

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island Charitable Contributions and Sponsorship Policy

As a member of the Rhode Island business community, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island's (BCBSRI) social responsibility is to support local, nonprofit community organizations by providing financial contributions, in-kind services, and volunteer support. In keeping with our corporate mission, we aim to increase access to care, improve quality, and support community health initiatives by strengthening our bond with the community and addressing the needs of all Rhode Islanders, particularly the uninsured, underinsured, and most vulnerable.

The Charitable Contributions and Sponsorship Policy ensures that all BCBSRI donations, sponsorships, company volunteer activities, and in-kind services are coordinated and aligned with our corporate social responsibility strategy and business goals, maximize opportunity for corporate visibility, foster long-term business relationships, and are within our budget and resource limitations. This policy eliminates duplication and establishes a central point of contact for internal and external requests. All corporate expenditures for charitable donations, sponsorships, fundraising events, recognition dinners, program booklet ads, etc. will be handled accordingly by the Community Relations Department.

- Requests for charitable contributions/sponsorships, in-kind services or support, and/or company volunteer support, or business courtesies will be coordinated and administered by Community Relations. Individual employees may not respond to requests from (or solicit from) individuals or organizations that have an actual or potential business relationship with our companies.
- Requests for sponsorships, charitable donations, volunteers, in-kind services, gifts or give-aways, or business courtesies must be made in writing and forwarded to Community Relations for research, review, and final disposition. Community Relations will communicate directly with agencies regarding all requests and coordinate any follow up documentation, and/or collateral activities such as ads, tickets, invitations, banners, etc.

The following **guidelines** will be used in reviewing requests for charitable contributions and sponsorships and company volunteer initiatives:

- Only Rhode Island-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations, and 501(c)(6) business leagues will be considered for charitable contributions, sponsorships, volunteer support, or in-kind donations.
- All corporate charitable contributions, sponsorships, and in-kind services will promote our business goals, create positive visibility, and demonstrate social responsibility.

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- The major focus of our contributions will be on health-related causes that directly impact access, quality, and community health. Contributions will be coordinated with employee volunteer activities when possible to achieve maximum impact within budget guidelines.
- We will also consider requests to support social, community, civic, diversity, capital expenses, and environmental endeavors only if these support corporate business goals and meet contribution guidelines and/or if BCBSRI staff is involved in the governance of the organization.
- All requests will be entered into the BCBSRI charitable contributions database by the Community Relations Program Manager and reviewed with formal recommendation by the Program Manager of Community Relations, Director of Community Relations, and the Chief Administration Officer.

The following **exclusions** apply:

- BCBSRI will not support organizations that discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or disability with respect to employment, volunteer participation, or the provision of services.
- Contributions will be made only to the qualifying nonprofit agency. Contributions will not be made to organizations conducting fundraising (third party giving) on behalf of nonprofit agencies.
- Requests from religious organizations for sectarian purposes will not be considered; however, a community program sponsored by a religious organization will be considered (e.g., food pantry).
- Requests from all local, regional, and/or school-based sports teams will not be considered.
- Requests from individual Rhode Island elementary or secondary schools (public or private) will not be considered, unless the request is for a new and innovative program specifically designed to address health and wellness.
- Requests that solicit financial support for individuals, political candidates, and political campaigns, or entities that are not nonprofit organizations, will not be considered.
- Financial requests for capital campaigns will not be considered.