What is the CFC Special Solicitation?
The Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is authorized to open the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) pledge portal outside of the usual CFC timeframe in cases of emergencies and disasters. This CFC Special Solicitation allows the Federal community to support CFC-approved charities as they face unprecedented challenges due to the impact of COVID-19.

Why is the Special Solicitation being launched through the CFC?
The Federal community is incredibly generous and has inquired about opportunities to contribute to those in need during this global pandemic. The CFC is uniquely positioned as the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The CFC online pledge portal is a safe, trusted, and proven way to make contributions to more than 6,000 qualified 501(c)(3) CFC-approved charitable organizations.

What is the timeframe of the CFC Special Solicitation?
The CFC online pledge portal will be open through June 30, 2020.

What charities will be included and eligible for donations in this Special CFC Solicitation?
Donations can be designated to one or more of the more than 6,000 local, national, and international approved and vetted 501(c)(3) organizations from the 2019 CFC Charity List. While the CFC Special Solicitation has been launched in response to the global pandemic, donations will be distributed as unrestricted funds to work wherever they are needed most.

How can a Federal employee or retiree pledge through the CFC Special Solicitation?
Donations can be made through the CFC online giving portal and the CFC mobile web application.

Can donors mail a completed paper pledge form directly to the CCA for processing during the CFC Special Solicitation?
Yes, but due to the “Shelter in Place” order in Wisconsin where the CCA facility is located, there will be significant delays in processing pledges submitted via paper. Paper forms are available on the OPM website: Employee Paper Pledge Form 1654-A and Retiree Paper Pledge Form 1654-B.

If I already pledged during the 2019 CFC, can I give again during this CFC Special Solicitation?
Yes! Donors who have an existing donation account with payroll deduction will see the options to donate only via credit card, debit card, or ACH (electronic checks). Gifts can be made as either a one-time or recurring monthly pledge through January 2021.
If I did not pledge during the 2019 CFC, can I give during this CFC Special Solicitation?
Yes! Donors who have never given in the 2019 campaign via payroll deduction and any new hires/new retirees in the government will be offered the option to create a new payroll deduction if they choose. They can also donate a one-time or monthly recurring gift via credit card, debit card, or ACH (electronic check).

Can payroll allotments be increased during this CFC Special Solicitation?
No. Donors cannot make changes to an existing payroll donation. This prevents downstream impacts to payroll providers, which are not prepared to handle these changes.

Can pledges made during the CFC Special Solicitation be changed later?
Recurring donors can cancel the balance of unpaid donations at any time. However, one-time donations are processed the week of the pledge and are non-refundable.

Can an employee donate volunteer time through the CFC Special Solicitation?
Yes. Federal employees can pledge volunteer time with selected charities identified with the hand icon in either the paper charity listing or on the CFC online pledge portal.

Will donations during the CFC Special Solicitation be subject to a distribution fee?
No. Any new donations collected during the special solicitation will not have any distribution fees withheld.

When will charities receive the funds pledged during the CFC Special Solicitation?
All funds collected will be distributed based on the next standard monthly distribution schedule as early as May 15 and each month until January 15, 2021 (for recurring gifts).

Does OPM have the legal authority to launch a CFC Special Solicitation like this?
Yes. This would be the first government-wide special disaster campaign as authorized by current CFC regulations. Under 5 CFR §950.102 Scope of the Combined Federal Campaign. (a) (2):
“The Director may grant permission for solicitations of Federal employees, outside the CFC, in support of victims in cases of emergencies and disasters. Emergencies and disasters are defined as any hurricane, tornado storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophes in any part of the world. Any special solicitations will be managed through a Disaster Relief Program developed by OPM.”
What health and human welfare needs can be met as a result of this CFC Special Solicitation?
The COVID-19 global pandemic has put a strain on resources everywhere: medical, financial, educational, emotional, social, and more. Nonprofit organizations also feel these burdens. They face increased demand for their services and are often on the front lines responding to needs, but they struggle with reduced resources due to limited donations and canceled fundraising events. The urgency to support charitable services could not be more real! In the weeks and months ahead, the supplemental gifts through the CFC Special Solicitation will provide additional capacity to approved charities to deliver vital services. The people helped will include healthcare workers on the front line, children who depend on their school’s meal programs, furloughed employees and small businesses impacted by the temporary loss of income, and so much more.

CFC contributions have never been more critical to our charitable community and populations served, as contributions raised through the CFC are unrestricted funds, allowing charities to do what they do best.

Where can donors go if they have additional questions about the CFC Special Solicitation?
The CCA call center support will service donor calls during the special solicitation at 800-797-0098 (8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST). Please note that the call center is operating remotely while the state of Wisconsin continues a shelter-in-place order.

How can I use the CFC Giving Mobile App to make my pledge?
During the CFC Special Solicitation, you can make one-time credit card and bank account donations using the CFC Giving Mobile App. Please use instructions provided here to pledge using the CFC Giving Mobile App.

What is the pledge period for recurring pledges during the CFC Special Solicitation?
Any recurring pledges made during the CFC Special Solicitation will commence after the pledge is “submitted” via cfcgiving.opm.gov and sent to the bank, credit card company or payroll service provider. The final recurring pledge installment will be January 15, 2021. New Payroll Deduction pledges will end during the pay period that includes January 15, 2021.