

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Matching Grants Program

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is pleased to announce a corporate matching grants program! CareFirst Associates are very generous with their time and money when it comes to volunteerism. It is a company objective to engage in outreach and volunteerism to make our communities a better place to live. Associates are encouraged to tell their favorite nonprofit organization about the CareFirst matching grants program and apply. CareFirst also wants to recognize our Associates who give generously of their time and give them the opportunity to earn money for organizations that are meaningful to them.

What is a Matching Grant?

A CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Matching Grant is when the company offers a certain amount toward a project or event, on the condition that the same amount also be donated by a company associate through a **personal** contribution.

How to Apply

In order to be considered for a matching grant, Associates will need to encourage their nonprofit organization to visit www.carefirstcommitment.com to complete a matching grant application. On the online application, the nonprofit will need to verify the Associate's contribution. Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. There is a \$500.00 maximum for each matching grant request.

Who is eligible to participate

- Any full or part time CareFirst Associate

Who is not eligible to participate

- Temporary Associates and Consultants

- Spouses/Family members of Associates
- Retirees

In Accordance with CareFirst Corporate Contributions Policy, eligible organizations must:

- Be located in Maryland, Northern Virginia (east of Rt. 123), or the District of Columbia
- Possess exemption by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c) (3) of the tax code
- Address CareFirst's community outreach and funding priorities
- Not duplicate the work of other organizations already supported by CareFirst within the same geographic or program area
- Have a current, satisfactory audit conducted by a certified public accountant
- Have a long-standing reputation for credibility and integrity

Organizations that do not qualify for a matching grant include:

- Organizations without the IRS 501(c) (3) status
- Organizations outside of the CareFirst service area
- The national office of an organization that has local chapters
- Profit making organizations
- Individuals
- Parent-teacher organizations
- Building funds or capital campaigns
- Service clubs (e.g. Kiwanis, Lodges, etc.)
- Any institution or organization that discriminates by sex, race, creed or ethnic origin
- Religious organizations if funds are used to benefit specific denominations or congregations (however, programs sponsored by religious groups but are nonsectarian in nature may be eligible for CareFirst support)
- Political groups or individuals running for elected office (political contributions are budgeted and allocated through Government Relations and the CareFirst PAC)
- Any organization that poses a legal or business conflict of interest to CareFirst or a subsidiary company, or is thought not to be in the best interest of CareFirst

What Does Not Qualify – Types of Donations/Volunteer Activities

- Gifts by bequests
- Gifts of real or personal property
- Pledges not yet paid in full (a CareFirst match cannot be used to fulfill a pledge)
- Payment of membership dues or subscription fees
- Receipt of tangible benefits (i.e. raffles, auctions, tuition waiver)
- Pledges from walks, runs, etc.

Application and Selection Procedures

- CareFirst Associates are eligible to receive multiple matching grants per calendar year.
- Associates must be involved with the organization as a Board Member, Committee Member or Volunteer.
- Decisions made in regard to the Matching Grants Program will be the responsibility of the VIP Advisory Committee. All decisions are final.
- Matching Grants will be approved on a first come, first serve basis in accordance with the CareFirst Guidelines, throughout the calendar year.

Grants will be processed on a quarterly basis, however payments may take several weeks to be paid out due to payment process.