International Grantmaking

HOW DO I SUPPORT A CHARITY THAT IS NOT IN THE UNITED STATES?

The California Community Foundation routinely helps its donors who wish to make grants directly to charities that are not in the United States. Per IRS regulations, grants can be made directly to international charities by either conducting expenditure responsibility or making a “good faith determination” that the foreign charity is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity - typically referred to as an “equivalency determination.” Failure to follow the rules results in tax penalties on the fund of up to 100 percent if not corrected. CCF’s policy is to make a good faith determination of the organization.

WHAT PROCESS DOES CCF USE TO PROTECT MY FUND?

CCF has created policies and procedures to meet the equivalency determination. This process requires collaboration and cooperation between CCF and the international charity. CCF will, among other things:

1. ask the international charity to provide certain information such as its organizational structure, charitable activities and financials;
2. review the information provided; and
3. provide current, written advice by a qualified tax practitioner that the organization is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CCF’S DUE DILIGENCE?

- After you select the international charity and charitable purpose, we do the rest.
- Our process ensures that grants from your fund meet all laws.
- Our process protects you and your fund from any tax penalties.

WHAT SPECIFIC INFORMATION MIGHT CCF ASK THE INTERNATIONAL CHARITY TO PROVIDE?

- An affidavit signed by a principal officer describing its organizational structure, mission and charitable activities
- Financial information showing that the charity has received at least 1/3 public support during the last five years
- Governing documents, such as bylaws and articles of incorporation
- Wire and banking information
- A list of officers and directors, as necessary

The charity must, under the IRS rules, provide the information to CCF in English.
WHAT OTHER INFORMATION MIGHT BE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW ABOUT CCF’S PROCESS?

1. When CCF issues the grant depends upon how quickly CCF receives the requested information from the charity. Although CCF strives to complete the process within 14 business days after receiving the documentation, additional follow-up may be required, which may result in further delays.

2. CCF will also review the Office of Foreign Asset Control Specially Designated Nationals List.

3. CCF will generally not ask for financial information from charities whose public charity status does not depend on financial support, such as schools, hospitals, churches or governmental units.

4. CCF will ask for more documentation from charities in existence for less than five years or that receive less than 1/3 of their support from the public. These charities are also less likely to receive grants.

5. Written advice by CCF’s qualified tax practitioner that the international charity is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity is valid for two years.

6. If the charity cannot provide sufficient information for CCF to make an equivalency determination, then CCF may recommend that you make a grant to a “Friends of” arm of that charity that is based in the United States, or provide other suggestions to support your favorite cause.

IN WHAT COUNTRIES HAS CCF MADE GRANTS?*

Afghanistan  Germany  New Zealand
Australia  Grenada-Petit Martinique  Nigeria
Brazil  Guatemala  Peru
Burkina Faso  Guatemala  Romania
Canada  Ireland  Russia
Cyprus  Israel  Slovakia
Czech Republic  Italy  South Africa
Denmark  Kenya  Switzerland
Dominican Republic  Liberia  United Kingdom
France  Mexico  *And others.

To learn more about the foundation’s International Grantmaking, contact your Relationship Manager or the Grants Management Group at (213) 239-2320 or grantsmanager@calfund.org.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DISCLOSURE

The information provided is general and educational in nature. It is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, legal or tax advice. The California Community Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult your tax advisor to properly determine the tax consequences of making a charitable gift to the California Community Foundation. Contributions to the California Community Foundation represent irrevocable gifts subject to the legal and fiduciary control of the foundation’s board of directors. © 2016 California Community Foundation