

Changeforge FAQ

How is this free?

Changeforge consists solely of volunteers. Our skilled programmers, designers, organizers, and advocates work together to serve nonprofits and donate their time in order to provide great original websites free of charge. We have a global network of computer science students and designers who work on websites to build their resumes. All work is quality controlled by a central group of experts in our organization.

Where will my website be hosted?

You're welcome to host your website anywhere, but we recommend letting us host it for you. This is because our servers are designed to handle millions of hits a month, have 99.99% uptime with multiple layers of redundancy, keep your sites secure from criminals and malicious bots, and allow us to easily make updates to your site for you.

Hosting with us is great because we don't charge monthly fees, we just ask for a one time donation of \$150 which covers our expenses. We'll never ask for any more money, and you'll never have to think about it again.

Should you ever want to begin hosting your own content just contact us and we'll help you transition, and as usual we'll continue to maintain and update your site for you.

How do you select which organizations to make websites for? Do you discriminate?

We make websites for everyone that applies as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit without discrimination. We also will consider non-501(c)(3) organizations based on their impact.

Do you make websites for nonprofits outside of the USA?

Yes, but we'll need to speak with you to get all the details.

How can I know you will maintain our website?

We have a global network of skilled individuals and a system for efficiently distributing work between them. If you have any questions or concerns about the maintenance of your content feel free to contact us.

If I already have a website and just need help updating it will you do that?

Yes, we would love to help you update your website. Our design team will help make your nonprofit website easy for the public to learn about who you are, what you do, and how they can support you.

How long do the sites take to make?

One to two weeks from when we start working on them. We create websites in two week batches; therefore, there may be a one to two week waiting period so that we can finish other organization's websites. After this prior commitment ends however, we will begin on your website and it will be finished within the span of the next two week batch.

I want to help make sites for Changeforge!

If you have the skills we need just view this webpage's source code, further instructions are there.

When was Changeforge started?

Feb 25, 2016

Why did you decide to make Changeforge?

We were tired of seeing nonprofits being over-charged and still not receiving the care and attention they deserve. Some organizations pay thousands for what is essentially a template that cost \$12 on Envato Market.

Where is Changeforge located?

Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA is the home of the founding team -- but our volunteers live Worldwide from Pakistan to South America.

Arkansas... what?

Yep :)

You're all students? How can you do all this?

Programming websites is our passion, we see it the same way a great artist sees his work. Most of the team has been programming since before age 12.

You talk about the “open web” what does that mean?

The open web is a movement to create software that is free, in the sense of costing nothing, but also in the sense of the liberties it grants. For example you cannot view, modify, share, or resell the source code for Facebook even though Facebook is free to use, because Facebook is copyrighted and the source code is compiled or exists on a server that hinders its ability to be viewed by non-employees of Facebook. This is bad because it puts users at the whim of Facebook rather than their own desires. We don't want to single out Facebook though, many companies are guilty of this: Microsoft, Apple, Google, etc...

Websites created by Changeforge are free as in beer and as in freedom. Anyone may download their code which is available on Github.com to, view, modify, or share it without anyone's approval.

Websites created by Changeforge are available under the GPLv3 license. You can view that license here: <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.en.html>

Please note some libraries and components used to produce the websites may have a different license and are not subject to this license.

What do I need to do in order to apply?

Go to our website: changeforge.org and submit your application on our front page.

After applying we will review your organization (view above on our rules for discrimination). After you're approved we'll gather photos, graphics, slogans, and other information to make your website.

What other services do you offer?

- Forms - Our sites feature integrated forms you can use to post volunteer jobs, event registrations, and collect other kinds of information from visitors.
- Donation - We connect a payment system to your website that can collect donations and syncs to your constituent database.
- Database- An easy-to-navigate design where you can be in control of email newsletters, keep track of your volunteers and donors.

Will my website look the same as everyone else's on changeforge.org?

No, they are completely custom, but all are the same quality.

What if I no longer want to use my website?

Contact us via email.