



# The Charity Nine AI-Assisted Report

A detailed structured report covering The Charity Nine for a charity of your choice



## Summary Report Card

Section	Evaluation
1. Identity of the Organization	<b>DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE</b> EIN: 521516692
2. Public Charity Status Screen Test	Green
3. Timely IRS Filings	Green
4. Program Spending Percentage	Yellow
5. Top Program Focus	(For Your Review)
6. Highest Paid Employee Spending	Green
7. Top Contractor Spending	Green
8. Financial Reserve Ratio	Green
9. News & Publicity Check	(For Your Review)

## 1. Identity of the Organization

- **Name:** DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE
- **EIN:** 521516692
- **Address:** 131 W 33RD STREET 15TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10001-2938
- **History:** Tax-exempt since May 1988
- **Fiscal Year Ended:** May 31, 2025
- **Filing Date:** March 11, 2026
- **Total Revenue:** \$11,950,037
- **Total Expenses:** \$12,005,399
- **Net Income:** -\$55,362
- **Net Assets:** \$15,987,531
- **IRS Form 990 Version:** This organization filed IRS **Form 990** for its most recent fiscal year. **Form 990** provides a wealth of information about the charity's operations and finances, with a focus on public support, programs, governance, and spending.
- **Website:** <http://WWW.DRUGPOLICY.ORG>
- **CharityCheck101.org Report:** [Go to Report](#)
- **ProPublica.org Report (many 990s available):** [Go to Report](#)
- **Report Generated:** May 2, 2026 at 4:18 PM PDT

**The Guide – The Charity Nine and the Charity Nine AI Report come from the concepts found in *The Best Charities for YOU – A Practical Guide to Becoming the Only Expert Needed in Your Charitable Giving*. [Learn more . . .](#)**

## 2. Public Charity Status Screen Test

**Goal:** Verify the organization's tax-exempt classification and charitable contribution deductibility status.

**Evaluation:** ● Green (Public Charity)

IRS Classification: 501(c)(3) Public Charity — Church or Religious Organization, Educational Organization. Contributions are generally tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

## 3. Timely IRS Filings

**Goal:** Check if the charity files its tax returns on time.

- **Tax Year Ending Date:** May 31, 2025
- **Today's Date:** May 2, 2026
- **Days Elapsed:** 336 days

**Evaluation:** ● Green

Current.

#### 4. Program Spending Percentage

**Goal:** Determine how much of the budget goes directly to programs vs. overhead.

- **Total Functional Expenses:** \$12,005,399
- **Program Spending:** \$9,910,258 (82.5%)
- **Administrative Spending:** \$535,522 (4.5%)
- **Fundraising Spending:** \$1,559,619 (13.0%)

**Evaluation:** ● Yellow

**Program Spending: 82.5%**

The ● Green zone is from 60% to 80%. Find more details in the Guide.

##### **Why discuss a program spending percentage above 80% with the organization?**

If an organization reports spending more than 80% on programs, that means it is spending less than 20% on administration and fundraising. I believe that well-run organizations must spend meaningful resources on administration and fundraising.

Charities know that many donors seek a high program spending percentage. Administrative and fundraising costs can be made to appear artificially low by: (i) having administrative or fundraising costs paid from an outside source, (ii) under-spending on important parts of its operations or (iii) mis-categorizing administration or fundraising costs as program costs. Savvy donors look deeper than the reported numbers.

## 5. Top Program Focus

**Goal:** Ensure the charity's spending matches your personal giving goals.

- **Top Program:** ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH CANNABIS REGULATION THE MOVEMENT FOR CANNABIS LEGALIZATION HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY, BUT THE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE SUFFERED THE MOST UNDER DECADES OF PROHIBITION ARE NOT BENEFITING FROM THE LEGAL INDUSTRY AT THE SCALE NEEDED TO REPAIR THE HARM. DPA SUPPORTS AN APPROACH TO LEGALIZATION THAT CENTERS COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND REDUCES THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE COMMERCIAL MARKET. RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE: - INFLUENCING THE DEBATE ON DESCHEDULING CANNABIS ON THE FEDERAL LIST OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND ENDING PROHIBITION MORE BROADLY- DEFENDING JUSTICE PROVISIONS OF STATE LAWS - STRENGTHENING EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS- ADVANCING CONSUMER SAFETY MEASURES

*[Text capitalization, punctuation, and spacing are from the return as filed.]*

- **Program Cost:** \$3,676,836 (30.6% of Total Spending)

### Top Program AI Summary:

Our program advocates for equitable cannabis legalization to repair the harm caused by decades of prohibition, particularly for marginalized communities. We influence policy to ensure new regulations center community reinvestment, defend justice provisions in state laws, and advance consumer safety and education.

**Evaluation:** 🔍 (For Your Review)

*Does this top program align with what you want to support?*

## 6. Highest Paid Employee Spending

**Goal:** Assess dependence on a single employee and management costs.

- **Highest Paid Employee:** Cassandra Frederique, Executive Director
- **Compensation:** \$323,198
- **Percentage of Total Expenses:** 2.69%

**Evaluation:** ● Green

The ● Green zone is from 0% to 5%. Find more details in the Guide.

## 7. Top Contractor Spending

**Goal:** Check for heavy reliance on outside contractors.

**Evaluation:** ● Green

The ● Green zone is from 0% to 5%. Find more details in the Guide.

- **Top Contractor:** The Avalon Consulting Group Inc
- **Service:** Fundraising
- **Compensation:** \$389,820 (3.25% of total expenses)

## 8. Financial Reserve Ratio

**Goal:** Determine if the charity has appropriate financial reserves.

- **Net Assets:** \$15,987,531
- **Total Expenses:** \$12,005,399
- **Ratio:** 1.3

**Evaluation:** ● Green

The ● Green zone is from 0.5 to 2.0 (six months to two years). Find more details in the Guide.

**Financial Reserve Ratio: 1.3**

This means the charity has 1.3 years of spending saved, which is a healthy amount.

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## 9. News & Publicity Check

**Goal:** Screen for negative news, public perception, and potential risks using AI-assisted analysis.

### Direct Rating Links:

[Charity Navigator](#)[GuideStar](#)[CharityWatch](#)

### Ratings Warnings

✔ No rating warnings found

### AI News Summary

*A federal lawsuit from 2018 alleges breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and conversion against the organization. Beyond this, no other significant red flags were found in the provided search results.*

### AI Search Results Analysis

Date	Source	Headline	Sentiment	Summary
Undated	Charity Navigator	Rating for Drug Policy Alliance	Neutral	Profile verification for the Drug Policy Alliance, headquartered in New York, NY.
Undated	GuideStar	Drug Policy Alliance - GuideStar Profile	Neutral	GuideStar profile providing the organization's vision statement.
Undated	CharityWatch	Drug Policy Alliance   Charity Ratings	Neutral	CharityWatch profile details that the organization's rating was adjusted for joint costs.
2008-05	GuideStar (PDF)	Drug Policy Alliance - GuideStar Document	Neutral	An older GuideStar document reiterating the organization's vision.
Undated	CharityWatch	Charity Reports - Listing	Neutral	The Drug Policy Alliance is listed among other charities in the addiction-recovery category on CharityWatch.
Undated	Los Angeles Times (enewspaper.latimes.com)	CAT PACKER is Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulation ...	Neutral	Mentions the Drug Policy Alliance as a group focused on reducing drug criminalization, in the

Date	Source	Headline	Sentiment	Summary
				context of a cannabis regulation official.
Undated	ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer	Drug Policy Alliance - Nonprofit Explorer	<b>Neutral</b>	ProPublica profile confirming the organization's tax-exempt status, EIN, and location.
Undated	ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer	Drug Policy Alliance - Full Filing	<b>Neutral</b>	ProPublica provides access to the full tax filings for the organization.
2021-03	The Washington Post	To truly create safe communities, we must end the war on drugs	<b>Neutral</b>	Opinion piece by Cassandra Frederique, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, on ending the war on drugs.
2025-02	The New York Times	Ernest Drucker, Public-Health Advocate for the Scorned, Dies at 84	<b>Neutral</b>	Mentions Ethan A. Nadelmann, founder of the Drug Policy Alliance, in an obituary for Ernest Drucker.
Undated	Drug Policy Alliance (newsroom)	Newsroom - Drug Policy Alliance	<b>Neutral</b>	The organization's newsroom highlights its advocacy work, including detailing alleged mismanagement by the Hochul administration regarding cannabis law implementation.
2018	Justia Law	Bullard v. Drug Policy Alliance et al	<b>Negative</b>	A federal lawsuit was filed against the Drug Policy Alliance in New York, alleging breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and conversion.
Undated	Drug Policy Alliance (official website)	About the Drug Policy Alliance	<b>Neutral</b>	General information about the Drug Policy Alliance and its advocacy mission.
Undated	Drug Policy Alliance (official website)	Center Health in U.S. Foreign Drug Policy	<b>Neutral</b>	Details the organization's advocacy position on U.S. foreign drug policy.

## Risk Assessment

The primary identified risk is reputational and legal, stemming from the 2018 lawsuit (Bullard v. Drug Policy Alliance et al) which alleges breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and conversion. The outcome or current status of this lawsuit is not provided in the search results, making it an ongoing potential concern. No other significant red flags were found based on available information.

## Sources Used for Analysis

- <https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/521516692>
- <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/52-1516692>
- <https://www.charitywatch.org/charities/drug-policy-alliance>
- <https://www.guidestar.org/ViewEdoc.aspx?eDocId=3721926&approved=True>
- <https://www.charitywatch.org/charities?search=&category=addiction-recovery&letter=all>
- [https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=f0a5944b-2400-49b5-b2bd-8b890e35d35f](https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=f0a5944b-2400-49b5-b2bd-8b890e35d35f)
- <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/521516692>
- <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/521516692/201931059349301368/full>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/16/nixon-war-on-drugs-public-safety/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/05/health/ernest-drucker-dead.html>
- <https://drugpolicy.org/news/>
- <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/new-york/nysdce/1:2018cv08081/500386/38/>
- <https://drugpolicy.org/about/>
- <https://drugpolicy.org/issue/center-health-in-u-s-foreign-drug-policy/>

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The report is generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI). While AI is a powerful tool, it can produce information that contains errors, omissions, or inaccuracies. Sometimes it even hallucinates. You are responsible to independently review and verify all information presented in your report before relying on it.

Many churches and government units do not file with the IRS (not being required to do so) — so they're not included in the IRS master list of nonprofits. Also, there are often delays in the IRS updating information in the list and the IRS list may contain errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

The report and this site provide general information, not specific advice on individual matters. Persons wanting specific advice on the matters discussed should contact an advisor experienced in those matters.

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