

THE NEXT STEP FUND, INC.

**Financial Statements For The Year Ended
March 31, 2019
And
Independent Auditors' Report**

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CONTENTS

	Page
Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements	1-2
Financial Statements:	
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Activities.....	4
Statement of Functional Expenses	5-6
Statement of Cash Flows	7
Notes to Financial Statements.....	8-11



McCarthy, Hargrave & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

Board of Directors

The Next Step Fund, Inc.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Independent Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying statements of The Next Step Fund, Inc. (a not-for-profit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of March 31, 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Next Step Fund, Inc. as of March 31, 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

August 20, 2019

McCarthy, Hargrave & Co.