

Central Indiana Community Foundation Fundraising for a Component Fund

Thank you for establishing a fund with Central Indiana Community Foundation or one of its affiliates, The Indianapolis Foundation or the Legacy Fund of Hamilton County (together “CICF”). We developed this guidance about fundraising to assist you and to help ensure that CICF meets all federal, state and local legal requirements.

Ways to Promote a Fund You Established

You may promote the fund using “passive” marketing such as sending an appeal letter to friends, associates and family, requesting contributions to the fund. You should indicate that the fund is a “component fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation” on any appeal letters. Donors who wish to contribute to the fund should make their checks payable to Central Indiana Community Foundation and indicate the name of the fund in the check memo line. These checks should be mailed directly to CICF at 615 N. Alabama Street, Ste. 119, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1498.

You also may include a link to the dedicated page on the CICF website where individuals can make secure credit card contributions. CICF also is able to receive gifts of publicly traded stocks and mutual fund shares for the fund. We ask that you share a copy of an appeal letter or email with your philanthropic services advisor in advance of sending it.

Receiving and Acknowledging Contributions

Individuals who wish to give to your fund by contributing directly to CICF through one of the ways described above will receive an acknowledgment for tax purposes. Gifts made directly to CICF are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and CICF does not provide any goods or services in consideration for these contributions. For this reason, you are unable to provide donors who contribute to the fund with any benefits for a direct contribution to the fund.

Disallowed Activities

Fund representatives may not use CICF’s tax exempt status to hold fundraising events. *CICF does not allow funds or fund representatives to engage in any type of charity gaming or fundraising activities or events as it relates to raising monies for a fund held at CICF.* Such activities and events include, but are not limited to, dinners, galas, raffles, contests, auctions, golf tournaments, walkathons and car washes.

Protecting Your Charitable Intent

CICF is bound to protect the charitable assets you and others entrust to the community foundation. Fundraising activity requires additional oversight to ensure compliance with IRS and state regulations and guidelines. Such activities can expose CICF to liability, and the charitable assets and funds we hold could be at risk. Any fundraising event or activity held to benefit a single component fund could be inferred to be sponsored by the community foundation as a whole, and CICF cannot permit any funds to use CICF’s tax exempt status for this reason. Our duty is to you, your fund and the more than 700 component funds we administer and preserve.

Contact Us

We encourage you to contact us to discuss your fundraising ideas. We can help you determine if they fall within these guidelines. We will help you select the best philanthropic strategy for meeting your charitable objectives for the fund.