

# Helping Employees Thrive in Times of Crisis



# **Presenting:**



Katie Kern Director, EAF and Scholarships kkern@charities.org

14200 Park Meadow Drive, Suite 330S, Chantilly, VA 20151 | Charities.org

# We Are America's Charities

Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.

ACCREDITED CHARITY center for nonprofit advancement

**Board Leadership Award** 



NONPROFITS TO WORK FOR \* 2025 \*

**NPT's BEST** 

America's Charities' team is an extension of your team for strategic planning and proven practices. Clients choose to partner with America's Charities for:



#### **Employee Assistance / Relief Funds**

Establish a confidential application and fund to provide timely, tax-free financial support to employees facing hardship.



#### Employee Workplace Giving

Enable employees to conveniently make tax-deductible donations that fuel nonprofit impact through sustainable support.

#### Disaster Relief

Donate to trusted organizations to support rapid delivery of life-saving help and supplies, as well as long-term recovery efforts.

#### **Volunteerism**

Manage, track, and reward employee volunteering with incentives like dollars-for-doers grants and volunteer time off.

### Atching Gifts

Unite your team and amplify your impact in the community by financially matching employee contributions.

#### 😭 Charitable Funds Disbursement

Ensure accurate, efficient, and timely disbursement of donations designated to qualified and vetted charities.

#### **Scholarship Program**

Improve educational opportunities and build a bettereducated workforce with tax-free scholarship award program management.



#### Corporate Philanthropy and Grantmaking

Control all of your grantmaking and application processes in the same place as your other giving and volunteering programs.



Enhance your giving strategy with benchmarking and advice in developing programs to advance your community investment goals.



\$50 MILLION

As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity, we mobilize the power of giving to improve the world.

America's Charities®

raised since inception for

EXPERIENCE

### Nearly \$900 Million

12K



unexpected hardships.

25,000 +

Nonprofits & Individuals Globally

We help employers and their U.S. and international employees from nearly a dozen **different industries**.



Number of transactions our funds management team processes each year.

**50K** Number of gran charities and inc

Number of grants our team sends to charities and individuals each year.

300 We have 300 private and public sector partners and employer clients whose workplace giving programs, Employee Assistance Funds, and volunteer campaigns we manage and distribute funds.

Including America's Charities nonprofit members, more than 12,000 nonprofits nationwide are supported by the workplace giving programs we manage each year.

America's Charities has facilitated more than 200 Emergency

Assistance Funds for employers, managing more than \$50 million in grants designated to help employees cope with

Through the 300 business partners we work with, we reach 14 million **U.S. and international employees,** giving them the opportunity to donate to causes they care about and to support each other through workplace giving, volunteering, and Employee Assistance Funds.



# Why Employee Relief Funds: The Human & Business Impact

#### Trends:

- Today's environment, social safety net not robust (other non profits closing, reduced funding availability, social services from state)
- Increased frequency and impact of disasters
  - Nine out of the 10 years with the highest number of natural disasters occurred in the last decade. Nearly 40% of the billion-dollar climate events that have hit the US since 1980 happened between 2017 and the present day. (Source: usafacts.org)

### The Human Side

- **60%** of U.S. adults can't cover a \$500 emergency expense
- Employees bring life's stress to work
  - 1 in 3 full-time employees say money worries hurt their productivity; among these, 56% spend 3+ hours weekly at work on personal finance issues
- Compassion builds loyalty, engagement, and trust

### **The Business Side**

- Reduced absenteeism and presenteeism
  - It also prevents problems from snowballing (e.g., untreated health issues becoming more severe and costly).
- Increased retention and productivity
  - Financially stressed employees are **twice** as likely to be job hunting
- Enhanced employer brand and culture of care

# **Common Triggers for Hardship**

- Natural disasters (wildfires, hurricanes, floods)
- Medical emergencies
- Death in the family

- Domestic Violence
- Eviction or housing crisis
- Household emergencies (fire, flood, car accident)

# **Standard Program Design:**

- Emergency Assistance Funds are a component of our stated charitable purpose
- Program is fully compliant with all IRS regulations and rulings

### Qualified Disaster Immediate Assistance (QDIA)

- Applicable to state and federally declared disasters
- Minimal documentation of event and financial hardship required
- Flat grant amount provided for those who qualify
- Grant provided directly to applicant via EFT or eCheck

### **Personal Hardships**

- Covers a broad range of events that create a personal financial hardship
- Documentation of event , expenses and financial hardship required
- Grant amount based on documented need capped by maximum amount established
- Grants payable to applicant via EFT or eCheck

# What to Consider When Setting up an EAF

- Who is eligible?
- What type of events will be covered?
- How many people will actually apply?
- What type of expenses are allowable or not allowable?
- What is the maximum grant size?
- How much is needed to fund the EAF?
- How will the EAF be funded?
- If being administered internally, who is going to do that?

#### Some Trends We're Seeing with Program Needs:

- Increase in need for short-term QDIA type application and quick issuing of assistance Increase in number of short-term/QDIA applications for multiple disaster events.
- Political climate may demonstrate that the level of support for federally declared disasters may be decreasing. We are working with clients to include State level disaster declarations.
- Seeing applications where they do not fit within typical EAF policy and need to create other options like FAF, Scholarship.





# Some Points on Eligibility

- A charitable class must be defined
- No automatic right to financial assistance
- Funds can not be earmarked for specific individuals
- Need must be demonstrated through an objective evaluation at the time the grant is made
- Emergency hardship relief does not have to make an individual whole
- Grants cannot be used to solely replace lost income

# **America's Charities EAF Case Studies**

### National Grocery Chain

- Program was self-administered by the company's Foundation prior to moving to America's Charities
- Over 300,000 eligible applicants focused on wide range of personal hardships and qualified disasters
- Seamless implementation process and program retained branding
- HR contacts throughout the organization were made aware of the change and who to contact for questions to ensure a smooth transition
- Higher than usual application volume due to expansiveness of the program and high visibility

### National Health Insurance Company

- Program was self-administered by the company's Foundation prior to moving to America's Charities
- Over 300,000 eligible applicants focused on a narrow range of personal hardships and qualified disasters
- Smooth transition and retained program branding
- Lower volumes due to limited qualified events and internal awareness
- Active program administration and reporting needs

### Global Technology and Customer Service Support Company

- New Emergency Assistance
  Fund
- Over 40,000 employees
- Detailed implementation process to build new program
- Program modifications required as client gained experience with program and utilization
- Launched employee giving program on the Engage platform a year after EAF launched

# **Do Employee Relief Funds Make a Difference?**

*Source: America's Charities Employee Relief Fund Applicant Survey 2024* 



84% of applicants agree or strongly agree that the assistance fund helped alleviate stress caused by the financial hardship

### **Finanical Hardship Resolved**



81% of applicants agree or strongly agree that the assistance fund helped resolve the financial hardship **Recommend to Colleague** 



92% of applicants agree or strongly agree that they would recommend the fund to a colleague

"This grant helped me and my kids through my multiple diagnosis and the long term effects that greatly affected my health. I am so grateful for this fund and the hope it gave to me to relieve the financial hardship during my time of need. I am forever grateful."

"I was able to have a funeral for my father and say my goodbyes. I wouldn't have been able to without the help." "I lost everything we had due to a house fire. With the help of the grant I was able to pay upcoming bills and my daughter was able to return to school. The grant helped me start over. I would like to thank you guys again for all your help."

# Different Ways to Establish EAFs:

### **Company Administered:**

- Grants treated as taxable income except for qualified disasters
- Donations to fund not tax deductible

### **Private Foundation:**

- Grants treated as taxable income except for qualified disasters
- Grant decisions can't be made by individuals in senior management

### **Public Charity:**

- Most flexible grants and donations are tax free for all instances
- Must have full control and authority over the use of donated funds

## Why to Outsource an EAF:





# Our EAF Program Capabilities and Market Differentiators:

- Dedicated account manager
- Expert program design and policy development
- Applicant support and communications
- Dedicated secure online application site
- Administrator support and comprehensive reporting
- International capability

### Transparency

Service

- Straight forward fee structure
- No hidden fees or fees based on a % of funds held
- Administrator visibility and accessible reporting

## Efficiency

- Capacity to quickly scale for disasters
- Capability to expand platform to support employee giving, volunteering, and grants management
- Grants to applicants by EFT or eCheck (Direct payment to vendors also available)



### **Interested in learning more?**

Visit: <u>www.charities.org/eaf</u> or contact our team at businessdevelopment@charities.org

