



2021 CHANGE FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Traditionally, you can deduct charitable contributions only if you itemize deductions. In 2020 the CARES Act allowed taxpayers who claim the standard deduction to deduct up to \$300 of **cash contributions** to qualified charities.

The Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 enacted last December has extended this break to the end of 2021 and increased the maximum deduction to \$600 for married couples filing jointly and \$300 for individuals.

Accordingly, please fill out all information relating to charitable contributions, even if you anticipate taking the standard deduction, on **Page 15 of the Organizer (page # in the upper right-hand corner)**.

Cash contributions include those made by check, credit card or debit card as well as amounts incurred by an individual for unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their volunteer services to a qualifying charitable organization. Cash contributions don't include the value of volunteer services, securities, household items or other property.

You cannot deduct a cash contribution, *regardless of the amount*, unless you keep a bank record of the contribution (such as a canceled check, a bank copy of a canceled check, or a bank statement containing the name of the charity, the date, and the amount) or a written communication from the charity.

For cash contributions \$250 and over a written communication from the charity is **REQUIRED** and must include the name of the charity, date of the contribution, amount of the contribution and include specific language indicating whether or not any goods or services were provided in exchange for the contribution.

Did you make any cash charitable contributions in 2021 for which you want to claim a deduction? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have the appropriate documentation to support your deduction?

Yes _____ No _____