

CHARITABLE GIVING FROM YOUR INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA)



Most people have heard of the benefits of naming a 501c3 charity as a beneficiary of their IRA. A planned gift like this will be made directly to the charity from the financial institution that is managing your IRA (called an IRA trustee). That means the gift will not be considered when your estate goes through Probate Court and can often get to the charity quicker and be put to use sooner.

Did you know that you can also make a gift from your IRA while still alive?

Some specific requirements have to be followed, but these are not overly complicated, and the benefit can be significant.

As of January 2020, when you reach age 72 you are required to take a distribution from your IRA. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Prior to this year, the

RMD went into effect when you turned 70½. However, if you reached the age of 70½ during calendar year 2019, you are still required to begin drawing your RMD. The later age of 72 only applies to those who were younger than 70½ as of December 31, 2019.

There is an option for individuals drawing money from their IRA and not being taxed on it. Rather than taking the distribution and having it count as part of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for tax filing, you can have the distribution sent directly to a qualified charity. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) or an "IRA charitable rollover," and is available to anyone age 70½ or older. It is not dependent on you being required to withdraw money from your IRA based on your age.

You can tell the financial institution to send any amount from your IRA directly to a charity. This can be a portion of your RMD, the full amount of your RMD, or any amount you wish up to a maximum of \$100,000.00 per year.

Whether you itemize your deductions or use the standard deduction when filing your taxes, this giving strategy can be very helpful to you and the charities you support.

What is the benefit to you?

You do not pay tax on any IRA distribution that you give directly to a charity. Also, since you did not take possession of the money, it does not count toward your AGI for tax purposes. This may help you avoid paying higher Medicare premiums or Social Security taxes.

IRA; Individual Retirement

RMD; Required Minimum Distribution

AGI; Adjusted Gross Income

QCD; Qualified Charitable Distribution

CGD; Charitable Gift Distribution

This option only applies to IRAs and does not include a 401k, 403b or other profit-sharing or pension plans.

Your IRA trustee will send IRS form 1099-R to you for reporting the QCD on your tax return. The key is that you do not take possession of the money, but have your IRA trustee send the distribution directly to a qualified charity. We recommend you consult your own tax advisor before making a final decision about whether or not an IRA charitable rollover works for you.

**The age for making a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) increased to 72 with passage of the SECURE ACT in January 2020. The age for making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) remained at 70½.*

“I’d been waiting to make some major charitable gifts from our IRA because the withdrawal wouldn’t be taxable. But I soon realized it made sense to make all of our giving—tithe and missions offerings to our church, ongoing giving to MMU, and other annual giving—directly from our IRA. The only contributions we make that are with taxed income (not from our IRA) are the relatively small gifts to local charities and travel on behalf of a not-for-profit.

Beside avoiding tax on the charitable gift distributions (CGD’s), it also fulfills the requirement to make an annual minimum withdrawal (Required Minimum Distribution—RMD). If we made the RMD for our own use, it would be taxable. So there are two benefits: the CGD withdraws funds from the IRA without incurring taxes on it, and we don’t have to make a taxable RMD. And our financial firm makes the CGD payouts directly to the nonprofit without a charge to do so.”

—Mark Shipley, former MMU Foundation board member

For information from the IRS about qualified charitable distributions, go to this link:

<https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-distributions-withdrawals>