

Resources from the National Council on Nonprofits & GiveVoice.org

Suggested Talking Points - for calls to Congressional offices, in-person conversations, and discussions with reporters

- It appears likely that any agreement made by Congress during the Lame Duck session will include cuts and reforms that will increase demand for nonprofit services, and we are concerned that any agreement could also adversely affect the ability of nonprofits to provide those services.
- Congress cannot continue to cut public programs and expect nonprofits to fill in the gaps and pick up the slack.
- My organization and other nonprofits rely on the current charitable giving incentive to help pay for delivering existing services, let alone the growing demands for more services.
- A cap on itemized deductions would significantly cut donations to charities because fixed-cost deductions, such as for mortgage interest and state/local taxes, would consume the limit, leaving little or no room for discretionary donations to the work of charities.
- We ask that you make a clear statement in support of the charitable giving incentive and oppose any proposal to reduce or cap the tax value of charitable contributions.

Ideas on How to Tell Your Story

Telling your nonprofit organization or foundation's story gives first-hand experiences and awareness on how the additional spending cuts or loss of the charitable giving incentive would impact the work of your organization and the communities you serve. We encourage you to reach out to local media and tell them what the charitable deductions caps would mean to your nonprofit and the people it serves. Encourage the media to cover this important story. Stories from front-line charitable nonprofits like yours matter.

Sample story telling outline:

Nonprofit Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State/Zip Code: _____ / _____

Website Address: _____ Phone: _____

Your Story:

How does your organization rely on charitable giving?

What impact does your organization have on an annual basis?

What region does your organization serve (county(ies), city(ies), etc.)?

How many people a year does your organization serve?

How does your organization help improve the quality of life for others or improve your community?

What impact would capping or altering the charitable deduction have on your organization have?

How does your organization help save taxpayer dollars or lessen the burden on individuals or the community?