

7. Finding and getting money

7.10.4 Introduction to Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows charities to reclaim from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) the basic rate of income tax on donations made by UK taxpayers. As the current basic rate of income tax is 20 per cent, this means that you can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you are given. All the donor has to do is make a Gift Aid declaration stating that they have paid enough UK income tax and/or capital gains tax for the year of donation as your charity or Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), and any other charities and CASCs they donate to, will reclaim on their donation. A single declaration can cover past and future donations. The charity can claim Gift Aid on donations received over the past four years. It all adds up and could make a significant difference to your charity.

What are the benefits?

Gift Aid is a great way of boosting donations whatever their size, at no extra cost to the donor, and with little extra administration for the charity. There is no minimum or maximum donation level and the information required from the donor is simple, making Gift Aid an extremely effective and flexible way to give.

Five steps to getting Gift Aid

- Step 1** Complete HMRC Charities Application Form ChA1 to register, or Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Registration form ChN1 if you are a CASC
- Step 2** Get a completed Gift Aid declaration from your donors.
- Step 3** Keep records of the declarations and donations with a clear audit trail.
- Step 4** Make periodic claims to claim the tax back from HM Revenue and Customs
- Step 5** Promote Gift Aid amongst your donors! Stress that it won't cost donors anything extra to use Gift Aid, and you could let them know what the extra funds generated could buy. Utilise all of your communication channels to spread this message.

How the tax relief works

Gift Aid allows the charity to claim the basic rate of income tax on the gift, which works out at 25 per cent more.

Donor gives your charity	£100.00
Charity claims from HMRC Basic rate income tax on gross gift:	£25.00
Total you receive	£125

Who is eligible?

For a donation to qualify for Gift Aid, the donor must be a UK taxpayer. They must pay enough UK income tax or capital gains tax to at least equal the amount of tax your charity or CASC, and any other charities or CASCs they donate to, will claim on their donations made in that tax year. A tax year runs from 6 April to the following 5 April. Your charity will claim from the HMRC 25p for every £1 given. So, if a donor gives you £100 in a tax year, they must have paid at least £25 in tax; the amount you could claim from HMRC. It does not matter at what rate the donor pays tax, it could be 20, 40 or 50 per cent. It could be tax deducted from bank or building society interest or the tax credit on dividends. What matters is that the amount of tax they pay in the tax year at least equals the amount of tax your charity will claim.

Gift Aid for higher rate taxpayers

Higher rate taxpayers can reclaim the difference between the higher rate (40%) and basic rate tax(20%)on donations. For the highest tax rate (currently 50%, reducing to 45% from April 2013) , the reclaim will be the difference between the taxpayer's highest rate and basic rate (20%).

Example:

Higher rate taxpayer gives your charity	£100
Charity claims basic rate (20%)	£25.00
Charity receives	£125
Higher rate taxpayer claims back for themselves	£25.00

The higher rate taxpayer can claim the relief through their tax return, Tax Review form or by getting in touch with the tax office that handles their affairs.

Research by CAF (2009) found that half of all higher rate taxpayers are not aware of the personal relief on donations available to them, one fifth only have used it, and most are willing to redirect the 20 per cent to charity. Charities can make use of these findings in promoting Gift Aid.

See King's College London's website for an example of how to promote Gift Aid to higher rate taxpayers.

www.kcl.ac.uk/support/give/giftaid.html

Further information

Giving Wales

Helpline 0800 2888 329

givingwales@wcva.org.uk

Payroll Giving Scheme

www.charitablegiving.co.uk

Institute of Fundraising

www.tax-effectivegiving.org.uk

HMRC Charities

Helpline 0845 302 0203

charities@hmrc.gov.uk

www.hmrc.gov.uk

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