

How to Launch an RIA as a CPA

CPAs Are a Natural Fit for Financial Advisory Services

- Trust already exists
- Already have knowledge of financial situation
- Already have relevant training and experience
- Tax planning is the foundation of financial advice
- Growing demand for integrated tax and financial services
- Changing tax laws are creating additional planning opportunities

Why would a CPA want to start a Financial Advisory Firm?



More consistent workflow throughout year



Reduced stress of tax season



Additional revenue stream



More fulfilling work

Where do I Start?

Determine type of services to be offered

RIA vs Broker/Dealer

Certification/Licensing

Determine structure of business



Fee Structures - what do I charge?



Hourly vs project-based vs subscription



Setting fees that reflect value of services provided

What are the Compliance Requirements?



Fiduciary duty and conflict of interest



Reporting



Subject to Audits





Building a Niche

- Leveraging CPA credentials
- Existing Connections
- Focus on your ideal client
- Leverage Technology

Recommendations





Recommendations Continued...



Outsource!



Network



Find/create a Mastermind Group



Factors that made the biggest impact on my success

- I started trusting myself
- I stopped comparing myself to other RIAs
- I defined what success meant to me
- I realized that I was having a positive impact on my clients

Questions?

