

CFC SPECIAL SOLICITATION

*Helping people through the 2021 Winter Storm Shirley
Response and Recovery*



Talking Points

- The severe cold and impact on heating and water have affected people in Texas as well as states all the way north to the Canadian border. On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, this storm, and freeze (and the recovery from it) strain resources everywhere: medical, financial, educational, emotional, social, and more.
- Nonprofit organizations face increased demand for their services responding to the needs of people without power, heat, or water who are already struggling with reduced resources due to limited donations and canceled fundraising events.
- The generosity and response of members of the federal community are inspirational. You continue to fulfill your professional public service responsibilities and keep our country moving.
- In this time of great uncertainty, we offer you another voluntary opportunity to help and to lead by example.
- The CFC is one of the world's largest workplace giving campaigns and the dollars you pledged during the 2020 campaign are already providing critical support during this difficult year.
- OPM has approved a 30-day special solicitation and will open the CFC [online pledge portal and mobile giving app](#) to accept supplemental, one-time, or recurring donations to the CFC-participating charities of your choice via credit card, debit card, or bank transfer. **This is an opportunity to help even more if you are able.** If you did not make a payroll pledge during the 2020 campaign, you have the additional opportunity to pledge via payroll allotment.
- The CFC [online giving portal](#) is a safe, trusted, and proven way to make contributions to more than 6,000 qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organizations which were approved for the fall 2020 CFC.
- The electronic gifts you make through opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC or the mobile giving app will be distributed to the charities as early as April 1, 2021, when CFC begins sending contributions to charities and federations.
- Charities will receive Special CFC 2021 Winter Storm Shirley Response and Recovery Solicitation donations without being charged a distribution fee or having to devote precious resources to fundraising. They will put these emergency funds to work supporting victims wherever they are needed most.
- Supporting charities in Texas and other affected areas in this way empowers them to do what they do best, benefiting all of our communities locally and around the world during this time of great need.

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The severe effects of the 2021 winter freeze are putting a strain on people and charities in Texas and other affected states. Your generous donations through the 2020 CFC are already providing critical support to the people who need help from the 6,000-plus CFC charities during this difficult year. Thank you!

Officials from several federal departments and the Federal Executive Boards in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio contacted OPM asking how to do even more to help victims' recovery from this widespread weather event. In response, OPM authorized this Special CFC Solicitation to re-open the [CFC online pledge portal](#) and CFC mobile giving application for 30 days (through April 9, 2021).

The CFC is uniquely positioned as the only authorized solicitation of federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The [CFC online pledge portal](#) is a safe, trusted, and proven way to make contributions to more than 6,000 qualified 501(c)(3) CFC-approved charitable organizations.

You continued to fulfill your professional responsibilities and keep our country moving. In this time of great uncertainty, you have the opportunity to help and continue to lead by example. Here's how you can take advantage of this opportunity to help charities during a time when they need your support more than ever:

- 1. Use our safe and proven pledge portal**

Log in to your account or create a new account at opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC or use the mobile giving app (search for "CFC Giving" in either the Apple or Android app stores).

- 2. Choose your charities**

Use the [online charity search](#) to access the entire 2020 CFC-approved charity list. You can narrow your search by the states where you want to help or the type of charity most important to you. These organizations face increased demand for their services and are often on the front lines responding to needs but are struggling with reduced resources due to limited donations and canceled fundraising events.

- 3. Give what you can**

Existing donors can make supplemental one-time or recurring contributions via credit/debit cards or ACH (electronic check). New donors can also pledge via payroll allotment. Charities will receive donations as unrestricted funds, without being charged a distribution fee or having to devote precious resources to fundraising.

- 4. Help is on the way**

Charities will receive funds pledged during this Special CFC Solicitation with their monthly distributions: April 1, 2021, through January 15, 2022 (for recurring donations). Your support will empower charities to do what they do best, benefiting our communities locally and around the world during this time of great need.

CFC SPECIAL SOLICITATION FAQ

Helping people through the 2021 Winter Storm Shirley Response and Recovery

What is the CFC Special Solicitation?

The Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) authorized the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) pledge portal to re-open outside of the usual CFC timeframe to meet the additional and extraordinary needs of people facing the winter weather crisis in Texas and beyond. This action was taken in response to an urgent appeal from the Federal Executive Boards in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. This 2021 CFC Special Solicitation allows the Federal community to support CFC-approved charities as they face unprecedented challenges due to the impact of the several weather and how it has increased critical needs.

Why is the Special Solicitation being launched through the CFC?

The Federal community is incredibly generous, and leaders requested opportunities to contribute to those in need as they recover from this unprecedented winter storm. The CFC is uniquely positioned as the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The CFC online pledge portal is a safe, trusted, and proven way to make contributions to more than 6,000 qualified 501(c)(3) CFC-approved charitable organizations.

What is the timeframe of the CFC Special Solicitation?

The [CFC online pledge portal](#) will be open for 30 days (until April 9, 2021).

What charities will be included and eligible for donations in this Special CFC Solicitation?

While the needs in Texas are foremost, donations can be designated to one or more of the more than 6,000 local, national, and international approved and vetted 501(c)(3) organizations from the 2020 charity list who are helping. While the CFC Special Solicitation has been launched in response to the winter weather crisis, donations will be distributed as unrestricted funds to work wherever they are needed most.

How can a Federal employee or retiree pledge through the CFC Special Solicitation?

Donations can be made through the [CFC online giving portal](#) and the CFC mobile web application.

Can donors mail a completed paper pledge form directly to the CCA for processing during the CFC Special Solicitation?

Yes, but due to the “Shelter in Place” order in Wisconsin where the CCA facility is located, there may be significant delays in processing pledges submitted via paper. Paper forms are available on the OPM website: [Employee Paper Pledge Form 1654-A](#) and [Retiree Paper Pledge Form 1654-B](#).

If I already pledged during the 2020 CFC, can I give again during this CFC Special Solicitation?

Yes! Donors who have an existing donation account with payroll deduction will see the option to donate via credit card, debit card, or ACH (electronic checks). Gifts can be made as either a one-time or recurring monthly pledge through January 2022. Revisions to current payroll deduction pledges are not possible.

If I did not pledge during the 2020 CFC, can I give during this CFC Special Solicitation?

Yes! Donors who did not give in the 2020 campaign via payroll deduction and any new hires/new retirees in the government will be offered the option to create a new payroll deduction if they choose. They can also donate a one-time or monthly recurring gift via credit card, debit card, or ACH (electronic check).

Can payroll allotments be increased during this CFC Special Solicitation?

No. Donors cannot make changes to an existing payroll donation. This prevents downstream impacts to payroll providers, which are not prepared to handle these changes.

Can pledges made during the CFC Special Solicitation be changed later?

Recurring donors can cancel the balance of unpaid donations at any time. However, one-time donations are processed the week of the pledge and are non-refundable.

Can an employee donate volunteer time through the CFC Special Solicitation?

Yes. Federal employees can pledge volunteer time with selected charities identified with the hand icon in either the paper charity listing or on the [CFC online pledge portal](#).

Will donations during the CFC Special Solicitation be subject to a distribution fee?

No. Any new donations collected during the special solicitation will not have any distribution fees withheld.

When will charities receive the funds pledged during the CFC Special Solicitation?

All funds collected will be distributed based on the next standard monthly distribution schedule as early as April 1 and each month until January 15, 2022 (for recurring gifts).

Does OPM have the legal authority to launch a CFC Special Solicitation like this?

Yes. This would be the second government-wide special disaster campaign as authorized by current CFC regulations. Under **5 CFR §950.102 Scope of the Combined Federal Campaign. (a) (2)**:

“The Director may grant permission for solicitations of Federal employees, outside the CFC, in support of victims in cases of emergencies and disasters. Emergencies and disasters are defined as any hurricane, tornado storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophes in any part of the world. Any special solicitations will be managed through a Disaster Relief Program developed by OPM.”

Where can donors go if they have additional questions about the CFC Special Solicitation?

The CCA call center support will service donor calls during the special solicitation at 800-797-0098 (8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST). Please note that the call center is operating remotely while the state of Wisconsin continues a shelter-in-place order.

How can I use the CFC Giving Mobile App to make my pledge?

During the CFC Special Solicitation, you can make one-time credit card and bank account donations using the CFC Giving Mobile App. Please use the instructions provided here to pledge using the CFC Giving Mobile App.

What is the pledge period for recurring pledges during the CFC Special Solicitation?

Any recurring pledges made during the CFC Special Solicitation will commence after the pledge is “submitted” via cfcgiving.opm.gov and sent to the bank, credit card company, or payroll service provider. The final recurring pledge installment will be January 15, 2022. New Payroll Deduction pledges will end during the pay period that includes January 15, 2022.

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(Draft Statement to Employees)

Today, I have the honor of reminding you about a very important initiative, a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Special Solicitation to help people who need help in the wake of the unprecedented cold that affected people in Texas and across middle America. This campaign allows federal employees and retirees to make a supplemental donation to one or more of the 6,000 CFC charities during this time of great need.

OPM launched this CFC Special Solicitation in response to the weather crisis affecting charities and the people they serve. The federal community has already supported charities through the CFC last fall. Now I am asking you to also step up to join them with your remarkable generosity by giving through the CFC [online pledge portal](#) at CFCGiving.opm.gov and the CFC mobile giving application for 30 days.

At Federal departments and agencies, I watch as Federal employees shoulder immense responsibilities in these unprecedented times: working to keep Americans healthy and safe, alleviating the burdens caused by the needs that were unimaginable when the weather was colder in Texas than it was in Alaska.

You ensure that our country keeps moving forward. I ask you to consider voluntarily taking part in this campaign with a new or supplemental pledge.

The dollars you pledged during the 2020 CFC are important to charities providing critical support to people who need help during these hard times. This Special Solicitation is an opportunity to go above and beyond what you have already pledged to so if you are able:

- Donations can be designated to one or more of the over 6,000 local, national, and international approved and vetted 501(c)(3) organizations in the 2019 CFC Charity List.
- Donations will be distributed to the charities as unrestricted funds without withholding any distribution fees.
- Funds pledged will be paid out to charities by the 15th day of the month following receipt of the pledge continuing through January 15, 2022 (for recurring gifts).
- 2020 CFC donors may supplement their existing pledge with an electronic credit, debit, or ACH gift on the [CFC giving platform](#) or the mobile app.
- Any employee or retiree who did not pledge via payroll deduction in fall 2020 can add a payroll-funded gift through the CFC.

I know that you witness the inspirational power, spirit, and heart of the Federal community at work. You also can be a part of this effort to further reduce the strain on resources felt in Texas and affected states, especially by our CFC charities giving people hope to recover. These charities were already facing increased demands for their services, especially as many serve on the frontlines of the crisis. Join me and pledge today to make a positive difference and empower charities to do what they do best! We may remain physically apart, but we are joined in spirit when it comes to answering the call to help those in need. Thank you and stay safe.