

Colorado Checkoff Program

A convenient way to make donations to worthy causes

Colorado's individual income tax return provides a way for taxpayers to donate money to, non-profit programs designated by the Colorado Legislature.

Contributions to these programs may be subtracted from the taxpayer's refund amount. Taxpayers may donate a portion of their refund or the entire refund using the Form 104, Colorado income tax return.

If you owe tax and are making a payment, you will not be able to make a voluntary contribution on Form 104 Colorado individual income tax return.

Donations to the checkoff agencies can also be made directly to the agency using, information available at www.checkoffcolorado.org

This year, there are 15 charitable causes listed on the Colorado 104 Individual Form.

This year's voluntary "checkoff" Colorado programs are:

- Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Cash Fund
- Domestic Abuse Program Fund
- Homeless Prevention Activities Program Fund
- Western Slope Military Veterans Cemetery Fund
- Pet Overpopulation Fund
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund
- Military Family Relief Fund
- Colorado Cancer Fund
- Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Colorado Fund
- Unwanted Horse Fund
- Goodwill Industries Fund
- Families in Action for Mental Health Fund
- Colorado Multiple Sclerosis Fund
- Public Education Fund - New

Facts about the Colorado Checkoffs
Colorado became the first state

in the country to allow a taxpayer to "checkoff" a, voluntary contribution to a non-profit program. In 1977, the Colorado Nongame and, Endangered Wildlife Fund became the first state income tax checkoff fund in the United, States. Today there are hundreds of checkoff programs in nearly every state in the, country.

Every year, U.S. taxpayers contribute tens of millions of dollars to a diverse range of, programs. Checkoff contributions are typically voluntary donations

from a taxpayer's, refund. Nationwide, the most common funds support wild-life preservation, political, campaigns, child abuse and neglect prevention, and U.S. Olympic committees.

To be listed as a Colorado Income Tax Checkoff, each organization has to go through a, rigorous legislative process and has to be approved by the Colorado State Legislature.

The organizations must receive donations of \$75,000 per year to remain on the form.



Filing tips for everyone

Read instructions carefully

Errors can be avoided if taxpayers understand the form and understand which lines may, or may not apply to them. When taxpayers are eligible for a credit they should read the, booklet instructions and associated FYI publications at www.TaxColorado.com to assure, they qualify for a specific credit and how to properly file for that credit.

Fill out forms completely

Incomplete paper forms will result in a written request for documentation from the, department to the taxpayer. Be sure to sign the paper return. If filing a joint return, both, parties must sign the return. Filing electronically ensures all required information is, complete.

Check the math

Simple calculation errors may result in the return being adjusted or the department, manually correcting the returns.

Simply double checking the math may save time in, receiving a refund.

To avoid errors you can now file your return through our Revenue Online service,, www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline Revenue Online filing and other types of electronic, filing check for omissions and math errors.

Third Party Designee

When a taxpayer chooses to designate a Third Party to discuss a Colorado individual, income tax return with department staff, the designation has been expanded.

The form, now states, "Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return **and any other, information related to this return** with the Colorado Department of Revenue?"

The, added language accommodates situations where other tax years have an impact on the, return and allows the department to discuss the information with the designee. We encourage e-filed returns because the Third Party designation is included in the, electronic return and our staff can see the name and

phone number of the Third Party, Designee on the e-filed returns.

On paper returns, we do not data enter any of the Third Party Designee information as we do the return lines.

Designee information from a paper, return is not available to us until the paper return is imaged and attached to the taxpayer, account, which could take a minimum of two weeks, depending on the time of the year.

During that time, it is possible the taxpayer may receive correspondence from the, department.

If the Third Party Designee contacts the department about the letter, we may not have access yet to the paper return image.

In the case of a paper return, customer service representatives may ask for a fax copy of the return with the designee, information before providing information to the tax professional.



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