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Steps to Forming a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Nonprofit in California

1. File Articles of Incorporation with CA Secretary of State
 - a. CA Secretary of State [Forms, Samples and Fees](#)
2. Get an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS
 - a. Internal Revenue Service [Online Application for Official EIN/Tax ID](#)
3. Submit [Form 1023](#) or [Form 1023-EZ](#) to IRS to apply for 501(c)(3) status
 - a. Internal Revenue Service [Application for Recognition of Exemption](#)
 - b. Internal Revenue Service [Charitable Organizations](#)
4. Submit [Form 3500A](#) to CA Franchise Tax Board
 - a. [CA Attorney General, Charitable Donation Request](#)
5. Register with the CA Attorney General Registry of Charitable Trusts
 - a. [California Office of Attorney General](#)

Source: First Nations Development Institute's California Tribal Fund [Land Access Webinar, Nov. 4, 2021](#).