

## **Restricted Causes & Prohibited Fundraising Policy**

**Last Updated:** March 20, 2026

This Restricted Causes & Prohibited Fundraising Policy (“Policy”) governs the types of fundraising activities that may or may not be conducted through the The Giving Step platform (the “Platform”).

The Platform is designed to support lawful charitable giving and community engagement. To maintain donor trust, comply with payment processing requirements, and adhere to applicable laws and regulations, certain fundraising activities are prohibited.

Organizations and individuals using the Platform agree to comply with this Policy.

### **1. Permitted Fundraising**

The Platform may be used for lawful fundraising in support of legitimate 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable, educational, health, environmental, and community initiatives.

Permitted activities typically include fundraising for:

- Health & Wellness
- Environment & Sustainability
- Animal Welfare
- Education & Learning
- Poverty, Housing & Basic Needs
- Community Development
- Children, Youth & Families
- Arts, Culture & Creativity
- Advancing Social Justice & Equity
- Disaster Relief & Humanitarian Aid
- Veterans, Military & First Responders
- Faith-Based & Spiritual
- Economic Opportunity & Workforce
- Science, Technology & Innovation
- Sports & Recreation

The Platform reserves the right to review campaigns to ensure alignment with its mission and policies.

### **2. Prohibited Fundraising Activities**

The following categories of fundraising are strictly prohibited on the Platform.

#### **Illegal Activities**

Fundraising for activities that violate any applicable local, state, federal, or international law is prohibited.

This includes fundraising related to:

- Criminal activity
- Financial fraud
- Illegal goods or services
- Money laundering
- Sanctions violations

## **Fraudulent or Deceptive Campaigns**

Campaigns may not:

- Misrepresent the identity of the organizer
- Falsely claim affiliation with a nonprofit organization
- Mislead donors regarding how funds will be used
- Impersonate another organization or individual

The Platform may remove campaigns suspected of deceptive practices.

## **Hate, Violence, or Extremism**

The Platform may not be used to promote or support organizations, campaigns, or activities that involve:

- Hate speech or discrimination
- Violent activity
- Harassment or threats
- Extremist or terrorist organizations

## **Personal Financial Gain Under False Pretenses**

Fundraising that falsely claims charitable intent for personal financial gain is prohibited.

Examples include:

- Misleading emergency or hardship campaigns
- Personal campaigns falsely claiming nonprofit affiliation
- Campaigns disguising commercial activity as charitable fundraising

## **Political Campaigns or Lobbying**

The Platform may not be used to fund:

- Political candidates
- Political action committees
- Political lobbying activities
- Partisan political campaigns

This restriction helps maintain compliance with nonprofit fundraising regulations and payment processor policies.

## **Regulated or High-Risk Products or Activities**

Fundraising related to certain regulated activities may not be conducted on the Platform, including campaigns related to:

- Weapons or weapons accessories
- Controlled substances
- Illegal gambling operations
- Human trafficking or exploitation
- Unsafe or unregulated medical treatments

### **3. Restricted Fundraising Requiring Additional Review**

Certain campaigns may require additional review before approval, including fundraising for:

- Disaster or crisis relief efforts
- Medical expenses
- International organizations
- Newly established nonprofits
- Large-scale fundraising campaigns

The Platform may request documentation to verify legitimacy before allowing campaigns to proceed.

### **4. Platform Review Rights**

The Giving Step reserves the right to review any campaign or fundraising activity hosted on the Platform.

The Platform may, at its sole discretion:

- Request verification documentation
- Temporarily pause campaigns pending review
- Remove campaigns that violate this Policy
- Suspend or terminate accounts engaged in prohibited activities

The Platform is not obligated to host or continue hosting any campaign.

### **5. Cooperation with Authorities**

Where required by law, the Platform may cooperate with law enforcement, regulators, or payment processors in connection with investigations involving fraud, illegal activity, or misuse of donated funds.

### **6. Reporting Violations**

Suspected violations of this Policy may be reported to:

**[legal@thegivingstep.com](mailto:legal@thegivingstep.com)**

Reports should include any available information about the campaign or activity.

### **7. Updates to this Policy**

This Policy may be updated periodically to reflect changes in laws, payment processing requirements, or platform practices.

Continued use of the Platform constitutes acceptance of the most current version of this Policy.