

Expand the purpose of your practice

Improve your bottom line and transform your business with Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a term that you may simply associate with “doing good” or “giving back”, but it can also have real tangible benefits to your practice. Your clients today are more engaged and increasingly placing more importance on an organization’s contribution to the world around them. In a recent survey, we found that 88% of investors think that corporate governance is an important issue that needs to be managed. This mindset even carries over to their employee/employer relationship: 77% of all investors want to work for an employer that makes a positive impact on the world and for millennials that number rises.¹

What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?

A company’s efforts to evaluate the effect of its operations, processes and philanthropy on the broader community and to set policies and practices that maximize the positive impact of its activities on the company.

Applying a CSR framework to your practice

Incorporating a CSR program into your practice can take many shapes. By leveraging the framework below, you can build your program around what best suits your needs and what you’re passionate about.



Governance

Ethical oversight to enhance and project value



Community

Engagement and volunteer efforts to make a difference in peoples lives



Diversity & Inclusion

Diverse teams to meet the needs of a wide range of people



Sustainability

Efforts to positively impact our environment

CSR Projects

These can be easy to execute with little resources or revenue impact. CSR projects are typically specific one-off obligations to support local community initiatives. Examples include sponsoring a local little league team or a one-time charitable event.

CSR Culture

Requiring a more moderate investment of time and resources, building a CSR culture can help engage your employees through an ongoing organization commitment to a specific philanthropic cause. This can include corporate volunteer days or a company match for charitable contributions.

CSR Business Integration

This approach to CSR makes a distinct positive impact on society and ties directly to your practice's business strategy, adding to your organization's value proposition and providing an opportunity for direct or indirect financial return, as well as benefiting society. Typically this requires a high resource requirement yet generates high employee engagement such as developing a not-for-profit organization or creating a new suite of product solutions for a specific purpose.

You may already be doing some of these activities without formally thinking of them as part of your practice's CSR program. Make the most of your CSR activities by incorporating them into your mission statement, RFP responses and marketing materials. This can be a way to differentiate your practice while allowing you to

1 *Attract and retain clients*

2 *Improve employee engagement:
tool for recruitment and retention*

3 *Build/reinforce a strong brand image*

Visit [nuveen.com](https://www.nuveen.com) to learn more.

¹ Nuveen Fifth Annual Responsible Investing Survey, 2020.

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