

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My taxes go to support the poor, so why should I give to the CFC?

Your tax payments do help many charities that serve the poor, but you do not have any control over where the funds are allocated. Through the CFC, you are able to choose the charities that you care most about supporting. Additionally, most CFC-funded charities work to treat the root of the problems, not just the symptoms. In this way, your donation through the CFC is working to truly improve the lives of those that CFC-funded agencies serve.

Government dollars are not growing, even though more social problems in need of Federal funding arise each year. Without CFC-funded programs, many more people would need public assistance, which could drive up your taxes.

Many of the CFC-funded agencies primarily focus on services for working families, not just the poor. CFC-funded services such as Visiting Nurses, family counseling, drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs, scouting programs, and Red Cross programs are available to everyone in our community.

I never use agency services, so why should I give?

You never know when you, a family member, or a neighbor may need a CFC-funded service. Job loss, loss of a loved one, illness, disabilities, family problems, mental disorders and the problems of growing up and growing old know no boundaries.

How can I get help?

Information is available free of charge, 24/7, through the 2-1-1 Information & Referral Service. Anyone can access this service by calling (816) 474-5112 or logging on to www.211.org.

Why isn't my favorite agency a member of CFC?

The Office of Personnel Management in Washington, DC, regulates the CFC and has the final say in determining which agencies are credible enough to be a part of the Combined Federal Campaign. Prior to 1988, there was a "write-in" option on pledge cards, but this option was sorely abused, causing administrative costs to increase. Consequently, regulations were changed and the "write-in" option was removed. Now volunteers from Federal agencies review applications for regulation compliance. Agencies must be audited, produce an annual report, and have a Board of Directors, which governs the affairs of the agency. Please contact Bailey Armstrong at bailey.armstrong@gsa.gov or call her at (816) 823-1295 if you are interested in finding out how your favorite charity can become a part of the Combined Federal Campaign.

What if I already give to other organizations?

There are many organizations that we individually support: our alma maters, churches, schools, environmental organizations and personal charities of choice. At the CFC, we respect those commitments and ask that you extend your charitable giving by investing in the needs of the greater community. This could include investments in lesser-known charities that may not have high visibility or public awareness.

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There is a CFC agency I don't like. I will have nothing to do with the CFC because of this.

The CFC has established guidelines to ensure that member organizations are serving needs, are financially responsible, and are operated by a Board of Directors. The entire spectrum of organizations is represented because of the varied interest of the Federal workforce.

The CFC does not make political judgments on the worth of any particular organization. By designating where your funds go, you can be assured that only the charity of your choice receives your donation. Remember, many organizations are in need of your contribution and your lack of participation in the CFC makes it more difficult to provide much-needed help in your community.

Why should I give to the CFC?

Your gift improves the quality of life for you and your neighbors. You have access throughout your lifetime to the thousands of vital health and social services not covered by government funds. These services stabilize lives, arrest social problems, encourage productivity, and increase the resources and prosperity of our entire community.

When you choose to invest in your community, you may not have the time or resources to research where your charitable dollars would be best spent. When you choose the CFC to manage your gift, you are guaranteed experience, accountability and effectiveness. Our management ensures that the charities you support through the CFC adhere to sound fiscal policies and provide necessary results-oriented services.

Why not just give directly to the agencies?

There are several reasons why the CFC is among the best ways to give to charity. Here are two of the best:

- Giving through the CFC allows you to use payroll deductions, facilitating an increase in the amount of money that you can comfortably afford to give to your favorite charity.
- Undesignated money is distributed according to the percentage of money designated to the agencies. Your designated gift allows your favorite agency to receive a percentage of the undesignated money, therefore stretching your total donation and increasing the amount of money that you actually give to your favorite charity.

My husband/wife gives where he/she works. Why should we both give?

It is important for every employed person to do their part. Every worker has a responsibility to help maintain the comprehensive CFC-funded programs that enhance the economic strength of our area, which, in turn, support job stability for every wage earner. The CFC can continue to provide much-needed human care services only if everyone contributes.

What if I can't afford to give right now?

You don't have to! Pledge your gift through payroll deduction and spread small payments throughout the entire year. Agency services need your year-around support. Deductions don't begin until January.

What if I lose my job?

You will not be expected to continue your pledge payments during your period of unemployment, nor are you responsible for your remaining balance.

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What is the duration of my payroll deduction and when does it begin?

Deductions span across one year and begin the first pay period in January of the year following the pledge. For instance, if you donate during the 2012 CFC year, your payroll deductions will not begin until the first paycheck in January 2013.

What if I work seasonally or on a temporary basis?

You may still contribute to the CFC. Of course, if you use payroll deductions it will only be deducted during the period you receive your paycheck. You may also give to the CFC through a one-time cash donation.

Why is there a minimum gift?

The Office of Personnel Management established a \$2/\$4 minimum for payroll deduction and a \$5 minimum for cash/check contributions that are designated to keep our administrative costs down. Processing a pledge of less than that amount is not cost effective for the Combined Federal Campaign.

What is the administrative cost of the Combined Federal Campaign?

Last year the total administration and fund-raising expense for the Heartland CFC was 5.05%. The Heartland CFC has the lowest fundraising overhead cost of any CFC in the nation.

Are labor and management both behind the CFC campaign?

Yes, labor members work with management to make the campaign a collaborative success.

What is the relationship between CFC and United Way?

CFC regulations require that every local campaign be managed by a non-profit agency, under an annual contract. United Way applies to the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board (FEB) every February to serve as the Principal Combined Fundraising Organization (PCFO). United Way is not paid a fee to run the Campaign, but receives reimbursement for approved CFC expenditures through the annual budget approved by the FEB. United Way then applies independently to participate in the campaign and be eligible to receive donations.

Who checks on the money to make sure it is properly spent?

The CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee, comprised of Federal personnel who volunteer in this capacity, reviews agency applications for compliance with the criteria stipulated in the CFC regulations; i.e., ensuring they are not-for-profit, audited annually, etc. The CFC Principal Combined Fund Organization is audited annually by an independent auditor to ensure that all designations have been honored.

What happens if I complete the home address section on the pledge form and indicate it be forwarded to the agency I designated?

If you complete the appropriate section on the pledge form, your name and address will be forwarded to the agency/agencies to which you designate. These agencies will likely use that information to acknowledge your contribution and add your name to their mailing list. It is up to the federation or agency to acknowledge your gift.