



The GiveBIG 2026 Campaign Guide



Directions for Using this Document

This guide provides recommendations and a sample fundraising and communications plan for your GiveBIG campaign. You can use this as a template, replacing the sample emails/messages, social media posts, and fundraising strategies with your copy to produce a final document that reflects your GiveBIG campaign.

Be sure to consider each recommended strategy, even if you don't use them this year. Use social media and have fun sharing stories about your work's impact. Try out peer-to-peer fundraising pages or matching funds! Even a small match and a single individual fundraising page can increase the donations you receive. Pay special attention to gathering lists of potential donors (with emails). Remember, 100% of the people *you do not ask* don't give!

Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving. – Hank Rosso

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Getting Started

About GiveBIG and Washington Gives

What is GiveBIG? What is Washington Gives?

GiveBIG is a statewide fundraising campaign that invites individuals and organizations to come together across Washington to invest in our communities. GiveBIG is hosted on the **Washington Gives** online giving platform (wagives.org), which helps individuals, groups, and businesses discover and donate to nonprofits headquartered in or serving Washington State all year long.

When is GiveBIG?

This year's GiveBIG kicks off on April 28, 2026 with early giving and culminates on May 5, 2026! After GiveBIG ends, donors can still donate through the Washington Gives platform all year long. Throughout the year, you can also run your own campaigns, including peer-to-peer fundraising pages for individuals and teams.

Who runs GiveBIG and Washington Gives?

GiveBIG is powered by 501 Commons, with the technology of Mightycause and the marketing and media support of Encore Media Group. We are a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable organization that provides consulting and support services to amplify the strengths of nonprofits. Since 1989, 501 Commons has offered innovative solutions and expertise, working in partnership with the nonprofit community. When GiveBIG needed a new host in 2018, we welcomed the opportunity to support the nonprofit sector and the communities we serve. Besides running the GiveBIG campaign and Washington Gives platform, we support nonprofits with low-cost and free services, including finance, HR, technology, board development, strategic planning, leadership development, cybersecurity, fundraising advisory services, and free nonprofit advisory services! [Learn more about 501 Commons.](#)

Why do donors participate?

For donors, GiveBIG is an opportunity to be part of a statewide movement of generosity, where we come together as a region to invest in our community. They can easily give to all the causes they already support in one place and find new nonprofits along the way! Washington Gives makes it easy and fun to discover and donate to many causes. Donors can also use the Washington Gives platform to help the organizations they care about raise needed funds and awareness. It's easy and fun to share organization pages with their family, friends, and colleagues, or take it a step further and set up their own fundraising page for a specific organization.

Why should nonprofits participate?

For nonprofits, GiveBIG is a collaborative campaign that spikes awareness of charitable giving across the state. Together, we can deepen engagement with our current donors, reach new supporters, and rally businesses and media to give to a variety of local causes. The training and resources provided by 501 Commons and our partners help organizations build skills and knowledge of fundraising and communication strategies.



The Washington Gives platform also provides year-round low-cost online fundraising technology. Washington Gives offers nonprofits of all sizes monthly giving, peer-to-peer fundraising pages, and highly customizable organization pages that nonprofits can use for tracking campaign goals and matches during GiveBIG, GivingTuesday, or whenever they want! Your registration and participation fee covers year-round use of the Washington Gives platform. [Learn more about eligibility and fees.](#)

2026 Key Dates

April 28: GiveBIG kicks off with early giving.

May 3: Last day to register for GiveBIG 2026. Washington Gives registration will open later in the year.

May 5: GiveBIG culminates with the 24-hour giving event.

May 31: Last day that donations count toward GiveBIG totals.

December 1: GivingTuesday, a global day of generosity that falls on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

You can edit your page and goals at any time. You can also add or change your match at any time!

Resources

Be sure to save time and enhance your results by using the resources 501 Commons has provided.

- [Tools for Nonprofits:](#) For all resources, previous copies of the Fundraising Accelerator newsletter, graphics and logos, and upcoming and recorded training webinars.
- [Tools for Fundraisers:](#) Resources for individuals and groups supporting nonprofit efforts through peer-to-peer fundraising.
- The [Washington Gives Support Team](#) is standing by to assist nonprofits and donors!



I. Campaign Checklist

This checklist identifies the primary activities that comprise a GiveBIG campaign. All organizations should complete the Essentials column activities to attract new and returning donors on the Washington Gives website. Organizations with additional time and capacity should also complete many of the *Next Level* column activities.

Activity	Date	Essential	Next Level
Participation Requirements			
Complete registration for 2026.	February 25	✓	
Complete your organization profile page. Your page can be edited later, but you want to be ready for GiveBIG when early giving begins.	April 28	✓	
Evaluation & Goal Setting			
Review prior year(s) GiveBIG results or previous fundraising campaigns.	Early March	✓	
Set goals and metrics for 2026. We recommend setting a goal for total donations or donors.	March	✓	
Review your 2026 results	After May 31		✓
Plan for GivingTuesday (Dec. 1, 2026) and GiveBIG 2027	Fall 2026		✓
Peer-to-Peer Fundraising Pages			
Identify supporters to invite to be volunteer fundraisers.	Late March	✓	
Ask supporter(s) to create a fundraising page by April 28 to help kick off your campaign. They can make a page anytime, but you want them to be ready when the campaign kicks off.	Early April	✓	
Send fundraiser(s) the Toolkit for Fundraisers or create a fundraiser template on the Washington Gives platform to send them.	Early April	✓	
Check in & encourage fundraiser(s) throughout the event.	Late April	✓	
Matching Funds			
Talk with your board about participating in a matching fund.	February – March	✓	
Identify other supporters to solicit for matching funds outside of your board.	February – March		✓
Solicit donors for matching funds.	February – April		✓
Assemble lists of donors and potential donors; research missing emails.	March – April	✓	



Set up an email marketing program (such as MailChimp or MailerLite).	February – April		✓
Create a communications plan and timeline.	March	✓	
If you have none, set up at least one social channel, particularly Facebook or Instagram.	Early March	✓	
Segment your audience (at a minimum, current donors and potential donors) for customized communications.	Early April	✓	
Prepare emails, print copy, graphics, and social channels.	March – April	✓	
Execute content for social channels.	April – May	✓	
Events			
Determine GiveBIG tie-ins to current events: Could you recruit or announce matching fund donors or encourage fundraisers?	Early March	✓	
Plan informal events to connect with donors or potential donors (online or in-person) during or after your GiveBIG campaign. Don't forget to list it on the Washington Gives website once the event functionality is live!	April – May		✓
Stewardship			
Determine how to thank donors. If you have many donors, you may have to decide the level of “thank-you” they get, whether it be an email, handwritten card, call, or something more.	Early April	✓	
Create thank-you letters, postcards, notes, or scripts for calls.	Early April	✓	
Thank your donors within 24 – 48 hours after they make their gift.	April 22 – May 31	✓	
Thank your fundraiser(s) when they sign up and after the campaign ends.	Early May	✓	
Remind donors about employer matching gifts.	Late June		✓
Remind DAF/IRA donors to complete DAF distribution.	May		✓

II. Setting Up Your Organization Page

The Washington Gives platform helps donors discover nonprofits by searching by name, keyword, mission category, demographics, and location. Donors will see a tile with your organization's logo, which they can click to go to your *Organization Page*. An engaging and impactful organization page is critical to sharing your story with new and returning supporters.

You do not need to create a *Campaign* to participate in GiveBIG. Your *Organization Page* is all you need.

Campaigns are an option to create specific peer-to-peer fundraisers that will appear on your organization's page.

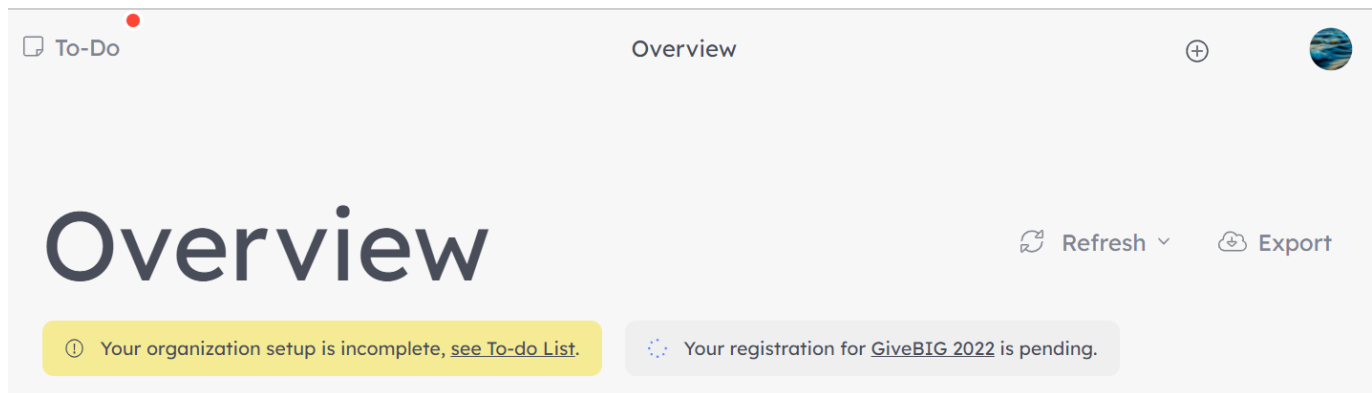


Organization Page

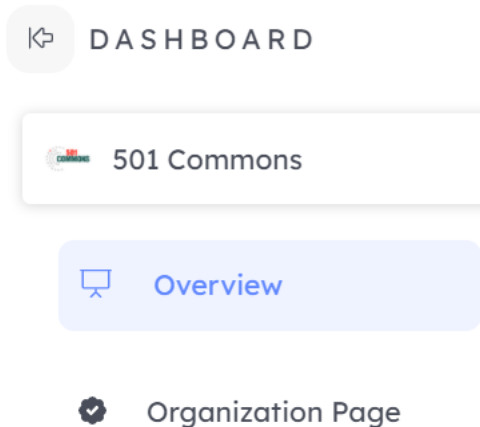
Below are in-depth recommendations for creating your organization page. **You can edit your page at any time!** To learn more about navigating your account as a whole, review the [Your Organization Dashboard](#) help article from Mightycause.

How to access your organization page

Log in to your account (wagives.org/login). Then, you will be on the *Overview* page. The *Overview* page includes your **To-Do list with the steps you need to be ready for GiveBIG**. Click on the *To-do* list to see a complete list of what tasks you need to complete. Click the links to be taken to the correct area to complete the required steps.



Click on Organization Page to edit or preview your page on the left side.



From here, you can edit your page in real-time. When you save, your changes will be live automatically.

Banner image

The *Banner Image* is one of the first things donors will see when visiting your page! It should give them a sense of what you do and why. Smiling faces and people engaged in an activity are the most impactful. This image should be presented in a 3:1 ratio.



501 Commons - Derivatives allowed with attribution

Logo

Your organizational logo must be presented in a 1:1 ratio. If you have a horizontal logo, you may need to put it on a square background. Make sure your logo isn't blurry or cut off, as this is the first thing visitors to the Washington Gives website will see.

Title/display name

The title is your public display name. This can be your legal name or "doing business as" name. We recommend whatever name you most commonly refer to your organization as.

Fundraising stats

You can adjust which fundraising stats show publicly on your page at any time. If you do not want this section displayed, select *Hide section*. If you do want to show stats, you can choose to show one or both of the following:

- *Amount raised*
- *Number of donors*

You can also enter donations received outside the Washington Gives platform. If you want to include these donations in your public total, select *Include offline donations*. **Note that offline donations do not count towards your participation fee or donation processing fees.**

Stats displayed

- Amount raised
- Number of donors

Calculation method

- Include offline donations
- Calculate over all time
- Start calculation on a specific date

Choose a date

4/19/2022, 12:00:00 AM



Hide section

To determine which donations or donors are shown on your page, you can either select:

- **Calculate over all time:** To show all donations and donors who have ever given to your organization through Washington Gives or Mightycause.
- **Start calculation on a specific date:** To show donations after a certain date and time. To set your organization's stats for GiveBIG 2026, we recommend you select this option and set the date to when early giving starts, April 28, 2026, at 12:01 AM. If you receive a gift beforehand that you want to count towards your GiveBIG total, move the date back to when you received your earliest gift. Please note that only the gifts that come in between April 28 and May 31 count towards your participation fee, so moving the calculation will not impact your fee.

Goal

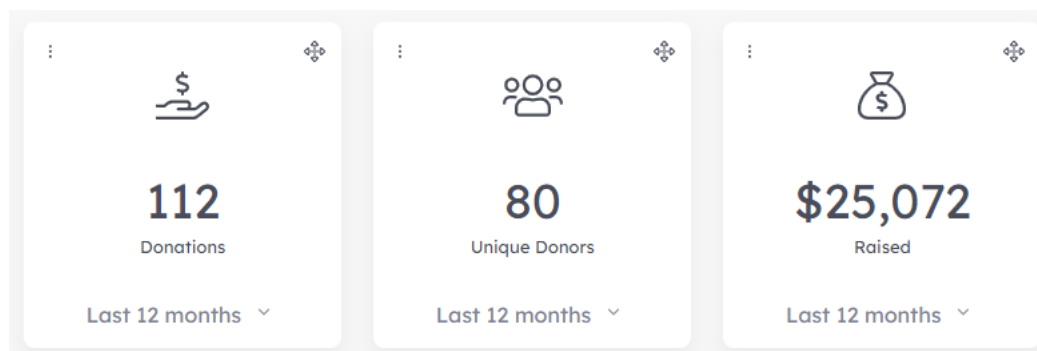
Your public page only shows a goal for funds raised, but we encourage you to consider and track other goals such as number of donors, monthly donors, or new donors. Communicating your progress toward meeting your goals via email or social media encourages your supporters to help you succeed!



Setting your goal

Remember, if you aim for nothing, you hit it every time! If your organization participated in GiveBIG 2025, reviewing last year's campaign data will give you a treasure trove of information you can use to make this year's campaign more successful.

Quickly review your 2025 stats from your *Overview*. Set the time period to *Last 12 months*.

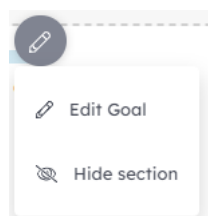


Go to *Reports*, then *Donations*, and select *Campaign type* for a more detailed report. Then select *View by Giving Event* and set the *Campaign name* to *GiveBIG 2025*.

Donations Download Import offline donation Add offline donation

Time period Last 30 Days ▾	Donation type All ▾	Campaign type View by Giving Event ▾	Payment processor All ▾
\$ Min. donation		\$ Max. donation	
Search report			Clear all filters

Updating your goal on the platform



You can update your goal at any time or choose to hide it by selecting *Hide section*. If you have a match, it will not count towards your displayed goal unless you adjust it to do so under Fundraising Tools and Matching Grants.

If you meet or exceed your goal, you can increase it. Donors are most likely to give when you are close to your goal. It creates a sense of urgency and motivates donors to make their gift to help you get over the finish line. Make sure to plan why you are extending your goal and what you will do with the extra funds to encourage your donors to spread the word or consider making another gift.



About

The *About* section is where you can tell (and show) your story. Your communications about your campaign should connect to this section. Having a cohesive message and visuals for why you are fundraising makes your “call to action” more impactful and memorable.

Go beyond words! People skim text, so embedding images (JPEG and PNG) and videos (Vimeo, YouTube, or Facebook, including live streams) directly into this section can grab their attention. Write as if you are talking directly to another person in short and easy-to-read sentences. Use active and descriptive verbs. Avoid jargon and acronyms that the average reader would not understand.

To reach new donors, we recommend that you include your mission statement or an abbreviated version to provide a brief overview of your organization. Your profile page should contain a specific description of what’s unique about what you do and why. Explain the impact of your work and who you benefit. Be specific, inspiring, and aim to pique the donor’s interest so they’ll read more! You don’t need to describe every program or problem. Just give them a sense of why your mission matters, who you are, and how they can support you.

Other ideas to include:

- Share a captivating story that will resonate with donors.
- Explain how donations benefit the people and causes you serve.
- Focus on a specific program.
- Recognition of match funders, board members, donors, sponsors, or community partners.

You can also include links to where donors can find more information, but be careful! They may get distracted and not donate to your organization if they get directed away from the Washington Gives platform.

Featured Campaigns and Supporting Campaigns

This section is optional if you have fundraisers running *Campaigns* for your organization that you want to highlight on your page. You can learn more about peer-to-peer fundraising later in this guide.

Media Gallery/Instagram Gallery/Facebook Gallery

Want to include more images of your work that don’t fit within your description? Include them here! Donors may not see these, so we recommend placing your most impactful images in your *About*.

Organization data

Organization name

You can edit your display name here, and it will also update the display name under your logo at the top of your organization page.



Other names

Go by a different legal name or an acronym? You can enter your other organizational names here to ensure your donors can find you.

Tax ID (EIN)

If you need to change your EIN, contact Mightycause at wagives@mightycause.com.

Category

You can only select one mission *Category* for your organization. Please choose the category that best matches the primary mission of your organization. Not sure which category you fall into? You can review the [NTEE codes](#) the IRS uses to categorize nonprofits. We do not use all of the IRS's classifications, but the great majority fall into the 18 categories on the Washington Gives website.

Demographics

Donors can search by the *Demographics* of the people your organization serves. You can select as many of these demographics that apply to your organization, but we recommend choosing only the demographics for which you have programs and metrics. For instance, if your organization serves seniors but doesn't have a specific program for seniors who are also veterans, you should only select *Seniors* and not *Veterans*.

Address

The display address can be distinct from your legal address, which is tied to your organization's EIN with the IRS. This address should be your location or mailing address in Washington. You can enter multiple locations if you have multiple locations.

Service areas

You can add up to five service areas in which your organization works. This setting will affect how your organization shows up when donors search by location. If you serve all of Washington, use *WA, USA*. You can also enter cities, counties, or countries.

Phone

This should be your organization's primary phone number. You can also include a fax or another number.

Email

This should be the primary email to contact your organization.

Website

This should be your organization's main webpage.

Social media

Add your social media links so donors can learn more about your work through your online presence. Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Snapchat, and more are available! If you don't currently have a social media presence, we recommend joining Facebook and/or Instagram.



General Settings

General Settings, found under the *Settings* section of the website, is where you can control how your organization is located on Washington Gives.

URL customization

You can find the URL that leads to your *Organization Page* here, as well as change it to something short and easy to remember. If someone already has your custom URL, you will need to pick another option.

The format of your URL will be **wagives.org/organization/Yourcustometexthere**.

Discoverability

If you want to hide your organization page, you can do so here. People with a direct link can still find your page, but it will not appear through the Washington Gives search functionality or on search engines like Google. Don't forget to turn it back on!

Alternate search names

Have a common misspelling of your organization's name or an old name you don't use anymore? You can enter it here so donors can still find you. You can also include keywords that are not elsewhere on your profile.

Checkout

You can customize your donation form to get the information you need from your donors under the *Checkout* section of your *Dashboard*. Additionally, your first stewardship action to thank your donors starts at *Checkout!* You can customize your thank-you page and donation receipt to connect with your donors automatically.

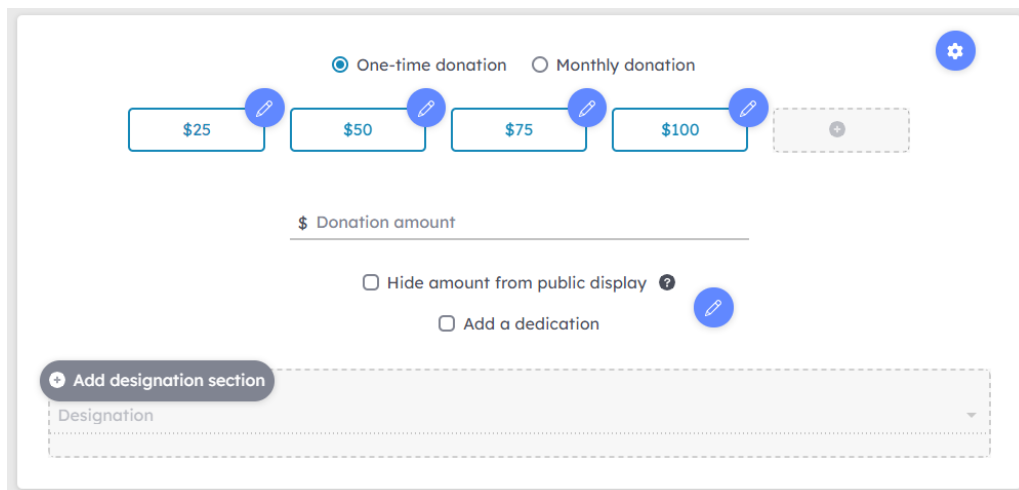
Donation form

You can set *Donation Levels* to customize which amounts donors can select at checkout. You can also include a brief description of what that donation amount could provide (such as \$5 = 1 meal) or a descriptor like "Champion." Click on the pencil icon to edit the displayed amounts. Donors can still enter a custom amount, but providing a range of options prompts donors to picture the impact of their contributions and potentially increase their gifts.

In this section, you can also add *Designations*. If you have specific programs or regions you are fundraising for, this is a great way to highlight that and let donors show their intent. Please note these donations are still unrestricted, but you should do your best to match your donors' intent. By clicking on the cog button in the top right, you can choose to have the primary option shown to donors be monthly or one-time donations. You can also choose to hide the monthly donation option. We don't recommend you do that, even if you have a different monthly donation platform.



You may miss someone interested in giving monthly who won't go to your website to set up a monthly gift there. You can contact recurring donors to move their monthly donations later, but note that some donors like the ability to manage all their recurring donations in one place.



Thank-you page

You can customize the page your donor sees after they complete their transaction. In this section, you can include a colorful thank-you image, a letter from a client or leadership member, or even a video message! The character limit is 5,000, but we recommend keeping it relatively brief and primarily visual. You can also include a button to direct them to your website or a newsletter sign-up form. This next step helps deepen their engagement with you when they are thinking about your organization.

Donation receipt

You can see a preview of donation receipts here and add a brief message to be included in the email acknowledgment that your donor receives. Again, you want to keep it short, but you can include links in this section if you want to direct them elsewhere to learn more.

Organization page planner

Organization Page
About (Max character count: 5,000)
Images (Images should be JPEG or PNG)
Video (Enter the URL of any YouTube, Vimeo, or Facebook video, including live streams)
Donation Levels (You can have as many as you like, but 4-5 is standard)
Thank-you page (Max character count: 5,000)



III. Develop your Fundraising Plan

Match

You are likely to raise more dollars during GiveBIG if you promote a matching fund on your profile page and throughout your campaign. Matching funds are created by asking current and former board members, employees, volunteers, donors, and/or supportive companies to promise to match donations from GiveBIG donors up to a set level. For example, “Our board will match the first \$3,000 in donations.” **Matching funds can be managed under *Fundraising Tools and Matching Grants*** on your account.

Why create a matching fund

Donors are more likely to donate to an organization that offers a match since it increases the impact of their giving. Double the Donation reports that 84% of donors say they are more likely to donate if a match is offered, and 1 in 3 people say they will give more money if a match is provided. Having a matching fund on your profile page says, “Our donors love us... get to know us, and you will love us too!”

Engaging your current supporters to provide a match also increases the impact of their gift. They get to create excitement for your cause and see their donation go further. It also gives them a sense of investment in the campaign’s success.

How to use your matching fund

You can customize your matching fund beyond \$1 for \$1, adjust the timing of your match, and run multiple matches! Go to *Matching Grants* under the *Fundraising Tools* section of your *Dashboard* to see your options.

- Want your match to go a little further? Set a minimum or maximum donation amount to match. You can also choose to match less than 100% of a donation.
- Want to excite donors? Increase the amount their donation will be matched by setting the percentage to 150% or 200%. If you have a big match but don’t get many donors, this is a way to ensure your match gets achieved.
- Want to make sure many donors get a chance to have their donations matched? Select *Apply Match* once per donor only to match the contributions of a donor (based on their email) once.
- Trying to reach a specific goal? Set a cumulative threshold match so that the match only unlocks when you’ve hit a certain number of donors, donations, or donation total.

How to create a matching fund

A match can be provided by one or more donors contributing to a pooled matching fund. Rather than wait and see if your most loyal donors contribute during GiveBIG, ask them to pledge a donation to your matching fund.



Their donation not only supports your work, but it leverages additional contributions, making donating to a matching fund a smart decision for a donor! Your board and businesses that support you can also make good candidates. For businesses, you can offer to highlight them on your page and promote them through your communications to donors.

Matching fund planner

Matching Fund Donors	Giving History	Person Assigned to Ask	Outcome
Board members			
Major donors			
Corporate partners			
Volunteer groups			
Committees			

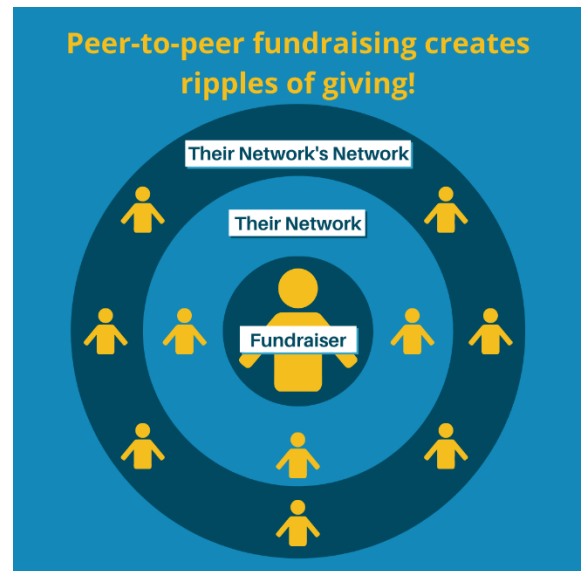
Peer-to-Peer Fundraising

What is peer-to-peer fundraising?

Peer-to-peer is a method of fundraising that involves your supporters raising money on your nonprofit's behalf. This type of fundraising is also known as social, personal, or P2P fundraising. If your message reaches more people, you will likely raise more money. In turn, when that message comes from someone a potential supporter cares about, they are more likely to donate. These new supporters can also reach out to their networks as well!

On the Washington Gives platform, this means empowering your supporters to create fundraising pages to share on social media, email to friends and family, or post in work or community groups.

Fundraising pages are linked to your organization, so you automatically receive donations and contact information through your Washington Give account. **You can view and manage fundraising pages by going to *Fundraising Tools* under *Campaigns*.**



What constitutes a network? Family, friends, coworkers, fellow volunteers, customers, or clients... anyone the fundraiser regularly interacts with whom they have a positive relationship!

You can help your fundraisers be successful by using our [Tools for Fundraisers](#), including a toolkit that you can customize and send to your supporters. Once a fundraiser customizes and submits their fundraising page, you will be notified by email. **You can edit or make a page inactive under *Campaigns*** at any time should it be identified as unhelpful or inappropriate.



You can also create organizational fundraising pages. This is an optional feature that allows your organization to create fundraising pages under your organization’s name under *Campaigns*. It provides a mechanism to raise funds for a specific project or location. While these funds are still unrestricted, we recommend that you consider donor intent when creating these pages. You cannot use this feature to create fundraising pages on behalf of an individual, as your organization will be listed as the creator of the fundraising page.

When a donation is made through a fundraising page, it shows up as part of your overall donation total and on your donation report, which will indicate which fundraising page a donor gave through under *Campaign*.

Who should you ask to be a peer-to-peer fundraiser?

Start with your board. All board members should be expected to make a financial contribution to the organization they serve. By contributing to a matching fund pool or creating a



fundraising page that they share with their network, they can use their commitment to your organization to inspire others to give. This is an opportunity for your entire board to rally around your mission and collect donations as ambassadors for your organization.

Other potential fundraisers include volunteers, clients, staff, social media followers, or anyone who knows your organization and has a personal connection they can share to encourage their contacts to give!

Peer-to-peer fundraising planner

Potential Fundraiser	Contact Information



Donor-Advised Funds and Individual Retirement Account Contributions

Some people with IRAs or DAFs simply make direct donations on the platform using a credit card or e-check. However, if they want the funds to be distributed from their IRA or donor-advised fund, it's easy for them to convey their intended donations to their financial advisor or DAF account be *sent directly to your organization*. Once the advisor has confirmed intent to send a DAF/IRA contribution through Washington Gives, the intended donation will show up on your donation report and count towards your goal on your organization page.

Learn more about [Giving by DAF/IRA](#) through Washington Gives.

IV. Communication Plan

For a successful campaign, you need to plan who you will contact, when, and in what way. If you don't ask people to give and make it clear why it's important to give a gift, you won't succeed. Start by figuring out who you will contact (your audience), ways you will contact them (methods), and the messages you will send them.

Audience

Contact lists

Knowing your audience is your first step to creating a communication plan. Assemble lists of people to ask to give along with their contact information. Ideas include:

- Previous donors
- People who attended your events but did not donate
- Current and former board members, staff, and volunteers
- Vendors and local businesses you patronize
- People at companies that have supported you
- Clients or alumni, when appropriate

Be sure to include everyone who participated in past GiveBIGs! Prior year donor lists can be accessed under the *Reports* section. You can export contact lists sorted by time period, donation type, and campaign type.

Contact list planner

Audience	Estimated #	Confirmed # with email	2026 Target	2026 Actual
Previous donors				
Volunteers				



Message

Now that you know who you are communicating with, you can create your message. A consistent and inspirational message that asks your audience to make a gift and be part of your mission is key to your success.

Creating content

That it's GiveBIG is not a strong enough message to encourage people to give. You need to make it clear why readers should take action. How can being part of your mission help them live out their values? Does giving to you help accomplish something they care about?

Ideas to inspire:

- Set a goal to expand a program or fund a project.
- Share client stories of success.
- Educate and engage your readers with eye-grabbing infographics and facts.
- Highlight volunteers, staff, and donors who make your organization thrive.
- Thank your prior donors and show what your organization did with their donations.
- Communicate important milestones and feel-good moments.

Don't forget to get the GiveBIG logos and graphics toolkit on the [Tools for Nonprofits](#) page!

Content planner

Key Messages

Content Ideas

Images



Sample schedule

Date	Message
April 28, 2026	Early giving is open. Save the date for May 5!
May 1, 2026	Reminder of early giving
May 4, 2026	GiveBIG starts tomorrow!
May 5, 2026	GiveBIG!
May 11, 2026	Thank you to your donors, announcement of your total donations, and reminder they can still donate.

Sample emails

Below are sample emails for your campaign. Remember, when you are talking with people who know about GiveBIG, encourage them to engage their networks in addition to giving themselves.



April 28, 2026 – 1 Week Prior

Dear _____,

In one week, on May 5, thousands of people are going to show their support for their favorite Washington nonprofits during GiveBIG. On that day, your donation will help us achieve our mission to [agency specific message].

Show your support for our organization and mission by telling your friends and colleagues why you support us. [Consider including a story about a client, why a donor gave a gift, or what caused a volunteer to choose your particular cause.]

We need your help with these three things:

- Mark May 5 on your calendar or donate now!
- Follow us on [insert links to your social media accounts] to help build our momentum by telling all your friends and family why you support our organization through #GiveBIG.
- Spread the word! Forward this email to your family and friends along with a personal note as to why you believe in our work and why they should give on May 5.

We can't wait to celebrate the difference your generosity will make when you GiveBIG on May 5!

May 4, 2026 – Day before GiveBIG

Tomorrow is the BIG day of giving! Join the thousands who've already shown generosity toward their favorite nonprofits. Every donation will help us go further to achieve our mission to [agency specific message mission].

Here's how you can help:

1. Give to [your organization] at [link to your GiveBIG profile].
2. Follow us on [insert links to social media accounts] to help build our momentum by telling all your friends and family why you support our organization through #GiveBIG.
3. Spread the word! Forward this email to your family and friends along with a personal note as to why you believe in our work, and why they should give today.

Tomorrow is your chance to make a real difference right here in your community. Thanks for your support!

Sample social messages

One Month Prior – Send a Save the Date Message

Post now to let your followers know about GiveBIG, that your organization is participating, and ask them to mark the date on their calendar. Let them know that they have the option of going to your Washington Gives page any time between April 28 through the giving event on May 5. They can also give year-round on the platform!



Potential Facebook/X/Instagram posts:

- Let's show everyone that our community is full of #generosity! On May 5, #ItsUpToUs to show up for nonprofits on #GiveBIG by [agency specific message about mission]. [link to your Washington Gives page]
- Let the countdown begin! Mark your calendar for #GiveBIG on May 5. Invite your friends, co-workers, or that special someone in your life to join our community-wide day to #giveback [link to your Washington Gives page]. #ItsUpToUs to show up for our communities!

3 Weeks Prior - Facebook Event

Create a Facebook event for May 5 and invite all your Facebook followers to the event. Details include:

- Event Name: GiveBIG to [your organization]
- Hosted by: [your organization] and GiveBIG
- Date: May 5, 2026 at 12:01 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.
- Location: [your address]
- Link: [link to your Washington Gives page]
- Description: [Some copy from your Washington Gives page description]
- Graphics: [add the GiveBIG logo to an image from your organization]

April 28, 2026 – GiveBIG Campaign Begins

When the GiveBIG campaign begins, post on social media to let your followers know they can help you reach your goals and spread the word about your campaign.

Sample Facebook/X/Instagram posts:

- #ItsUpToUs to show up for nonprofits through #GiveBIG! Donate early to [your organization] [link to Washington Gives page].
- Even the smallest donation can make a BIG #impact, so #GiveBIG on May 5 or make an early donation today! [link to your Washington Gives page]

May 4, 2026 – GiveBIG event starts tomorrow!

Post on May 4 asking supporters to give now, so they don't miss GiveBIG.

Sample Facebook/X/Instagram posts:

- #GiveBIG today so you don't forget tomorrow! [message about mission] [link to your Washington Gives page]
- Did you know you can donate before tomorrow's #GiveBIG? Help us reach our goal by donating to [your organization] [link to your Washington Gives page]

May 5, 2026 – GiveBIG is today!

Post at least two messages during the day to remind people that it is GiveBIG. Give them updates and encourage them to join with others in supporting your organization.



Potential Facebook/X/Instagram posts:

- Calling all #changemakers – Can you help us reach our goal of \$_____? [link to your Washington Gives page]
- Even a small donation would help us reach our goal. Your #donation will help us [list out goals in as much detail as possible] when you #GiveBIG TODAY. [link to your Washington Gives page]
- What did you do today to #change the world? Make it happen when you #GiveBIG TODAY at [link to your Washington Gives page]
- It is #GiveBIG today, and we've secured well above half of our #fundraising goal! Thank you to everyone who believes #ItsUpToUs to create meaningful change. If you haven't donated yet, make it happen at [link to your Washington Gives page]
- It's the final hour for #GiveBIG! Have you donated to us during #GiveBIG? Make sure to let your friends know that they can give too! #ItsUpToUs to make a difference! [link to your Washington Gives page]

Methods

You can build out new communication methods, but it's generally easier and more effective to reach out in the ways your supporters are used to. Read below for tips on common communication methods.

Emails and direct mail

Email and mail are the most effective methods of communication for fundraising outside of asking someone face-to-face. While social media is easier to do, a specific ask is more likely to convert readers to donors.

If you do not have one, set up an account with an email marketing services platform like Constant Contact or Mailchimp. These tools make it easy to create professional customizable emails. Develop a schedule for sending out 4-6 emails to your donors and supporters. Your message should go beyond a countdown to GiveBIG, but that countdown can help time your communications. Make sure you don't send too many emails, since that is a sure way to get your supporters to unsubscribe from your e-communications.

Ensure that your email and mail link to where a reader can make their donation. For direct mail, you may consider a URL shortener like [Bit.ly](https://bit.ly) to make a shorter link to put on your postcard or letter.

Social media

Post frequent updates to your social media platforms and your organization's website. Report on and thank your donors for their generosity and involvement in your social media posts. Facebook and Instagram are the most used platforms, but wherever your donors and potential supporters are, that is where you should be active. Make sure to include the link to your organization page!

Washington Gives social media

Stay in the loop about GiveBIG and the Washington Gives platform by following us on social media. Help us grow these channels by liking and sharing posts. The more buzz we generate around the event, the more new donors we can all reach.



Make sure to tag us (@wagives), and we will share your posts too!

- Facebook: facebook.com/WAGives/
- X (formerly Twitter): x.com/wagives
- Instagram: instagram.com/wagives/

Hashtags

Hashtags are a way to categorize content on social media and make it easy for users to search for content. You can use hashtags in your social media posts by placing the number sign (#) in front of a word or unspaced phrase in a message. It is best to use hashtags sparingly but deliberately. Social media engagement decreases after more than two hashtags are used. **The primary hashtag for GiveBIG is #GiveBIG.**

If your organization frequently uses specific hashtags to highlight your mission, we suggest using them in your GiveBIG posts to remind donors of your cause. Not sure which hashtags to use? You can use this [hashtag generator](#) or this [hashtag analyzer](#) to determine the popularity and ranking of a hashtag. Here are some suggested hashtags for GiveBIG that you can choose: **#GiveBIG**, **#WAGives**, and **#ItsUpToUs**.

Website

Engage your website visitors by including a GiveBIG save-the-date graphic on your home page that links to your Washington Gives page and invites viewers to give. Post an article to your blog if you have one.

Newsletters

Include GiveBIG save-the-date messages in all print and electronic newsletters and communications. Encourage your readers to reach out to their friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to support your organization.

Email signatures

Develop a signature line for your staff and board members to promote giving during early giving and giving day. Watch this [short video](#) on how to create a customized signature in Outlook.

VI. Stewardship Plan – Thanking Donors

Regardless of your GiveBIG campaign outcome, you must follow up with your donors, fundraisers, and partners to show your appreciation. Donors on the Washington Gives website will receive an email confirmation that serves as their tax receipt. You can resend a receipt from the *Donations* report page by clicking on the three dots next to the supporter's donation and selecting *Resend Receipt*.

Even though donors receive a receipt and thank-you message through the platform (you can customize this under *Checkout* and *Thank-you Page* on your Dashboard), you should also send them a personal thank-you email or letter and/or call them. You can also post messages through the communication channels you used to promote GiveBIG to announce your final total and show your thankfulness and appreciation for your donors and fundraisers.



Social Media Thank You

Post a photo/video of your organization's leaders, board, staff, or clients thanking donors along with this message:

Sample:

Thank you to all donors who joined us for GiveBIG and gave on May 5 to support [your organization]! Your support will [organization-specific message about mission]. Thank you for sharing your love for your community and supporting your cause! #GiveBIG #ItsUpToUs

Mailed Thank You

Sample:

Dear _____, Thank you for joining us for GiveBIG and donating \$_____ on _____. Over _____ donors came together to raise \$_____! These funds will [organization-specific message about mission]. We are so lucky that you support our passion, mission, and organization. Thank you for being a committed, enthusiastic, and supportive partner in our work. [Add more information on your upcoming programs, your recent successes, and the impact of your work.]

With gratitude,

(Executive director, board member, etc.)

Thank-You Calls

You can up the ante for new, long-time, or major donors by having an organizational leader or board member call them. Volunteers, program staff members, and clients can also be potential callers. A call creates a personal connection that can boost donor engagement and loyalty to your organization.

Sample:

Hello [donor name] this is [caller name] from [organization]. I'm calling to thank you for your outstanding support of [your organization] through GiveBIG this year! Your generous support makes our work [*describe your work*] possible.

[You can have the caller invite them to an event, share a piece of relevant news about your organization, or ask the donor about why they gave. If they ask the donor to share why the cause matters to them, they must document what the donor says. This can be valuable information as to how you can improve your fundraising and communications.]



Next Steps

Whether a donor gave a small or large gift, you should plan your next steps to deepen and maintain your connection with each giver. When and how will you connect with your supporters next? The next time you contact them shouldn't be for next year's GiveBIG. GivingTuesday, an annual global day of generosity, is on December 1, 2026. And the holiday season is a common time when donors give to their favorite nonprofits.

Ideas for next steps:

- Invite them to an event or call to action.
- Ask them to sign up for your mailing list or follow you on social media.
- Send them updates about what your organization has done with the funds you received through GiveBIG.
- Invite them to join you again for GivingTuesday, this time as a fundraiser.

