



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign?

Cook County Government has partnered with seven charities for a Charitable Giving Campaign. As part of the Campaign, Cook County employees can pledge a financial donation to organizations making a real difference in our communities.

What charities will employees be able to contribute to?

The participating charities are Black United Fund, Community Health Charities, Community Shares of Illinois, EarthShare, Global Impact, United Negro College Fund and United Way of Metro Chicago.

Why should I give through Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign instead of contributing directly to a charitable organization?

Your donation multiplies when combined with others. As Cook County employees working together, we can create more impact than any one person in achieving a healthier, stronger community! In addition, your donations are deducted automatically from your paycheck. It's easy and efficient.

How do I make a pledge?

You can choose to participate at the Cook County giving site. United Way is the host organization. The link and login information are listed below:

[Charitable Contribution Site](#)

Username: CookCounty

Password: Give2020

You will be asked to create a personal profile with your work email address, name and unique password. You will then be able to make your payroll pledge by selecting the payroll deduction option and following the directions.

When does the campaign start and end?

Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign enrollment period begins on October 1, 2019 and ends on October 31, 2019.

When does my payroll deduction pledge begin?

You have two options to make your contributions: A single contribution or spread over 26 pay periods. Deductions begin with the first check date in January 2020 and conclude with the last check date in December 2020. Your pledged contribution will be over 26 pay periods unless you choose the single, one-time contribution option. If you chose one-time contribution, the total deduction will be taken on the 01/10/2020 paycheck.

What is the minimum amount I can pledge through payroll deduction?

Employees can pledge as low as \$1.00 per pay period.

Can I give to more than one charity?

From the charitable giving site, employees may choose to provide a pledge to multiple organizations. The contribution will be taken as single amount from your paycheck and then distributed by United Way.

Can I change my annual donation after the campaign is closed?

After the campaign period is closed, you can only stop your contribution and will not be able to pledge again until the next campaign. You cannot make changes to the amount or type of donations once the campaign period is closed. You may stop your contribution by submitting a written request via email to the Risk Management general mailbox, risk.mgmt@cookcountyil.gov.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes, contributions made as a part of the Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign are tax-deductible.

How do I get a tax receipt?

Printed tax receipts are not provided for payroll donations. Instead, it is recommended that you use your last pay stub and a copy of your confirmation email as proof of donation for tax purposes.

When will my chosen agency receive my donation?

Donations are distributed 45-60 days after payments are received. Payroll payments are received from Cook County after each payroll period and are processed at that time. Organizations are paid monthly if there is a cumulative total of \$55 or more directed to them.

Can departments pressure their employees into signing up for the Charitable Giving Campaign?

No. Cook County believes that giving is a personal decision, and employees are encouraged to give based on their finances and causes they support.

Will my donation be made public?

As a participant in the giving campaign, you are a donor and therefore your giving information will remain confidential.

Will the pledged contribution I signed up for automatically roll over into a future campaign?

Your contribution will be only for this campaign and will not roll over into any future campaigns. Contributions will only run for the 2020 calendar year, unless otherwise cancelled.

Why must I designate my pledge?

Because there is more than one agency receiving funds from the Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign, you must indicate which organization(s) should receive your pledge. You may choose from one of the seven designated charitable funds selected by Cook County.

Can I contribute to a charity that does not appear on any of the lists in the donor website?

No. Only the charities listed have been included in this year's charitable giving campaign. If your favorite group is not listed, perhaps you can choose one from the list that performs a similar role.

What if I have additional questions?

Please contact the United Way help desk at help@liveunitedchicago.org or 312-906-2204.