

Great Rivers Environmental Law Center Event Sponsorship Payment FAQs

There are important considerations when using alternative payment methods—such as **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**, **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)**, or **Private Foundations**—to support event sponsorships. The following Frequently Asked Questions are intended to clarify these options and help prevent confusion when sponsoring events hosted by Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

Please note: This information is for general guidance only and should **not be considered tax advice**. Donors are encouraged to consult their **tax advisor or financial professional** before making contributions through a DAF, IRA, or private foundation.

Can I use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from my IRA or Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) to pay for my sponsorship?

Possibly. Assuming all other eligibility criteria are met:

- You must **decline all event tickets and sponsorship benefits** to preserve the tax-deductible status of a QCD or DAF contribution.
- If you plan to attend the event, you must personally pay the **full ticket price** in a separate transaction, using non-IRA or non-DAF funds.

Can I sponsor using money from my Private Foundation?

Yes, but special rules apply:

- **Disqualified persons** (e.g., major donors, board members, officers of the foundation) may **not receive any event benefits**, including tickets.
- If a disqualified person wishes to attend, they must **personally pay the full ticket price** in a separate transaction.
- To avoid the appearance of receiving a benefit, it is best practice for disqualified persons to **not sit at the table purchased by the foundation**.
- A narrow exception exists if the person is attending in a **bona fide business capacity** (e.g., receiving an award on the foundation's behalf or monitoring use of funds).

Can sponsors choose to donate their tickets back?

Yes—but only in full. Sponsors who choose to donate **all event tickets** may have their entire sponsorship amount treated as **100% tax-deductible**, provided no other benefits are received.



To minimize administrative burden and avoid recordkeeping errors, we **do not offer partial deductions** for sponsors who wish to use some tickets and donate others.

If you wish to donate **all** tickets back, please **notify us in writing** so we can properly acknowledge your contribution.

Are sponsorships of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center events refundable?

No. However, if circumstances beyond our control require changes to the event format or sponsor benefits, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center will work closely with our valued sponsors to ensure their contributions continue to support their philanthropic intent.

We are deeply grateful for your generous support of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center and our work to protect the environment and public health through the power of the law.

If you have any questions about sponsorship payments, benefits, or contribution options, please reach out to us at 314-231-4181. We're happy to assist you.