

# Store-Based Giving Program

## Giving Guidelines

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Thank you for your interest in the Ross Store-Based Giving Program. The Ross Store-Based Giving Program provides support – primarily in the form of gift cards – to federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, schools, and government programs serving a community within 25 miles of a Ross Dress for Less or dd's DISCOUNTS Store. We evaluate each request based on satisfaction of our giving requirements detailed below.

## Our Philanthropic Mission Statement

At Ross Stores, we invest in brighter futures by supporting programs that unlock the full potential of the next generation. With a goal of building competence, confidence, and character in the young people who need us most, Ross Stores, Inc. and the Ross Stores Foundation partner with organizations that work in our communities to build academic achievement and life skills.

## Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for a donation, your organization **must**:

- 1. Be a federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, school, or government program.**
- 2. Serve a community within 25 miles of a Ross Dress for Less or dd's DISCOUNTS Store.**
  - Use the [Ross Dress for Less](#) and [dd's DISCOUNTS](#) Store locators to see if your organization qualifies.
- 3. Have not received a donation from Ross (Ross Stores Foundation, Ross Stores, Inc., or dd's DISCOUNTS) within the past 12 months.**
  - Ross will only make one donation per year to each organization.
  - If your organization has received a donation in the past, it will be eligible to receive another donation 12 months from the date of the last donation.
- 4. Align with our charitable mission to create brighter futures by building academic achievement and life skills in economically disadvantaged youth, ages 3-24.**
  - Please review the list of eligible and ineligible populations and programs on the next page.

Ross **will not** support organizations or programs that spread political or religious beliefs or those who discriminate.

## Eligible Programs

**Academic Achievement:** Programs that build a foundation of academic competence that will help young people succeed in a competitive workforce. These include:

- Literacy
- STEM
- Tutoring
- School clothes/supplies
- Pre-school/Headstart
- GED programs
- Stay-in-school efforts
  - Anti-truancy
  - Attendance support
  - Drop-out/re-entry
- College readiness
  - SAT/ACT preparation
  - Counseling for financial aid, grant applications, and loans
  - Scholarship programs

**Life Skills:** Programs that build confidence and character in young people. These include:

- Mentoring
- Financial literacy
- After-school programs
- Gang-prevention/anti-violence
- 'Soft skills'
  - Active listening/Communication
  - Conflict resolution
  - Leadership
- Career readiness/job skills
  - Mock interviews
  - Professional dress
  - Resume writing
  - Retail- or fashion-specific career programs, excluding fashion shows

## Ineligible Programs

While we understand that there is a great need across our communities, in order to deliver the greatest impact on our philanthropic mission, Ross Stores will not support programs outside of our focus areas. Ineligible programs include:

- Medical and health programs
- Youth sports, fine arts, and recreation activities
- Religious-focused programs
- Cash reserves or endowments
- Political or advocacy support
- Direct support for individuals
  - Scholarships or tuition
  - Research or travel grants
  - Stipends or fellowships
  - Personal assistance
  - Conferences
  - Training or learning programs
  - Travel for any event
  - Mission trips
- Research
- Event sponsorship
  - Sober graduation parties
  - Prom, homecoming, or other school dances
  - Galas
  - Walk-a-thons
  - Golf outings
  - Benefits
  - Conferences or seminars
- Animal welfare
- Capital campaigns or building upgrades

## How to Apply

If your organization meets all of the requirements outlined above, you can [apply for a donation online](#).

*Due to the volume of requests we receive, please allow six to eight weeks to receive a response to your proposal. Ross Stores does not accept email, mail, or fax requests.*