

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

**P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201**

Date: August 1, 2000

**Person to Contact:
Judy Simonson 31-04016
Customer Service Representative
Toll Free Telephone Number:
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST
877-829-5600
Fax Number:
513-263-3756
Employer Identification Number:
82-6000165**

**City of Boise Accounting Office
% Payroll
PO Box 500
Boise, ID 83701-0500**

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your request for information concerning your organization's exemption from Federal income tax.

As an instrumentality of a governmental unit, your organization is not subject to Federal income tax under the provisions of Section 115(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, which states in part:

"Gross income does not include income derived from the exercise of any essential governmental function and accruing to a State or any political subdivision thereof ..."

Because your organization is an instrumentality of a governmental unit, its income is not taxable as explained above. Contributions to instrumentalities are deductible under Section 170(c)(1) of the Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,


**for John E. Ricketts, Director, TE/GE
Customer Account Services**

Organizations That Qualify To Receive Deductible Contributions

You can deduct your contributions only if you make them to a qualified organization. To become a qualified organization, most organizations other than churches and governments, as described below, must apply to the IRS.

Publication 78. You can ask any organization whether it is a qualified organization, and most will be able to tell you. Or you can check IRS Publication 78, which lists most qualified organizations. You may find Publication 78 in your local library's reference section. Or you can find it on the Internet at www.irs.gov. You can also call the IRS to find out if an organization is qualified. Call 1-877-829-5500. (For TTY/TDD help, call 1-800-829-4059.)

Types of Qualified Organizations

Generally, only the five following types of organizations can be qualified organizations.

1. A community chest, corporation, trust, fund, or foundation organized or created in or under the laws of the United States, any state, the District of Columbia, or any possession of the United States (including Puerto Rico). It must be organized and operated only for one or more of the following purposes.
 - a. Religious.
 - b. Charitable.
 - c. Educational.
 - d. Scientific.
 - e. Literary.
 - f. The prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

Certain organizations that foster national or international amateur sports competition also qualify.

2. War veterans' organizations, including posts, auxiliaries, trusts, or foundations, organized in the United States or any of its possessions.
3. Domestic fraternal societies, orders, and associations operating under the lodge system.

Note. Your contribution to this type of organization is deductible only if it is to be used solely for charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

4. Certain nonprofit cemetery companies or corporations.

Note. Your contribution to this type of organization is not deductible if it can be used for the care of a specific lot or mausoleum crypt.

5. The United States or any state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. possession (including Puerto Rico), a political subdivision of a state or U.S. possession, or an Indian tribal government or any of its subdivisions that perform substantial government functions.

Note. To be deductible, your contribution to this type of organization must be made solely for public purposes.

Example 1. You contribute cash to your city's police department to be used as a reward for information about a crime. The city police department is a qualified organization, and your contribution is for a public purpose. You can deduct your contribution.

Example 2. You make a voluntary contribution to the social security trust fund, not earmarked for a specific account. Because the trust fund is part of the U.S. Government, you contributed to a qualified organization. You can deduct your contribution.

Examples. The following list gives some examples of qualified organizations.

- Churches, a convention or association of churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other religious organizations.
- Most nonprofit charitable organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Way.
- Most nonprofit educational organizations, including the Boy (and Girl) Scouts of America, colleges, museums, and day-care centers if substantially all the child care provided is to enable individuals (the parents) to be gainfully employed and the services are available to the general public. However, if your contribution is a substitute for tuition or other enrollment fee, it is not deductible as a charitable contribution, as explained later under *Contributions You Cannot Deduct*.
- Nonprofit hospitals and medical research organizations.

- Utility company emergency energy programs, if the utility company is an agent for a charitable organization that assists individuals with emergency energy needs.
- Nonprofit volunteer fire companies.
- Public parks and recreation facilities.
- Civil defense organizations.

Canadian charities. You may be able to deduct contributions to certain Canadian charitable organizations covered under an income tax treaty with Canada.

To deduct your contribution to a Canadian charity, you generally must have income from sources in Canada. See Publication 597, Information on the United States-Canada Income Tax Treaty, for information on how to figure your deduction.

Mexican charities. You may be able to deduct contributions to certain Mexican charitable organizations under an income tax treaty with Mexico.

The organization must meet tests that are essentially the same as the tests that qualify U.S. organizations to receive deductible contributions. The organization may be able to tell you if it meets these tests.



If not, you can get general information about the tests the organization must meet by writing to the:

Internal Revenue Service
International Returns Section
P.O. Box 920
Bensalem, PA 19020-8518.