



## **Frequently Asked Questions about Qualified Charitable Distributions**

**Q. Can my gift be used as my required minimum distribution under the law?**

A. Yes, absolutely. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift. And, even if you do not have to take your RMD until you reach age 73, you can still make qualified charitable distributions to charity from your IRA if you are age 70½ or older.

**Q. Do I need to give my entire IRA to be eligible for the tax benefits?**

A. No. You can give any amount up to \$105,000 per year.

**Q. My spouse and I would like to give more than \$105,000. How can we do that?**

A. If you have a spouse (as defined by the IRS) who is 70½ or older and has an IRA, he or she can also give up to \$105,000 from his or her IRA.

**Q. I'm turning age 70½ in a few months. Can I make this gift now?**

A. No. The law requires you to reach age 70½ by the date you make the gift.

**Q. I have several retirement accounts—some are pensions and some are IRAs. Does it matter which retirement account I use?**

A. Yes. Direct rollovers to a qualified charity can be made only from an IRA. Under certain circumstances, however, you may be able to roll assets from a pension, profit sharing, 401(k) or 403(b) plan into an IRA and then make the transfer from the IRA directly to University of Idaho. To determine if a rollover to an IRA is available for your plan, speak with your plan administrator.

**Q. Can I make a gift from my IRA and receive income for life?**

A. Yes! If you are age 70½, you may use a one-time election to transfer up to \$53,000\* from your IRA to the U of I Foundation in exchange for a charitable gift annuity. Your income from the annuity will be taxed to you at your ordinary income tax rate. You and your spouse (if also age 70½) can each contribute up to \$53,000 for a single, joint charitable gift annuity. *This may only be done once in a lifetime per spouse.*

**Q. I've already named the University of Idaho as the beneficiary of my IRA. What are the benefits if I make a gift now instead of after my lifetime?**

A. By making a gift this year of up to \$105,000 from your IRA, you can see your philanthropic dollars at work. You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and giving yourself the joy of watching your philanthropy take shape. Moreover, you can fulfill any outstanding pledge you may have made by transferring that amount from your IRA as long as it is \$105,000 or less for the year.

**Q. Why might it be a good idea to leave my IRA to charity instead of to my family?**

A. The SECURE Act eliminates the “Stretch” IRA, which had allowed your heirs to take distributions from the IRA you leave them over the course of their projected life expectancy.

IRA heirs (except your spouse) are required to take out all of the money within 10 years, which could expose them to a much higher income tax bill. You may wish to pass on different assets (e.g., stock, real estate, life insurance) to your loved ones, while designating your favorite charities as beneficiaries for your IRA.

You may also wish to consider establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) in your will or living trust and naming it as the beneficiary of your IRA. A testamentary CRT is an irrevocable trust that reduces taxable income by paying income to the beneficiaries of the trust (often family members) for a set period of time before donating the remainder to a charity.

**Q. Can I write a check from my IRA account to the charity, or does a check have to be sent from my IRA administrator?**

**A.** You may write a check on your IRA account, but please note that your check must clear with your IRA fund administrator before December 31 or your gift may not satisfy any of your required minimum distribution and you may be subject to a penalty. We recommend you mail such checks no later than November 30.

**Q. Can I have the financial institution (broker/bank) holding my IRA send my QCD to the UI Foundation, Inc. electronically?**

**A.** Yes! Tell your financial institution to:

Please send an ACH electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the **University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.** using the following information:

U.S. Bank  
1314 S. Blaine St  
Moscow, Idaho 83843  
Routing ABA: 123103729  
Account #: 153300358956

\*Before sending the ACH, confirm the instructions with the UI Foundation  
Contact: Frank Clarke  
Phone: 208-885-4000

**Q. I have two charities I want to support. Can I give \$105,000 from my IRA to each?**

**A.** No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of \$105,000 total. Any amount of more than \$105,000 in one year must be reported as taxable income.

It is wise to consult with your tax professionals if you are contemplating this or any other charitable gift. Please feel free to contact Sharon Morgan (208-919-1660), Stephen Eschen (208-596-6212), Jessica Eby (208-364-4604), or [giftplanning@uidaho.edu](mailto:giftplanning@uidaho.edu) with any questions you may have about making a qualified charitable distribution to the University of Idaho.

\*Indexed for inflation.

Go to <https://myuidaholegacy.org/ways-to-give/gifts-that-make-an-impact-now/> then select Qualified Charitable Distribution to access instructions.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or other tax advisor. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.