

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Everything donors need to know about QCD gifts in 2026.

AGE 70 ½ +
Eligible IRA owners

UP TO \$111,000
Maximum amount*

ONE-TIME OPTION
Fund a CGA or CRT

What is a QCD?

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a lifetime gift directly from an IRA to a public charity. It can be an outright gift to the charity or to an endowment fund benefiting the charity.



Who should consider giving a QCD?

- IRA owners aged 70 ½ or older who want to make charitable gifts in a tax-efficient way.
- Taxpayers who don't itemize deductions but want the benefit of reducing taxable income through charitable giving.
- Philanthropically-minded individuals who want to make a tangible impact in their community or beyond.

Key Benefits

- The QCD amount will not be counted toward the IRA owner's taxable income.
- The QCD amount does count toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution.
- Making a QCD reduces the IRA owner's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) — potentially reducing taxes on Social Security income and keeping Medicare premiums lower.
- QCDs are especially beneficial for taxpayers whose total deductions don't exceed the standard deduction, since the tax savings come from lowering reportable income.

Eligibility & Requirements

- The IRA owner must be 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- The total amount of QCDs permitted is limited to \$111,000 for 2026 (annual cost-of-living adjustments are made each year).
- Only a distribution from an IRA qualifies; distributions from 401(k), 403(b), or other types of retirement accounts don't qualify.

Other Considerations

- A distribution from an IRA to a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or Private Foundation (PF) is not a QCD. In this case, the IRA owner must include the distribution in income but may take a charitable income tax deduction for the gift.
- The IRA owner is not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for a QCD — the benefit is that the distribution is excluded from taxable income.