

Select your charities

While you support your favorite charities on a regular basis, when a disaster happens, you may want to look for additional charities that directly support disaster relief. There are many resources to identify organizations that will make an impact after a disaster and advance your mission.

Resources to help select charities:

- Consider discussing your selection process with loved ones, advisors, or those within your personal or professional networks.
- Online research offers a wide array of options. Consider organizations' websites, community foundations' grantee lists, and curated lists from reliable resources, such as:

vanguardcharitable.org

candid.org

charitynavigator.org

givewell.org

When selecting a charity, consider the following:



Legal status

Only a 501(c)(3) organization will qualify for a charitable tax deduction.



Strategy & Accomplishments

What has this organization accomplished historically? Does the organization's mission and approach align with your vision?



Governance & Financials

Keep an eye out for staff and leadership turnover, negative press, and good governance policies. An organization's Form 990 can also tell you how its donations are used.



Effective giving strategies

The way you decide to grant to a nonprofit can make a big difference, both for you and the organization. Below are strategies for maximizing the impact of your gift.

Effective giving is...

Unrestricted

Unrestricted grants show faith in the full scope of a charity's mission, allow the organization to focus on its top priorities, and allow for quick action when needed.

Tip: Giving an unrestricted grant allows the charity to apply the grant to the greatest need, which could be essential in a time of crisis.

Proactive

It's easy to get carried away by urgent appeals and stray from your mission. Plan ahead and remember the core values that underpin your charitable giving.

Tip: Gifts given proactively are more likely to fit your long-term charitable plan and priorities.

Recurring

When recommending a grant in response to a disaster, think about how to give in a way that best reflects your values.

Tip: Larger one-time gifts are still meaningful and helpful, especially when coordinated with the organization in advance. But consistent support allows for long-term planning.

Timed Strategically

While most charitable giving tends to happen in November and December, 96% of nonprofits prefer sustained, year-round support.

Tip: Charities tend to face budget crunches in the early spring and late summer. Consider contacting your favorite charities to learn when your gifts can be most impactful.

Use the space below to jot down a few charities or causes you would like to research more.
