

CHARITABLE GAMING

Definitions, FAQs, and Disclaimer

2026

Bingo, door prizes, drawings, giveaways, raffles, and sweepstakes can raise funds for our Community Campaign. These activities are considered “games of chance” because people can hardly influence the outcome. Your workplace or a group of your employees may organize and host one or more of these activities to raise money for our Community Campaign. That’s awesome *and* fun, and we’re so grateful!

Do people pay a fee for a shot at winning a prize from your game of chance? If you answer “yes,” your activity now counts as “charitable gaming.” **We *must* know about *all* charitable gaming before *any* activity occurs.** We ensure regulations are followed.

Someone from your workplace *must* contact us and coordinate with us to plan, run, and conclude your charitable gaming. **Our Finance Team will talk with you, and they need a minimum notice of two weeks.** They will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of charitable gaming, will help set you up to use our charitable gaming permit, and will troubleshoot aspects of your activities as they arise. **Let us know you’re doing charitable gaming by contacting us at finance@ak.org.**

When people pay fees for shots at winning prizes from games whose outcome they can influence, these activities don’t qualify as “charitable gaming activities.” We can’t accept donations affiliated with them.

DEFINITIONS

Games of Chance have outcomes that are randomly determined. **Participants can’t significantly control the outcome, and participants have similar odds of winning.** Skills, experiences, or strategies don’t meaningfully improve any participant’s likelihood of successfully being awarded the prize. Many government agencies, including those in Alaska, treat games of chance as gambling if money or valuable prizes are involved.

Charitable Gaming occurs if a qualified charitable organization operates a game of chance to raise funds for legitimate charitable causes by charging fees to participate for an opportunity to win a prize. Regulations ensure compliance with laws and maintain the integrity of games. **Charitable gaming requires permits, entails reporting, has prize limits, and oversees other aspects.** Proceeds must go to charitable causes.

Charitable Gaming Activities include games of chance. **Not every game of chance qualifies as a charitable gaming activity.** Four necessary conditions apply.

- Include a **game of chance**.
- Collect a **fee to participate**.
- Give the **fees as donations**.
- Result **prize randomly awarded**.

To ensure your workplace is complying with regulations, you must contact us. **Email finance@ak.org before you plan, run, and conclude your charitable gaming activity.** Remember please that we need a two-week notice, minimum.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can a charitable gaming activity include casino-related items? No, your activity cannot. **You can't use poker chips, cards, darts, or other casino-related items.** Charitable gaming also excludes the use of prize wheels, card games, and dice.

How do we run our charitable gaming activity? You can run it live or silent, in-person or virtually. **When a winner of an activity is randomly selected, someone from United Way must be present.** We can attend in-person or virtually with live streaming.

Is a winner taxed on a prize? Depending on the "fair market value" of a prize and the cost of the fee to participate in the activity, a winner may be taxed. You must work with us to determine if taxes apply. **The State of Alaska requires that winners must submit a W9 and photo identification.** If a prize qualifies as taxable, a winner must submit their documentation *before* receiving a prize.

Do participants receive tax receipts? People who pay a fee to participate *do not* receive tax receipts. **People or workplaces that donate a prize to use for an activity can receive tax receipts.** You must provide us with the prize donor's name and contact information as well as the "fair market value" of the prize that they donated.

Why are you asking about the "fair market value" of our prize? We must know what the prize is worth. **It helps us determine whether the winner is liable for taxable income.** Different charitable gaming activities have different criteria.

DISCLAIMER

We reserve the right to approve or deny any charitable gaming activity conducted in support of or connected with us. We also have the authority to determine if any workplace or group of employees may use our charitable gaming permit.

Our Finance Team requires at least two weeks' notice before a charitable gaming activity begins. It allows us to ensure that both your workplace and we are complying with all regulations. **If you have questions or concerns, reach us at finance@ak.org.**