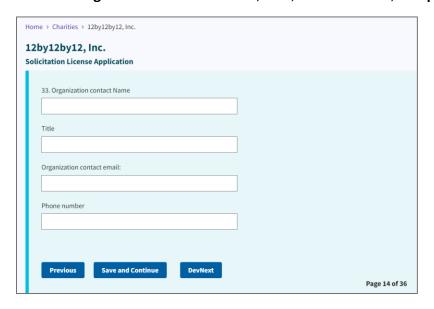


Figure 266. Entry fields for organization contact name, title, email, and phone

Select the "Browse for Attachment" link to upload a PDF copy of the Notary Signature Form.

The Notary Seal must be legible on the uploaded form, and it must be in PDF file format.

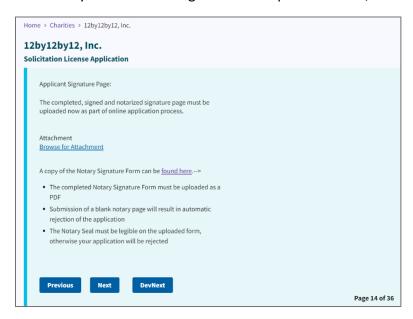


Figure 267. Applicant Signature page

#### Click Next.

Using the dropdown, select "Yes" or "No" in response to the application submission agreement.

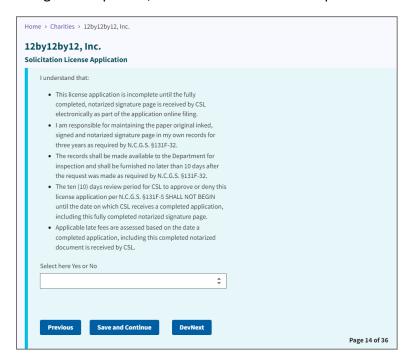


Figure 268. Application submission agreement dropdown

## Enter the filer's name.

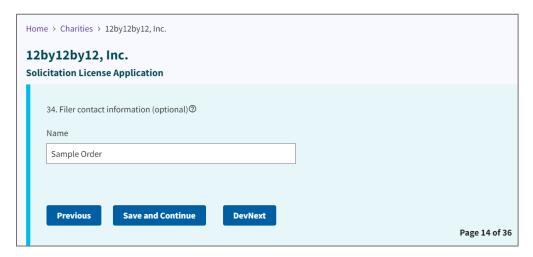


Figure 269. Filer's name entry field

## Enter the filer's street address.

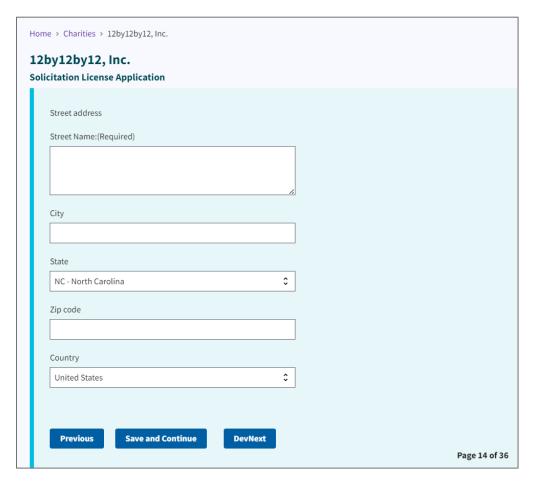


Figure 270. Filer's street address

Enter the filer's contact phone number and email address.

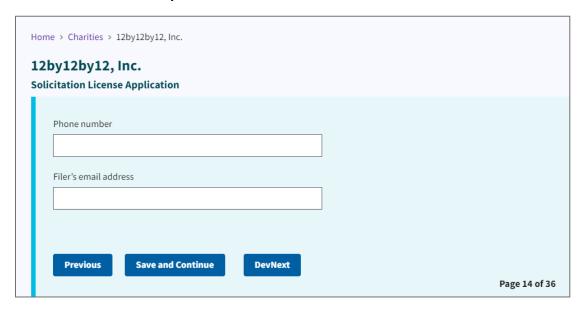


Figure 271. Filer's phone number and email address

Using the dropdown, select the application and attachment you would like to preview.

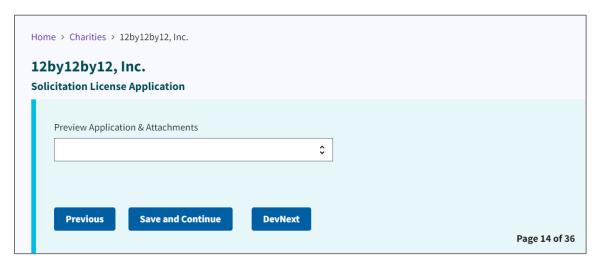


Figure 272. Preview dropdown

After you review the application and attachments for accuracy, click **Save and Continue**.

The Fees and Payment page displays the fees that are due.

Click Submit.

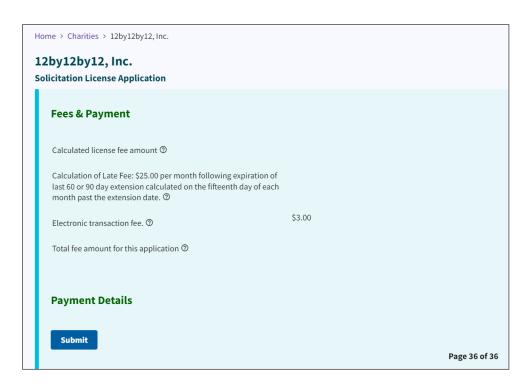


Figure 273. Fees and Payment page

After you click the Submit button, a confirmation of your submission appears at the bottom in the words "Transaction Complete."

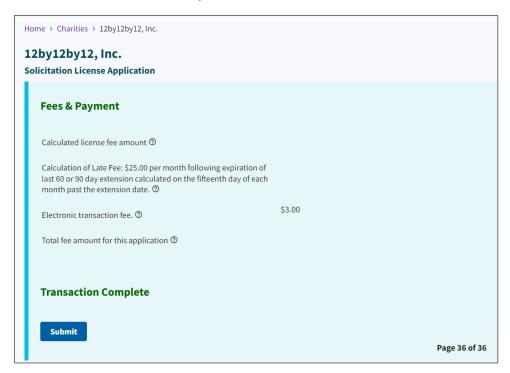


Figure 274. Transaction Complete message on webpage

This is the end of the **Continue a Filing** process.

## Check Before You Write One

In the **Check Before You Write One** section of the Charities main page, there is a quote by the NC Secretary of State, Elaine F. Marshall:

"North Carolinians are known for their generosity and willingness to help their neighbors. While there are many deserving organizations that need our support to continue their good works, we all want to ensure that our hard-earned money is going to be spent wisely when we donate to our favorite causes. A quick call to our Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section can help you educate yourself about an organization's background before you make a donation. In short, I advise all North Carolinians to 'check before you write one.'"—Elaine F. Marshall, NC Secretary of State

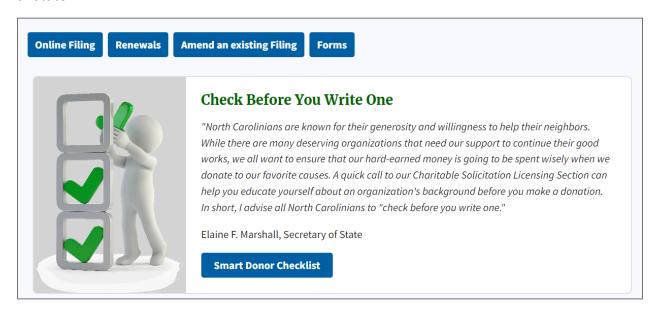


Figure 275. Check before You Write One section

Below Secretary Marshall's quote is a **Smart Donor Checklist** button.

#### Click Smart Donor Checklist.

This link takes you to a PDF copy of the Smart Donor Checklist. See **Figure 276**.

The checklist lists questions that you can ask a charitable organization before donating your money. The checklist also includes tips for safe donation.

- Don't give credit card information over the phone or email.
- Don't give bank account information over the phone or email.
- Don't agree to pay in cash and never mail cash.
- Don't send a donation without checking the facts about the organization.

#### Donor's Telephone Checklist "Check Before You Write One" Be a Smart Donor... REMEMBER: Caller's Name: Caller's Telephone Number: Who's Asking for My Mon ey? It pays to know: Solicitors are for-profit businesses hired to call Is the caller being paid to call you? [ ] Yes [ ] No (volunteer) and ask for donations. Most are honest, but all (IF YES) Who pays the caller? [ ] the charity (employee) [ ] another company (solicitor) take a cut of your donation as a fee for their work. Ask solicitors how much of your donation Solicitor's Website: the charity will actually receive. Organizations are usually charities, but can Solicitor's Street Address: also be civic groups, labor unions, or other entities — what they are affects whether all, part, or none of your contribution is tax Solicitor License Number: Date License Expires: Is Solicitor licensed to solicit in North Ask the caller to mail you written Carolina? [ ] YES [] NO information that you can review before making a decision to donate. Charity's Full Name: <u>What's in a Name?</u> More than you think. Many scam artists use Charity's Street Address: names that are almost the same as those of widely known or trusted charity organizations. Write down the name you're given, and take time to double check. Legitimate charities Charity's Telephone Number: Charity's Website: won't mind. <u>Know the Difference:</u> Tax Exempt only means the organization does not have to pay taxes. EXEMPT) Is Charity licensed to solicit in North Carolina? [ ] YES [ ] NO [ ] EXEMPT Tax Deductible means you can deduct Why? some or all of your contribution on your License Number: Date License Expires: federal tax return. Whoa, Slow Down, Buddy! For what purpose will my contribution be used? Remember when folks were polite on the phone? Most legitimate charities still are, and enjoy discussing their programs with potential donors. How much (what percentage) of my contribution will be used for this purpose? Be suspicious if your caller: Talks very quickly or drones as if reading; Are contributions for the solicited purpose or group tax deductible for me? [] YES Is impolite or demands immediate [IF YES] What percentage of my donation is tax deductible for me? payment: Can't or won't answer reasonable [IF NO] Why not? questions (like the ones on this checklist). Will I receive a written receipt for my tax records? [ ] YES [ ] NO It's Your Money... It's Your Decision...

#### SMART DONORS DON'T:

- Give Credit Card Information over the phone or email
- Give Bank Account Information over the phone or email
- Agree to pay in or mail cash
- Send a donation without checking the facts

#### Have a Question? Call or Write us at:

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State **Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division** P.O. Box 29622 Raleigh, NC 27626-0622

Telephone: 919-814-5400 Toll Free: 1-888-830-4989 Email: csl@sosnc.qov

Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State

Choose Wisely <u>Before</u> You Give.

Figure 276. Smart Donor Checklist

# **Search Charities**

The **Search Charities tool** is in the middle of the Charities main page.

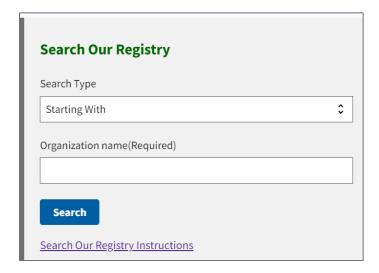


Figure 277. Search Our Registry tool

## The **Search Type** has several options:

- Starting With
- All Words
- Any Words
- Exact
- License Number

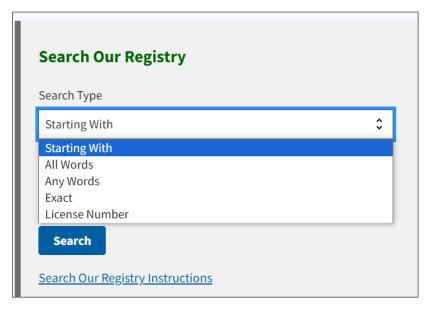


Figure 278. Search Type options

## Select the **Search Type**.

Enter the organization's name.

#### Click Search.

The Search Results show the organizations that match the search requirements.

Select the plus (+) sign beside the name.



Figure 279. A red arrow points to the plus sign

The expanded tile displays more detailed information about the organization and includes four link options: Document filings, Upload an extension request, File a renewal, and More information.

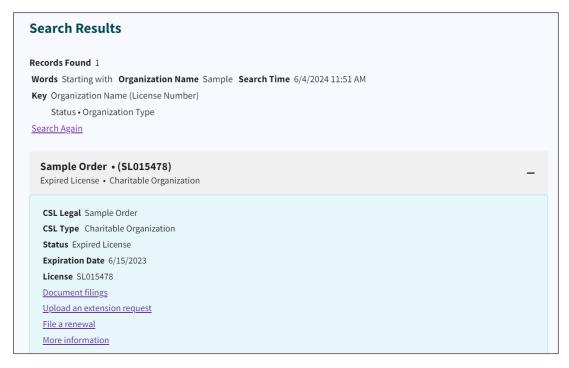


Figure 280. Expanded tile with links

# **Browse Charities**

The Browse Charities section has nine hyperlinks.

## The hyperlinks are:

- Licensing
- Online Filing
- Forms
- Enforcement
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Search Our Registry
- CSL Annual Reports
- Statutes and Rules
- Consumer Tips and Guides

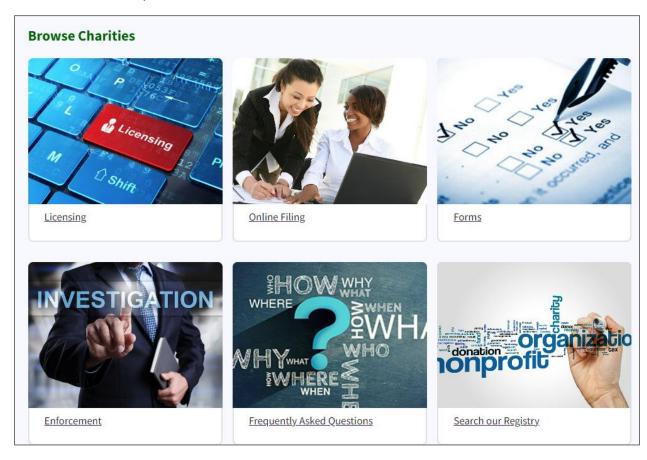


Figure 281. Browse Charities section

# Licensing

The **Licensing page** describes the different roles in the charity community:

- Charities and Sponsors
- Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors

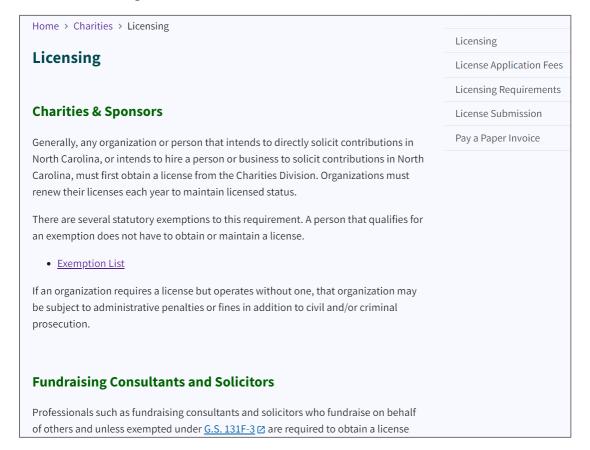


Figure 282. Licensing page

# **Charities and Sponsors**

Generally, any organization or person that intends to directly solicit contributions in North Carolina, or intends to hire a person or business to solicit contributions in North Carolina, must first obtain a license from the Charities Division. Organizations must renew their licenses each year to maintain licensed status.

There are several statutory exemptions to this requirement. A person that qualifies for an exemption does not have to obtain or maintain a license.

#### Exemption List

If an organization requires a license but operates without one, that organization may be subject to administrative penalties or fines in addition to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

# **Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors**

Professionals such as fundraising consultants and solicitors who fundraise on behalf of others and unless exempted under <u>G.S. 131F-3</u> are required to obtain a license and pay a \$200.00 licensing fee. Professional fundraisers must renew their licenses each year to maintain licensed status.

License applications can be downloaded, completed and mailed to our office with appropriate fees and required documents or completed online using the Charities Division's OnLine filing portal. Note On-Line filing is not currently available for professional fundraisers and those seeking an exemption.

License application fees are set by statute. Fees vary by license type, and fees for charitable organizations and sponsors are set on a sliding scale based upon contributions received per fiscal year, including a waiver of fees in some instances.

Fee Scale

# **Exemption List**

You can find out if your organization is exempt by selecting the **Exemption List** link.

# **Charities & Sponsors**

Generally, any organization or person that intends to directly solicit contributions in North Carolina, or intends to hire a person or business to solicit contributions in North Carolina, must first obtain a license from the Charities Division. Organizations must renew their licenses each year to maintain licensed status.

There are several statutory exemptions to this requirement. A person that qualifies for an exemption does not have to obtain a license.

• Exemption List

If an organization requires a license but a grates without one, that organization may be subject to administrative penalties or fines in addition to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

Figure 283. A red arrow points to the Exemption List link

This link takes you to the **Exemption List** page.

On this page, there are a list of exemptions and a link to the statute.

Home > Charities > Exemption List

## **Exemption List**

## **Exemptions from Charitable License Requirements**

North Carolina General Statute 131F provides for a number of exemptions from the law. To obtain an exemption from the statute, a charitable or sponsor organization may submit to the Department a written request for exemption with supporting documentation. Upon approval of the exemption request, the charitable organization will receive a letter of exemption from the Department. The Department has the authority to review and/or cancel an exemption at any time.

#### 131F-3(1)

Any person who solicits charitable contributions for a religious institution.

Figure 284. Exemption List page

# **Exemptions from Charitable License Requirements**

North Carolina General Statute 131F provides for a number of exemptions from the law. To obtain an exemption from the statute, a charitable or sponsor organization may submit to the Department a written request for exemption with supporting documentation. Upon approval of the exemption request, the charitable organization will receive a letter of exemption from the Department. The Department has the authority to review and/or cancel an exemption at any time.

## 131F-3(1)

Any person who solicits charitable contributions for a religious institution.

## 131F-3(2)

Solicitation of charitable contributions by the federal, State, or local government, or any of their agencies.

#### 131F-3(3)

Any person who receives less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in contributions in any calendar year and does not provide compensation to any officer, trustee, organizer, incorporator, fund-raiser, or solicitor. (Note: This exemption requires an annual review of an organization's financial information by the Department. The Department has developed a form to assist in this annual review process.)

#### 131F-3(4)

Any educational institution, the curriculum of which, in whole or part, is registered, approved, or accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or an equivalent regional accrediting body, and any educational institution in compliance with Article 39 of Chapter 115C

of the General Statutes, any foundation or department having an established identity with any of these educational institutions, and any organization with a membership that is composed solely of 20 or more educational institutions as defined in this Chapter. (Note: The Department has developed a questionnaire to assist organizations in determining if they meet the definition of an "educational institution".)

## 131F-3(5)

Any hospital licensed pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 131E or Article 2 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes and any foundation or department having an established identity with that hospital if the governing body of the hospital, authorizes the solicitation and receives an accounting of the funds collected and expended.

#### 131F-3(6)

Any noncommercial radio or television station.

#### 131F-3(7)

A qualified community trust as provided in 26 C.F.R. § 1.170A-9(e)(10) through (e)(14).

## 131F-3(8)

A bona fide volunteer or bona fide employee or salaried officer of a charitable organization or sponsor.

#### 131F-3(9)

An attorney, investment counselor, or banker who advises a person to make a charitable contribution.

## 131F-3(10)

A volunteer fire department, REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams), rescue squad, or emergency medical service.

#### 131F-3(11)

A Young Men's Christian Association or a Young Women's Christian Association.

#### 131F-3(12)

A nonprofit continuing care facility licensed under Article 64 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes.

## 131F-3(13)

Any tax exempt nonprofit fire or emergency medical service organization involved in the sale of goods or services that does not ask for a donation.

## **Browse Charities Menu**

In the top right corner of the page, there is a sidebar navigation menu with the following links:

- Licensing
- License Application Fees
- Licensing Requirements
- License Submission
- Pay a Paper Invoice

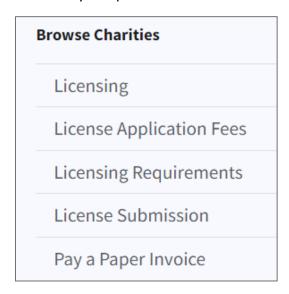


Figure 285. Browse Charities navigation menu

# **License Application Fees**

Select License Application Fees from the sidebar menu.

This takes you to the **Charities Fees** page.

Select the plus (+) sign at the end of the Charities and Sponsors row. This will expand the tile.

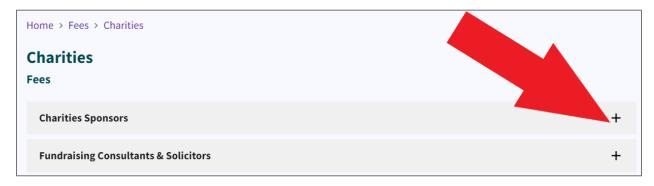


Figure 286. A red arrow points to the plus sign

The tile expands to display detailed information about fees for Charities and Sponsors.

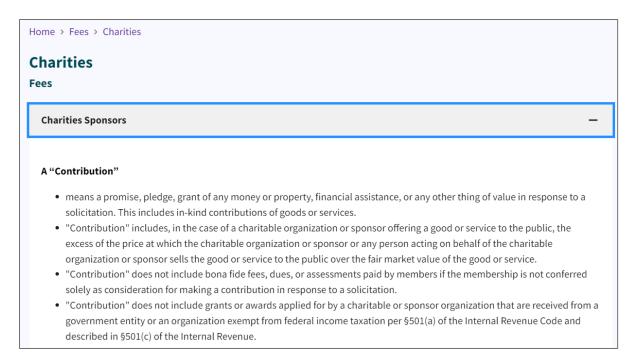


Figure 287. Expanded tile

The tile expands to display the following fees information.

## **Charities and Sponsors**

#### A "Contribution"

- means a promise, pledge, grant of any money or property, financial assistance, or any other thing of value in response to a solicitation. This includes in-kind contributions of goods or services.
- "Contribution" includes, in the case of a charitable organization or sponsor offering a
  good or service to the public, the excess of the price at which the charitable
  organization or sponsor or any person acting on behalf of the charitable organization or
  sponsor sells the good or service to the public over the fair market value of the good or
  service.
- "Contribution" does not include bona fide fees, dues, or assessments paid by members
  if the membership is not conferred solely as consideration for making a contribution in
  response to a solicitation.
- "Contribution" does not include grants or awards applied for by a charitable or sponsor organization that are received from a government entity or an organization exempt from federal income taxation per §501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and described in §501(c) of the Internal Revenue.

## **Charities and Sponsors**

### **Exempt**

- If applicant received less than \$50,000.00
- DID NOT compensate (in any capacity) any officer, trustee, organizer, incorporator, fundraiser or solicitor in the immediate preceding fiscal year

## License Required but No Fee

- If applicant received less than \$5,000.00
- DID compensate (in any capacity) any officer, trustee, organizer, or incorporator, fundraiser or solicitor in the immediate preceding fiscal year

#### \$50.00

- If applicant received \$5,000.00 but less than \$50,000.00
- DID compensate (in any capacity) any officer, trustee, organizer, incorporator fundraiser or solicitor, in the immediate preceding fiscal year

#### \$50.00

- If applicant received \$50,000.00 but less than \$100,000
- The immediate preceding fiscal year

#### \$100.00

- If applicant received \$100,000, but less than \$200,000
- The immediate preceding fiscal year

#### \$200.00

- If applicant received \$200,000 or more
- The immediate preceding fiscal year

## **Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors**

## Select Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors.

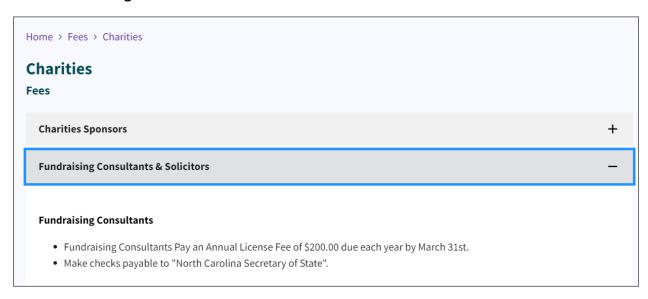


Figure 288. Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors expanded tile

## **Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors**

## **Fundraising Consultants**

- Fundraising Consultants Pay an Annual License Fee of \$200.00 due each year by March 31st.
- Make checks payable to "North Carolina Secretary of State".

#### **Solicitors**

- Solicitors Pay an Annual License Fee of \$200.00 due each year by March 31st.
   Additionally, Solicitors must obtain a bond and maintain it for the entire licensure period based on the following scale:
  - $\circ$  \$20,000.00 bond if the contributions for the last fiscal year were less than \$100,000;
  - \$30,000.00 bond if the contributions for the last fiscal year were at least
     \$100,000, but less than \$200,000;
  - \$50,000.00 bond if the contributions for the last fiscal year were at least \$200,000.

## **Licensing Requirements**

Select Licensing Requirements.

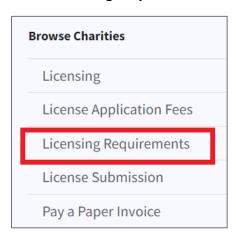


Figure 289. "Licensing Requirements" link highlighted in red

## **Charities & Sponsors**

Generally, any organization or person that intends to directly solicit contributions in North Carolina, or intends to hire a person or business to solicit contributions in North Carolina, must first obtain a license from CSL. Organizations must renew their licenses each year to maintain licensed status.

There are several statutory exemptions to this requirement. A person that qualifies for an exemption does not have to obtain or maintain a license.

## • Exemption List

If an organization requires a license but operates without one, that organization may be subject to administrative penalties or fines in addition to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

#### **Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors**

Professionals such as fundraising consultants and solicitors who fundraise on behalf of others and unless exempted under <u>G.S. 131F-3</u> are required to obtain a license and pay a \$200.00 licensing fee. Professional fundraisers must renew their licenses each year to maintain licensed status.

## License Submission

Select License Submission from the sidebar menu.

License applications can be downloaded, completed and mailed to our office with appropriate fees and required documents or completed online using <a href="Charities Division's OnLine filing portal">Charities Division's OnLine filing portal</a>. Note online filing is not currently available for professional fundraisers and those seeking an exemption.

# Pay a Paper Invoice

Select Pay a Paper Invoice from the sidebar menu.

The **Pay an Invoice** tool displays two entry fields.

Enter the Customer ID Number and the Invoice Number.

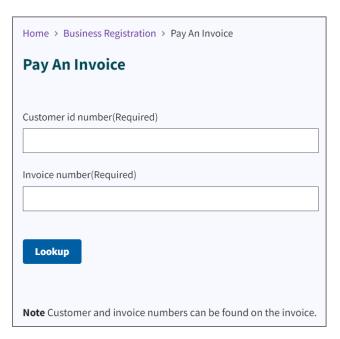


Figure 290. Pay an Invoice tool

## Click Lookup.

The prompts that follow will guide you through the payment process.

# Online Filing

The Online Filing section was covered earlier in this manual on <a href="mailto:page 3">page 3</a>.



Figure 291. A red arrow points to the "Online Filing" link

## **Forms**

Select Forms.

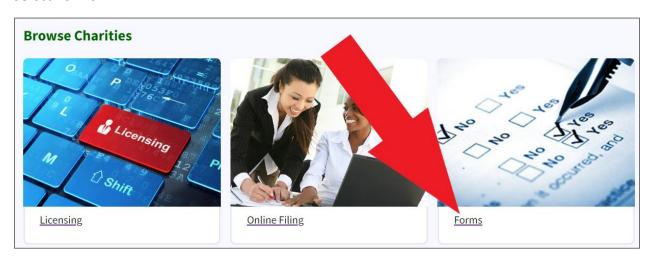


Figure 292. A red arrow points to the "Forms" link

This link takes you to the Charities Forms page.

The page has an expandable accordion of form separated into two categories:

- Charities and Sponsors
- Fundraising Consultants and Solicitors

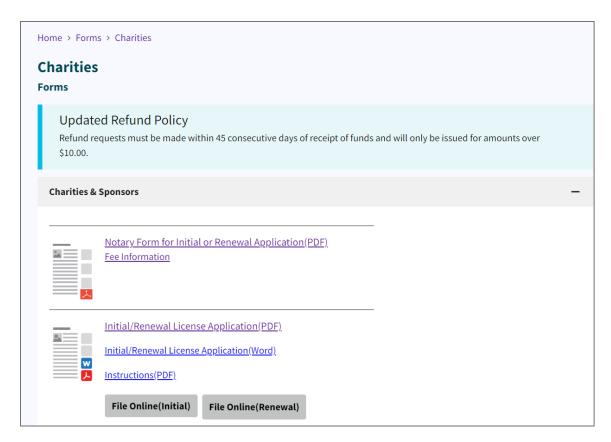


Figure 293. Charities Forms page

The forms have PDF, Word, and Online Portal versions available for your use.

It is best to use the online filing buttons (gray colored). These will guide you through the online filing process. This is quicker and more efficient.

You can also access these online filing processes by visiting the Online Filing section of the Charities main page.

# **Enforcement**

Select Enforcement.



Figure 294. A red arrow points to the "enforcement" link

The Enforcement page has information about filing a complaint and the enforcement process.

Home > Charities > Enforcement

#### **Enforcement**

To help protect North Carolinians in their charitable giving, the Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Division enforces violations of charitable solicitation laws. These laws are found in <a href="Chapter 131F(PDF)">Chapter 131F(PDF)</a> of the North Carolina General Statutes and the related Rules found in <a href="Chapter 11 of Title 18(PDF)">Chapter 11 of Title 18(PDF)</a> of the North Carolina Administrative Code. In performing this duty, the division may act on complaints received from the public, and also possesses authority to investigate potential violations on its own initiative. The division shares enforcement authority under <a href="Chapter 131F(PDF)">Chapter 131F(PDF)</a> with the North Carolina Attorney General's Office, which possesses separate and independent authority to investigate violations of <a href="Chapter 131F(PDF)">Chapter 131F(PDF)</a>.

Investigation Statistics of Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Division, FY 2022-2023, Sect 7(PDF)

Figure 295. Enforcement page

To help protect North Carolinians in their charitable giving, the Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Division enforces violations of charitable solicitation laws. These laws are found in <a href="Chapter 131F(PDF">Chapter 131F(PDF</a>) of the North Carolina General Statutes and the related Rules found in <a href="Chapter 11 of 15 title 18(PDF">Chapter 11 of 15 title 18(PDF)</a>) of the North Carolina Administrative Code. In performing this duty, the division may act on complaints received from the public, and also possesses authority to investigate potential violations on its own initiative. The division shares enforcement authority under <a href="Chapter 131F(PDF">Chapter 131F(PDF)</a>) with the North Carolina Attorney General's Office, which possesses separate and independent authority to investigate violations of Chapter 131F(PDF).

• <u>Investigation Statistics of Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Division, FY 2022-2023,</u> Sect 7(PDF)

## **Enforcement Process**

When CSL opens an enforcement-related inquiry, the division typically mails an inquiry letter to relevant parties seeking further information. After receiving a response, if any, the division evaluates available evidence and determines if a violation has in fact occurred. If the division finds a violation, the division will issue an administrative order making official findings of fact and ordering an appropriate penalty. Penalties range from issuing official letters of concern or monetary fines up to and including the suspension or revocation of licensed status for the offending person.

The division's enforcement decisions are subject to rights of appeal pursuant to the <u>Administrative Procedures Act(PDF)</u>.

## File a Complaint

Individuals with a concern about a solicitation they have received from a charitable organization or sponsor or from a professional fundraiser acting on behalf of a half a charity are

asked to document their concern using the following complaint form. Submit the form along with any supporting documentation that supports your claim via mail, or by email.

- CSL Complaint Form Instructions (Word)
- CSL Complaint Form (PDf)

## **Enforcement Findings**

Finalized enforcement findings become a part of the relevant licensed organization's file maintained by the division. If you have an inquiry concerning the enforcement history of a particular licensed organization, feel free to contact us at: <a href="mailto:cslenforcement@sosnc.gov">cslenforcement@sosnc.gov</a>.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

Select Frequently Asked Questions.



Figure 296. A red arrow points to the "Frequently Asked Questions" link

The Frequently Asked Questions page has five categories of FAQs in an expandable accordion.



Figure 297. A red arrow points to a plus sign on the accordion

Click the **plus (+) sign** to expand the accordion.

The accordion expands to show the related frequently asked questions and answers.

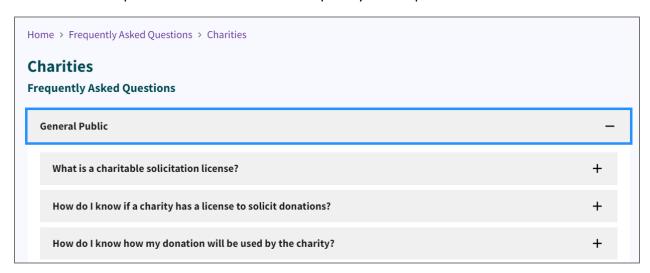


Figure 298. Expanded accordion

# Search Our Registry

Select Search Our Registry.



Figure 299. A red arrow points to the "Search Our Registry" link

The Search tool has two entry fields for narrowing your search.

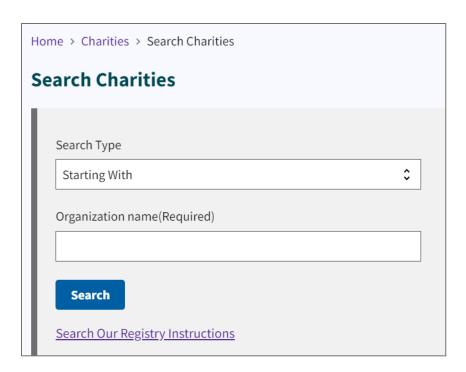


Figure 300. Search Charities tool

# **CSL Annual Reports**

Select CSL Annual Reports.



Figure 301. A red arrow points to the "CSL Annual Reports" link

The CSL Annual Reports page has a list of annual reports for the Charities Solicitation Licensing section's annual reports.

You can download these PDF files to save or print.

Home > Charities > CSL Annual Reports

The North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State prides itself on disseminating information geared toward keeping the public informed. The Charitable Solicitation Licensing (CSL) Division publishes Annual Reports that include financial information related directly to those charities and nonprofits using a professional fundraiser and otherwise required by law to register with the Department. This report serves as a resource for North Carolina citizens as they strive to make educated decisions for their charitable dollars.

2022-2023 Annual Report

Figure 302. CSL Annual Reports page

2021-2022 Annual Report

# Statutes and Rules

Select Statutes and Rules.



Figure 303. A red arrow points to the "Statutes and Rules" link

The Statutes and Rules page has information about the statutes and rules that govern charities.

It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the public by requiring full disclosure by persons who solicit for contributions from the public for a charitable purpose. This document presents the full text of North Carolina's General Statute 131F and Administrative Rule Reference: Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the North Carolina Administrative Codes regulating

organizations, businesses, and persons that solicit contributions from North Carolina residents through use of charitable appeals.

CSL Statute and Rule Reference (issued 09/20/2012)(PDF)

Home > Charities > Statutes & Rules

## **Statutes & Rules**

It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the public by requiring full disclosure by persons who solicit for contributions from the public for a charitable purpose. This document presents the full text of North Carolina's General Statute 131F and Administrative Rule Reference: Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the North Carolina Administrative Codes regulating organizations, businesses, and persons that solicit contributions from North Carolina residents through use of charitable appeals.

• CSL Statute and Rule Reference (issued 09/20/2012)(PDF)

Figure 304. Statutes and Rules page

# **Consumer Tips and Guides**

Select Consumer Tips and Guides.



Figure 305. Consumer Tips and Guides page