

Municipal Donations to Nonprofit Organizations

Section 6-54-111, *Tennessee Code Annotated*, as amended, authorizes a municipality's governing body to appropriate funds for the financial aid of any nonprofit charitable organization that provides year-round services benefiting the general welfare of the residents of the municipality or any nonprofit civic organization working to maintain and increase employment opportunities in the municipality. This section also provides for the Comptroller of the Treasury to establish standard procedures to assist the municipal governing body in the disposition of funds so appropriated. The auditor should consider whether the municipality has complied with the following laws and rules:

1. A municipality may appropriate funds for only those nonprofit charitable organizations that provide year-round services benefiting the general welfare of the residents of the municipality, or any nonprofit civic organization classified under Sections 501(c)(4) or (6) of the Internal Revenue Code working to maintain and increase employment opportunities in the municipality.
2. The governing body of each municipality shall adopt a special resolution stating the purpose for which the funds are being appropriated, for each nonprofit organization that is to receive municipal funds.
3. The budget document of the municipality shall include the name of each nonprofit organization and the specific amount appropriated for each organization.
4. Municipal payments to nonprofit organizations shall be limited to the amounts appropriated for such purposes and in keeping with the municipality's guidelines for how the appropriated funds may be spent.
5. The municipality shall require that each nonprofit organization receiving financial assistance from the municipality file with the disbursing official of the municipality a copy of an annual audit of its business affairs and transactions and the proposed use of the contributed funds.
6. For appropriations to nonprofit civic organizations, notices shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality of the intent to make an appropriation, specifying the intended amount and purpose.