ASCEND ADVISORY GROUP

Charitable Giving Guide

Strategies to help you maximize gift and tax advantages

$2.2B
ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

starting with $27M in 2001 (1)

Forbes 2025 BEST-IN-STATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT TEAMS POWERED BY SHOOK RESEARCH

2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams (2)

2X
SUPPORT STAFF

to financial advisors, ensuring proactive service

Think Beyond a Cash Donation

Donate long-term appreciated securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds) or less common (real estate, private company stock).

Why think beyond cash?

1. Full fair market value tax deduction at the time of the gift, meaning you may be able to eliminate capital gains taxes when assets are given directly
2. Through these combined tax saving opportunities, one may be able to give more to charity compared to selling the asset and donating the cash proceeds

Scenario Comparison: $50,000 donation of cash vs. securities

- 37% federal income tax bracket
- Has an asset that has a fair market value of $50,000 that includes unrealized gains of $30,000, subject to a 20% capital gains and 3.8% Medicare surtax

	Donate Cash	Donate Securities Directly
Capital Gains Tax	($7,140)	$0
Net Charitable Donation	$42,860	$50,000
Income Tax Savings	$15,858	$18,500

(1) as of 6/1/25.
(2)2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams: Awarded January 2025; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 3/31/23 - 3/31/24 (Source: Forbes.com). Fee paid for use of marketing materials. The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria. 11,674 wealth management teams were considered for the rating; 5,331 (45.66% of candidates) were named 2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams.

Bunching Cash Gifts

With the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in 2017, to receive any benefit from cash donations, the family or individual needs to have enough itemizations to exceed the standard deduction. To pass this threshold, one strategy is giving numerous years of planned gifts in one year.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

With the TCJA, if you are age 70.5 or older you can use a QCD to donate from a Traditional IRA and get a tax break, whether you itemize or not.

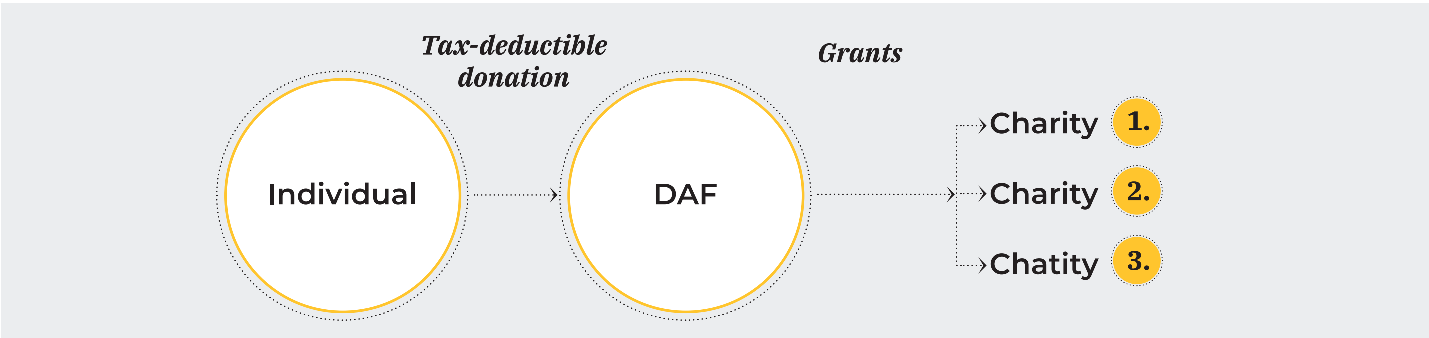
- IRA account owners must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) at age 72, or age 73 if they reach age 72 after December 31, 2022
- You can use a QCD before the annual required minimum distributions from traditional IRAs, which are normally taxed as ordinary income
- QCDs satisfy all or part of any RMDs that one would otherwise have to take from an IRA
- QCDs are excluded from one's income, so it helps lower adjusted gross income

How QCDs Work? The IRA custodian must issue a check made out to a qualified public charity (not a private foundation, donor-advised fund, or supporting organization) up to a maximum $100,000 per year. If the donor is married, their spouse can also contribute up to $100,000 from their own IRA. One cannot deduct a QCD as a charitable contribution on a federal income tax return — that would be double-dipping.

Set Up a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

This charitable giving vehicle sponsored by a public charity allows you to make an irrevocable contribution to any IRS-qualified public charity and be eligible for an immediate tax deduction.

- You can take an immediate tax deduction for the charitable contribution, and can potentially grow the donation tax-free by investing the funds until a grant is made
- Streamlined recordkeeping and consolidate tax receipts, all in one centralized, location
- Support charitable causes anonymously, if one wishes



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