

MCP SERVER

NO CODE

CLOUD HOSTED

Candid (GuideStar) MCP for AI Agents

Non-Profit Due Diligence and Financial Auditing

Candid (GuideStar) connects your AI client to vast non-profit data. Search organizations by name or EIN, verify 501(c)(3) status, retrieve detailed financials like IRS Form 990s, and analyze DEI metrics—all without leaving your workflow.

A+ Quality Score 100/100

nonprofit-data

philanthropy

due-diligence

financial-reporting

charity-research

public-records



The connectivity layer between AI and the world's software.



Vinkius sits between AI and every application. All communication passes through Vinkius Cloud via the Model Context Protocol (MCP) — with governance, observability, and security at every layer.

Your AI Connections Run Through Vinkius Cloud

The world's largest
managed MCP catalog

Vinkius is the connectivity layer where AI connects to the software your business already runs. We handle the hosting, the security, the credentials, the uptime — you get agents that actually do things.

We operate the world's largest managed MCP catalog. Major SaaS platforms, CRMs, databases, and cloud providers — running, monitored, production-ready. This MCP server is hosted and maintained by the Vinkius Cloud for AI Agents.

The agent doesn't manage credentials, doesn't manage uptime, doesn't manage security. Vinkius does.

— Architecture principle

Four Pillars of the Vinkius Runtime

01 — Security by design

Credentials stay encrypted at rest via AES-256. The AI agent never touches raw keys — they're injected into a sandboxed V8 isolate at runtime. Actions are logged, and connections have an emergency kill switch.

03 — Deterministic observability

Eight immutable metrics per endpoint: request volume, p95 latency, error rate, active connections, cost attribution. A live payload feed logs every tool call with mutation detection.

02 — Built on MCP Fusion

This MCP server was built with **MCP Fusion**, the open-source framework (Apache 2.0) that powers the entire Vinkius catalog. Schema-as-firewall strips undeclared fields, compiled PII redaction runs at zero overhead, and cryptographic lockfiles produce git-diffable audit trails.

04 — Autonomous operations

Servers are deployed, monitored, and patched autonomously. New capabilities and security patches ship weekly. Zero-downtime deployments ensure continuous availability across all managed MCP servers.

AES-256

Encryption at rest

Ed25519

PKI vault signatures

24h TTL

Ephemeral session keys

V8 Isolate

Sandboxed execution

One Token. Instant Access.

Every MCP server on Vinkius is accessed through a **Connection Token**. Tokens are generated in the cloud dashboard and produce a unique MCP endpoint URL. Paste this URL into any MCP-compatible client — no SDK required.

A single token can serve **multiple AI clients simultaneously**, or you can issue separate tokens per client for granular access control. Each token tracks its own request count, last activity timestamp, and can be individually enabled or revoked.

MCP ENDPOINT

`https://edge.vinkius.com/{token}/mcp`

Claude



Cursor



VS Code



Windsurf



Grok



Gemini

Security Is the Architecture

Security in Vinkius is not a feature — it's the foundation of the runtime. The gateway enforces multiple independent protection layers between AI agents and third-party APIs.

01 — Ed25519 PKI Vault

Every workspace has an Ed25519 Master Key. Session keys are generated ephemerally (24h TTL) and signed by the Master Key. Credentials never leave the vault boundary.

02 — V8 Isolate Sandboxing

Tool code runs inside isolated-vm V8 isolates with 64 MB memory caps and per-request timeouts. No filesystem access, no network access except through the SSRF-guarded fetch bridge.

03 — SSRF Guard

All outbound HTTP requests are DNS-resolved and validated before execution. Private IP ranges (10.x, 172.16-31.x, 192.168.x, AWS metadata 169.254.x) are blocked at the network layer.

05 — Cryptographic Audit Trail

Every request is signed into a SHA-256 hash chain with Ed25519 signatures. Events form a tamper-proof, SIEM-exportable forensic record.

04 — DLP & PII Redaction

A ResponseGuard pipeline intercepts every tool response. Configurable redaction patterns strip sensitive fields (emails, SSNs, card numbers) before data reaches the AI agent.

06 — Honeypot Trap System

Phantom credentials are injected into isolated environments. If a honeypot is used outside Vinkius infrastructure, the server is quarantined instantly.

Emergency Kill Switch

EU AI Act Art. 14(1)
Compliant

The kill switch is an **emergency halt** mechanism — not a simple toggle. When triggered, it executes three actions atomically:

01 — Server deactivated

The MCP server is immediately taken offline across the entire cluster.

02 — All tokens revoked

Every connection token is invalidated. Total lockout — reconnection blocked until new tokens are issued.

03 — WebSocket connections killed

Active connections terminated via Redis pubsub broadcast. Propagates to every runtime node in the cluster.

Full Visibility. Zero Guesswork.

The Vinkius cloud dashboard includes a full MCP Governance suite — real-time analytics and security controls for production AI operations.

Control Plane

KPI dashboard with request volume, latency, success rate, token consumption, and AI-generated operational briefings.

FinOps

Cost tracking per tool, payload compression savings, budget optimization signals, and consumption trends.

Firewall & DLP

PII redaction activity, sensitive data protection counters, and security event timeline.

Agent Activity

Which AI clients are connecting, how often, and what they're doing — real-time session tracking.

Tool Health

Slowest and most error-prone tools, with actionable root-cause insights and performance baselines.

Incident Log

Error trends, failure rates, status-code breakdowns, and forensic audit trail access.

Get started at cloud.vinkius.com — connect your AI agent in under 60 seconds.

Candid (GuideStar) MCP

10 tools available

Cloud-hosted on Vinkius

Running due diligence on a new foundation or charity used to mean hopping between multiple websites and manually cross-referencing tax forms. Now, you can run that entire process through natural conversation. By connecting Candid (GuideStar) via this MCP, your AI client orchestrates non-profit research workflows—from initial screening to deep financial auditing—all in one place. You simply ask the question, and the system gathers data on charity status, operational details, and financials. Everything is managed within the Vinkius catalog structure, so you don't need to learn a new dashboard; just talk to your agent. This lets you analyze everything from organizational demographics to specific grant awards using simple prompts.

Core Capabilities

01 — Verify Charity Status

Checks if an organization is eligible for tax-deductible contributions and confirms its 501(c)(3) standing.

02 — Retrieve Financial Records

Pulls detailed financial data, including total revenue, expenses, and IRS Form 990 information.

03 — Search and Profile Non-Profits

Finds organizations using filters or an EIN, retrieving basic metadata and deep profile details.

04 — Analyze DEI Data

Accesses diversity, equity, and inclusion metrics to inform philanthropic strategy.

05 — Track Grant Activities

Searches for grants awarded by major foundations or retrieves specific grant details.

One Click on Vinkius — From Prompt to Execution

Available at vinkius.com/mcp/candid-guidestar — connect your AI agent in three steps.

- 01 Subscribe to this MCP and enter your Candid API Subscription Key in the Vinkius platform.
- 02 Connect your preferred AI client (Claude, Cursor, etc.) using the Vinkius integration point.
- 03 Ask your agent a natural language question—for instance, 'What are the financials for EIN 13-162xxxx?'—and receive structured data directly.

The bottom line is that you interact with Candid's massive dataset using conversational prompts rather than filling out forms or navigating complex web interfaces.

Built For

This MCP is essential for Foundation Officers, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Managers, and Research Analysts who constantly need to validate the legitimacy and financial health of non-profit partners. If your job involves due diligence or reporting on philanthropy, you'll need this.

Foundation Officer

Uses Candid (GuideStar) to quickly verify a potential grantee's 501(c)(3) status and review their most recent financial filings before awarding funds.

CSR Manager

Gathers non-profit metadata, including DEI data, to ensure corporate giving aligns with specific social impact goals for reporting purposes.

Due Diligence Specialist

Runs comprehensive background checks on organizations using the EIN number to pull 760+ fields of public record data instantly.

What Changes When You Connect

- 01 Stop switching between dashboards. You can verify charity status or pull detailed financials using the 'verify_charity_status' tool, all within a single conversation.

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- 02 Move beyond basic searches. Use the 'get_nonprofit_premier' function to get deep-dive data—everything from mission statements to leadership structure—without manual research.

 - 03 Improve compliance checks instantly. Running 'get_charity_check_pdf' generates the necessary PDF report right when you need it for record-keeping.

 - 04 Inform your strategy with demographic data. The 'get_demographics' tool pulls DEI metrics, letting you fine-tune how and where your foundation spends money.

 - 05 Streamline grant tracking. Instead of manual searches, use 'search_grants' to quickly find records of past awards made by foundations.
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Real-World Applications

Vetting a Potential Grant Recipient

A Foundation Officer needs to know if their target organization is financially stable and compliant. They ask the agent to verify the charity status using 'verify_charity_status' and then pull detailed financial records for the latest fiscal year, ensuring they meet all due diligence requirements.

Investigating an Unfamiliar Entity

A Due Diligence Specialist receives an EIN for a company they've never heard of. They use 'get_nonprofit_essentials' and follow up with the full profile pull via 'get_nonprofit_premier' to build a complete background file on the entity.

Building an Impact Report

A CSR Manager needs data on diversity efforts to write a report. They use 'get_demographics' to gather DEI metrics and combine that with basic metadata using the general search function to provide a comprehensive view of social impact.

Tracking Past Funding Efforts

A Researcher needs to know what grants were available in a certain sector. They prompt the agent to run 'search_grants', providing a list of foundations and date ranges, which immediately surfaces relevant historical funding data.

Patterns to Avoid

Treating it like a simple search engine

X AVOID

A user just types 'Red Cross financials' hoping for an answer. They get basic public links but miss the actual IRS Form 990 data or compliance status.

✓ INSTEAD

Don't just search. Direct your agent: 'Use Candid (GuideStar) to retrieve the latest financial records and verify charity eligibility using both `get_nonprofit_premier` and `get_nonprofit_eligibility`.' This forces a structured, auditable answer.

Missing critical compliance checks

X AVOID

The user gathers all the nice narrative data but forgets to confirm if the organization is actually able to take tax-deductible donations.

✓ INSTEAD

Always finish your research by running `'verify_charity_status'` and generating a report using `'get_charity_check_pdf'`. This confirms legal standing alongside the financials.

Ignoring primary identifiers

X AVOID

Searching only by name, which can return multiple similar organizations. The data is incomplete or confusing.

✓ INSTEAD

Use the EIN as your primary key. Start with `'get_nonprofit_essentials'` using the specific Employer Identification Number for guaranteed accuracy and immediate core details.

The Right Fit

You should use this MCP if your workflow requires structured, verifiable non-profit data—specifically financial records (Form 990s), tax status verification, or DEI metrics. It's perfect when you need to perform due diligence for a foundation grant. However, don't rely on it just for general news; while `'get_nonprofit_news'` is useful, you still have to go to a traditional search engine for real-time headlines. If your goal is simply finding an organization by name and location without checking their compliance status or financials, using a simple directory lookup tool might be faster. But if the data needs to be auditable and verifiable, this MCP is required.

Candid (GuideStar) MCP: Non-Profit Due Diligence and Compliance

Right now, vetting a non-profit partner requires an administrative nightmare. You're downloading annual reports from one site, checking tax status on another government portal, then cross-referencing the leadership structure on a third website. It's tedious manual work that introduces points of failure and wastes hours.

With this MCP, you bypass the clicks. Simply ask your agent to 'Verify charity status' or pull up all financial details using 'get_nonprofit_premier'. You get an auditable, structured answer set in seconds, instantly confirming compliance and providing deep organizational context.

Candid (GuideStar) MCP: Analyzing Non-Profit Financial Health

Without this integration, getting a full financial picture means downloading and manually parsing multiple Form 990 documents to calculate total revenue vs. total expenses across different fiscal years.

Now, your agent pulls that data directly using 'get_nonprofit_premier'. You don't just get the raw numbers; you get them structured in context, allowing for immediate comparison year-over-year and precise financial modeling.

Candid (GuideStar): 10 Tools for Non-Profit Due Diligence

These tools allow you to execute specific, complex non-profit data tasks like status verification and deep financial auditing directly through your agent.

#	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
01	<code>get_charity_check_pdf</code>	Generates a compliant PDF report for keeping records about an organization's charity status.
02	<code>get_demographics</code>	Pulls diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) data specific to a non-profit entity.
03	<code>get_nonprofit_essentials</code>	Retrieves core details for an organization using its unique EIN.
04	<code>get_grant_details</code>	Fetches specific information regarding a particular grant award or program.
05	<code>get_nonprofit_eligibility</code>	Verifies if an organization qualifies to receive tax-deductible donations from certain platforms.
06	<code>get_nonprofit_news</code>	Retrieves recent, real-time news articles related to a specific non-profit sector or entity.
07	<code>get_nonprofit_premier</code>	Accesses deep profile data for an organization using its EIN, including leadership and mission statements.
08	<code>search_grants</code>	Searches the records to find grants that were previously awarded by foundations.
09	<code>search_nonprofits</code>	Conducts broad searches across non-profit databases using specific filters like location or name.
10	<code>verify_charity_status</code>	Confirms an organization's tax-exempt status and general eligibility for receiving charitable contributions.

See It in Action

Real prompts you can use once this MCP is connected to your AI agent through Vinkius Cloud.

U I need a deep dive on American Red Cross Greater Miami. What are their financials and DEI data?



Non-Profit Profile: American Red Cross Greater Miami

- **Status:** 501(c)(3) Public Charity (Good Standing)
- **DEI Index Score:** 7.8/10 (High Representation)
- **Latest Fiscal Year Report (Summary):**
 - * Total Revenue: \$12.4M
 - * Program Expenses: \$9.1M
 - * Assets: \$25.6M

U Can you search for grants given by Gates Foundation in the last five years?



Foundational Grant Search Results

GRANT ID	RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION	AWARD AMOUNT	YEAR
G-452	Clean Water Initiative	\$3.1M	2022
G-911	Local Food Bank Network	\$850K	2023

Query successful. Two relevant grants found.

U What is the tax status for EIN 52-153xxxx?



Charity Status Verification

- ✓ **Status:** 501(c)(3) Public Charity.
- ✓ **Compliance:** In good standing with the IRS.
- ✓ **Donation Eligibility:** Eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. (PDF report generated and attached.)

Frequently Asked Questions

01 How can I use Candid (GuideStar) to verify a charity's tax-deductible status?

You simply ask the agent to check the charity status for any EIN. The system verifies if the organization is a 501(c)(3) public charity and confirms its eligibility, providing immediate compliance assurance.

02 Do I need Candid (GuideStar) to get full financial reports like IRS Form 990s?

Yes. This MCP lets you retrieve detailed financial records directly from the organization's filing history using a single prompt, eliminating the need to visit multiple government websites.

03 Can Candid (GuideStar) help me find non-profits by location or type?

Absolutely. You can run broad searches across the database using filters like state, city, or specific NTEE codes, quickly generating a list of potential organizations for your research.

04 What if I only have an EIN number? Can Candid (GuideStar) find all details?

If you have the EIN, it's the fastest way to deep-dive. You can pull basic metadata and then request comprehensive profile data using the EIN as the primary key for maximum detail.

05 Is Candid (GuideStar) good for checking diversity or inclusion metrics?

Yes, it accesses DEI data specifically designed to help foundations evaluate an organization's commitment to equity and inclusion. This helps you build a more thoughtful philanthropic strategy.

Go Live in 60 Seconds

Get your connection token from cloud.vinkius.com, then paste the endpoint URL into any MCP-compatible client.

YOUR MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/[TOKEN]/mcp
```

CLIENT

WHERE TO CONFIGURE



Claude AI

Profile → Customize → Connectors → "+" → Add custom connector → Paste endpoint



Cursor

Settings → Features → MCP Servers → "+ Add New MCP Server" → Type: SSE → Paste endpoint



VS Code

Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+P → "MCP: Add Server" → add `"candid-guidestar": { "url": "..."}`



Windsurf

MCP Settings → `mcp_settings.json` → Add endpoint URL



ChatGPT

Settings → Tools & plugins → Add MCP server → Paste endpoint



Gemini

Extensions → Add MCP Server → Paste endpoint URL

ASK AN AI
ABOUT THIS

Let your preferred AI
explain this MCP server



Ask ChatGPT



Ask Claude



Ask Perplexity



Ask Gemini



Ask Grok



READY TO CONNECT

Candid (GuideStar) is live on Vinkius Cloud.

Get your connection token, paste it into your AI agent, and
start building. No SDK. No deployment. Just results.

[Start at cloud.vinkius.com](https://cloud.vinkius.com) →

vinkius.com · support@vinkius.com

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