

The Endow Iowa Program and the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Endow Iowa?

The “Endow Iowa” program was created by Iowa lawmakers in 2003 with the purpose of enhancing the Iowans’ quality of life through increased charitable giving to Iowa community foundations and their non-profit partners. To achieve this goal, Endow Iowa provides a substantial state tax credit to donors who make gifts to qualifying community foundations.

How does the “tax credit” work?

The tax credit equals 25% of the amount of the donation and directly reduces dollar for dollar the donor’s Iowa income taxes. For example, in 2010, if you make a \$10,000 gift to the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation through a qualifying community foundation, you are eligible to receive a \$2,500 credit against your Iowa income taxes.

If I make a gift this year, am I certain to get a tax credit this year?

While you are certain to get a tax credit, you may not be able to use the credit in the same year you make the donation. Iowa places an annual limit on the total tax credits allowed. Donors qualify on a first-come-first-serve basis until the yearly tax credit limit is reached. If you donate after the limit is reached, you will generally be able to use the credit the next tax year.

Can I deduct my charitable contributions on my federal and Iowa income tax returns?

Beginning in 2010, contributions to Endow Iowa will no longer be deductible on your Iowa income tax return. Federal deduction is permitted.

If I donate, how does Iowa Legal Aid Foundation receive my gift?

Endow Iowa contributions must be placed into an endowment fund administered by the community foundation that receives the designated donation. The Iowa Legal Aid Foundation typically would receive not more than 5% of the balance of its Endow Iowa fund in any one-year period, depending upon the community foundation’s spend rate. The Endow Iowa fund is designed to ensure that the balance of the funds remain to generate annual income for charitable use year-after-year.

How do I make a donation to the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation and receive the tax credit?

To receive the tax credit under the Endow Iowa Program, donations must be made to a “qualified” community foundation. The Iowa Legal Aid Foundation has partnered with the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (“GCRCF”) to meet this requirement. To make a donation, simply send a check to the GCRCF and note your donation is for the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation. You will then receive a simple form to fill out and return to the GCRCF. The GCRCF then forwards the required paperwork to the Iowa Department of Economic Development, which will send you a tax credit award statement.

Where should I send my check?

Checks should be made payable and sent to:

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

324 – 3rd Street SE

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

(Be sure to note the gift is for the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation)

Can I make gifts by credit card?

Yes, you may also make gifts by credit card by calling the GCRCF at 319.366.2862

Who can I call with questions about giving to the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation through Endow Iowa?

For general Endow Iowa questions, contact:

- Bill Nassif at 515.243.2980 x1662 or bnassif@iowalaw.org
- Dennis Groenenboom at 515.243.2980 x 1620 or dgroenenboom@iowalaw.org
- Les Garner, President or Peggy Whitworth, Director of Development, GCRCF at 319.366.2862.

Also see the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation website at www.iowalegalaidfoundation.org We would be happy to assist you.