



Fundraising During COVID-19 and the New \$300 Universal Tax Deduction

In an effort to stimulate charitable giving during COVID-19, Congress passed measures to give a charitable deduction for up to \$300 in donations to taxpayers. This bill was created to assist organizations affected by coronavirus and the economic crisis. Approximately 85 percent of Americans do not itemize their tax returns, and nonprofits have previously urged Congress to extend deductions to those donors. This is positive news for Community Health Center of Cape Cod, and we would like to provide donors with insight into how the deduction works.

To start, only taxpayers who don't separately itemize their deductions are allowed to claim the new deduction, and it is allowed for each tax form that is filed. This means that the \$300 deduction limit applies whether taxes are filed by either an individual or a married couple. **Next, it is important to note that the deduction is only valid for tax year 2020, and donors who haven't filed 2019 taxes cannot claim it this year.** Additionally, only cash gifts are eligible for the \$300 deduction. Gifts of stocks, clothes, automobiles, and other assets are not included in the provision. Similarly, gifts to establish or add to a donor-advised-fund account do not qualify. There is no additional paperwork mandated to claim the deduction. CHC of Cape Cod will acknowledge these gifts, as we have with all other donations, and taxpayers should be prepared to substantiate their gifts in case they are audited.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, CHC of Cape Cod has had to adjust its approach to care. In the first few weeks of our response, the Health Center saw a reduction of 50-60% of patient visits and a 125% increase in patient calls requiring triage. We have worked hard to maintain patient engagement and care for those in need through the implementation of telehealth or virtual visits. These are ideally accomplished through a video and audio link. Unfortunately, a significant portion of our patient population is unable to connect via video, or need significant assistance in the set-up required for the virtual visit. This time is not reimbursed, and not all payors have approved the use of virtual visits. While a virtual visit can be appropriate for some preventive care, follow-up, behavioral health and chronic disease management, not all services can be offered virtually. We have continued to provide walk-in care to anyone who needs it, regardless insurance status or ability to pay, including individuals who may have contracted COVID-19. Care for these individuals comes with added precautions, for the patients themselves, along with other patients and staff at CHC, which has led us to readjust how we offer care.

Although there has been some insurance compensation for virtual visits and telehealth, this is not nearly enough to sustain our operations through an undetermined period of time. We are only at 60% of our total revenues and not able to flex expenses that rapidly in relation to revenue. While there may be some relief from the federal government, CHC of Cape Cod needs to seek assistance through our generous community to continue to provide life altering, necessary services to our 19,000 patients while being mindful of the overall health of our community. If you would like more information on the new \$300 Universal Tax Deduction, or have any questions, please contact Alex Speck in Community Health Center of Cape Cod's Advancement Office at aspeck@chcofcapecod.org or at 508-477-5990. **Thank you in advance for your support and consideration during this unprecedented and challenging time.**

