APLOS VS QUICKBOOKS

A guide to uncovering which accounting platform is right for you

NET INCOME/YEAR
$65,980
Year to Date

NET INCOME/MONTH
$18,342
Last Month

$127,498
Current Total

$53,725
Checking

$73,773
Savings

DONATIONS
$37,980

$25K
$20K
$15K
$10K
$5K
0
Jan Feb Mar

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

WHAT YOU'LL GET IN THIS GUIDE:

- **Platform insights**: Discover how each solution handles your unique accounting challenges.
- **Feature comparison**: Review detailed side-by-side comparisons of fund accounting, budgeting, and reporting capabilities.
- **Peer perspectives**: Discover what other nonprofit organizations reveal about their accounting experiences with both platforms.
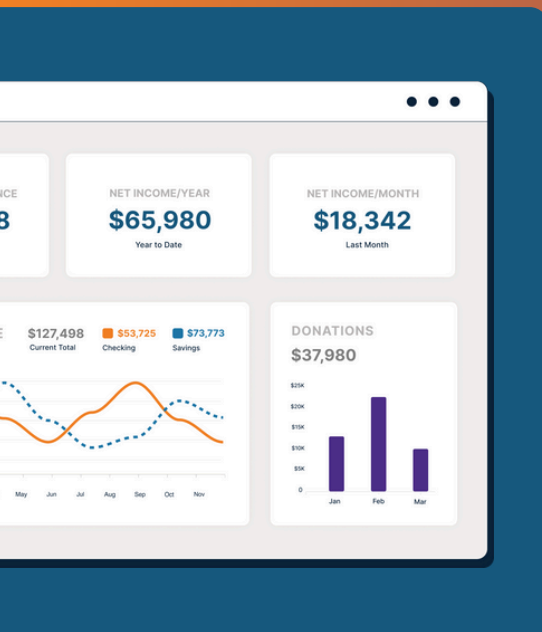
Platform Overviews

What is Aplos?

Aplos takes the complexity out of nonprofit finances, giving you a straightforward system that understands the unique way nonprofits and faith-based organizations need to track and report their money.

What makes Aplos shine is its laser focus on true fund accounting principles. You'll **track every dollar across multiple funds with ease, create board-ready financial reports in seconds, and maintain the rock-solid compliance** your organization needs. It's like having a CFO and tech guru that speaks nonprofit fluently—delivering the professional-grade accounting you need without requiring a PhD to use them.
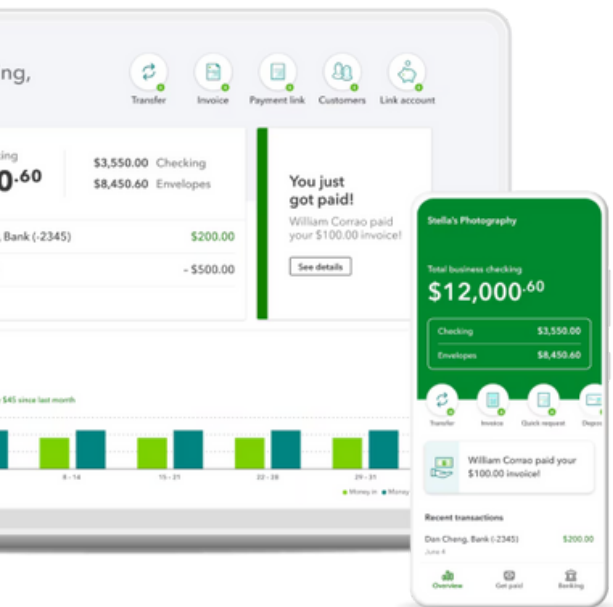
What is QuickBooks?

QuickBooks is the Swiss Army knife of business accounting software that is designed to help businesses of all sizes track income and expenses, process payroll, manage invoices, and handle tax preparation. It offers cloud-based and desktop options with tiers that scale with your business.

QuickBooks excels at general business accounting, but it wasn't built specifically for nonprofits or fund accounting. While QuickBooks can be customized for nonprofit use, **you'll need workarounds and add-ons** to achieve what Aplos delivers natively.

Feature Comparison: Fund Accounting

Native fund accounting capabilities in a purpose-built system can significantly reduce accounting complexity while strengthening financial transparency.

aplos ® vs QuickBooks

aplos		QuickBooks
Simplified coding for split transactions across multiple funds, grants, or departments	VS	Requires manual class/tag assignment for each transaction
Transactions automatically associate with designated funds	VS	Fund transfers need manual journal entries that maintain proper balancing
Built-in fund transfer functionality and direct integration with fund-specific budgets	VS	Budget-to-fund relationship requires custom setup
Simplified coding for split transactions across multiple funds, grants, or departments	VS	More complex process for coding multi-fund transactions
Built as a true fund accounting system	VS	Adapted for fund accounting through workarounds using Classes or Locations
Natively supports unlimited funds with automatic fund balancing	VS	Requires manual fund balancing or custom automation
Maintains separate trial balances for each fund	VS	Maintains single trial balance for the entire organization
Tracks net assets by fund with categorization *(unrestricted, temporarily, or permanently restricted)*	VS	Needs additional configuration to properly track net asset classifications
One-click fund-specific financial statements	VS	Customization needed to filter by class/tag
Built-in FASB ASU 2016-14 compliant reports	VS	Additional setup for FASB compliance
Fund-specific budget-to-actual reporting	VS	Limited capability for cross-fund analysis
Generates reports showing activities across specific funds	VS	Often requires export to Excel for board-ready fund activity presentations

aplos ®

Feature Comparison: Budgeting

Strategic budgeting helps nonprofit leaders balance funding restrictions with organizational priorities, ensuring every dollar advances your mission while maintaining the transparency.

aplos®   QuickBooks

aplos		QuickBooks
True fund-based budgets (perfect for tracking restricted funds and grants!)	VS	Creates standard profit & loss budgets
Budgeting by fund, grant, department, project, or any combination	VS	Allows budgeting by class or location, but not true fund accounting
Monthly and annual budget views with easy allocation tools	VS	Offers monthly, quarterly, or yearly budget intervals
Includes option to copy previous year's budget as starting point	VS	Includes copy feature from previous fiscal year
Allows each department to work on separate budgets and then import	VS	Departments can't independently manage budgets in separate environments
Allows budget revisions with audit trail	VS	Limited revision tracking without manual documentation
Supports multiple budget versions for scenario planning	VS	Supports customer and service/product specific budgeting
Enables easy fund transfers within budgeting interface	VS	Allows importing via Excel spreadsheet
Designed for nonprofit workflows	VS	Requires customization to align with nonprofit budget processes
Provides grant "read-only" access for departmental budgets	VS	No departmental budget viewing permission, and read-only access applies to broader areas
Real-time budget-to-actual reports	VS	Budget vs. actual reports with variance calculation
Displays over/under budget status	VS	Percentage-based variance analysis
Fund-specific budget reports that separate restricted funds	VS	Lacks specific fund accounting templates
Custom reporting across funds, programs, and departments	VS	Requires workarounds to create true fund-based budget reports

aplos®

Feature Comparison: Reporting

Nonprofit-specific reporting ensures compliance, accurately tracks restricted funds, and generates the specialized reports needed for board governance and donor transparency.

aplos® vs QuickBooks

aplos		QuickBooks
Generates Income Statement by Fund, Balance Sheet by Fund, Statement of Functional Expenses	VS	Offers traditional financial statements (Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, Cash Flow)
Maintains FASB ASU 2016-14 compliance	VS	Needs manual configuration for FASB compliance
Creates automatic fund splits within standard financial reports	VS	Requires customization through classes/tags to simulate fund-based statements
Simplifies restricted/unrestricted net asset classification reporting	VS	Requires additional steps to properly segregate net asset classifications
Provides nonprofit-focused customization options (by fund, grant, program, department)	VS	Customization with advanced filtering
Allows saved report configurations tailored to different stakeholders	VS	Supports comprehensive memorized report configurations
Offers dimensional reporting across funds, programs, and departments	VS	Offers custom fields for granular reporting control
Generates 990 preparation reports aligned with IRS requirements	VS	Requires significant customization for 990 preparation
Provides audit-ready financial packages	VS	General audit trail capabilities need adaptation for nonprofit focus
Includes donor acknowledgment and grant tracking reports	VS	Lacks built-in grant requirement tracking
Designed to address nonprofit governance transparency needs	VS	Offers limited nonprofit compliance reporting

Why Nonprofits prefer Aplos to QuickBooks

Every year, thousands of nonprofits make the switch from QuickBooks to Aplos to access critical accounting tools that nonprofits depend on for accurate financial tracking and reporting. Here's what reviewers and ratings are saying...

Ease of Use   9.2   8.3

Ease of Setup   9.4   8.2

Suport Quality   9.7   7.5

Product Outlook   9.8   7.4

"We switched from Quickbooks to Aplos nearly three years ago, and we've never regretted the switch for one second. Using software designed specifically for a nonprofit makes a world of difference."

Kevin L.

"Aplos is much more nonprofit friendly than QuickBooks. It is tailored specifically for nonprofits and is especially helpful for those with bookkeepers who aren't full-time."

Susanne E.

"I used QuickBooks and hated it. [Aplos] is so much easier to do accounting. Very straightforward, easy to see at a glance, and know what is going on. Reports are easy to come by and if you cannot figure something out support is easy to get."

Pamela K.

BEST SOFTWARE
2025
Top 50
NON-PROFIT PRODUCTS

High Performer
WINTER
2025

Highest User Adoption
WINTER
2025

Momentum Leader
WINTER
2025

Ready to get started with Aplos?

With the right fund accounting solutions and intentional fund management practices, you can transform your nonprofit's finances for the better.

Here's how it works...

When you partner with Aplos, you get a team of accounting and software experts to assist you during every phase of your journey from purchase to continued use.

Find Your Plan

Meet with our Aplos Sales Team to determine which of our packages is best for your fund accounting needs.

Migrate Your Data

Whether you're switching from QuickBooks or another accounting platform, you'll get access to a dedicated Aplos implementation specialist to help with data migration and setting up your account based on your unique needs.

Stay Connected

Our highly-rated technical support team is available to you via live chat and phone. We also offer a full training center with videos and other resources to assist you with Aplos and accounting processes.

Start the Conversation