

2008
Commonwealth of Virginia
Campaign

**Guide for
Charities**

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

All new CVC charities should review our website at www.cvc.vipnet.org and click on the CHARITIES tab.

If you are a **returning charity**, please review the following as the Advisory Board has made several policy additions and modifications.

ORIENTATION

Take a few minutes to tour the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) website at www.cvc.vipnet.org and learn what participation in this campaign means to you. This campaign reaches over 120,000 employees in state government across Virginia and can be an effective way to increase your revenues. Just getting listed in the directory is not enough, however. Unless your charity has great name recognition, you will need to be able to tell your story to touch the hearts of the generous public sector workforce.

Once you have a CVC code (a 4 digit number) and have been accepted into the campaign, be sure to include it on all literature, promotional materials, videos, PSA pieces, and in your workplace or service delivery area. Always talk about your charity's mission – in the elevator, in the grocery store check out line, while pumping gas – because you never know when you may be talking to a state employee!

CVC Solicitation vs. Marketing:

While we want you to “market” your charity, we do not suggest that you go out and directly solicit state workers. Doing so may jeopardize your standing with the CVC. Part of the success of the CVC is that workers are only asked once a year to give to their favorite charities, and do not have to be approached year round.

Charity Fairs:

Secondly, watch for notices of charity fairs in your area. These occur frequently throughout Virginia, usually from September through November each year. You will be contacted via email about events coming up in your region (you indicate your service regions on your application) and the email will go to the administrative contact on your application. Many times space is limited and the places are assigned first-come, first served. Sometimes, all respondents get their name placed in “a hat” and the number of available spots are drawn and awarded that way. Charities who attend a charity fair should bring appropriate print materials, promotional items, charity signs. Federations invited to charity fairs are encouraged to bring items representing their member charities. Please not bring materials that may be interpreted as offensive or inappropriate. Displays will be reviewed for compliance by the charity fair coordinator prior to opening the fair.

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

No Shows: Charities who have signed up for an event but are unable to attend are required to notify to event organizer at least 24 hours before the event. If a charity develops a pattern of signing up but not showing up to their events, they will be asked to sit out of any additional activities for the duration of the campaign.

Charity Speaker Events:

Third, some state agencies look for speakers – people who will come to their workplace and give a brief talk about how CVC money helps them deliver stories. People love to hear success stories.

Online Marketing:

Fourth, each summer we ask for photos and brief stories to add to our website. These rotate and older stories are archived. You will be notified via email when it is time to submit stories. Pictures must be in JPG format, and stories should be in MS Word, not longer than 250 words. (During the campaign, stories will rotate more frequently)

Now let's take a look at what is required to be a member of the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.

CHARITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for participation in the CVC, each charity must:

1. Be approved by the **IRS** as a 501(c)3 Charity or, in the case of volunteer fire departments, a 501(c)4 charity. To start the process to gain this status, go to <http://www.irs.gov/charities/index.html> for forms and instructions. It can take up to 2 years to gain IRS approval, so start early.
2. Be registered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (**VDACS**) as a charity authorized to solicit funds in Virginia. For more information, forms, and helpful links and resources, go to <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/registrations.shtml>. Depending on the type of charity, you may be exempt from annual registration or may have to register each year. You must get an initial determination from VDACS and register according to your determination letter.
3. Most charities have to file and **IRS form I-990** each year. You will need a copy of your most recent I990 (start at <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=181089,00.html> or complete a

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

CVC Worksheet.

4. All charities must undergo an audit at least every 24 months.(proposed)
5. Complete a CVC application **EVERY YEAR!** While certain *VDACS* registrations may not require renewal each year, the CVC application must be re-entered each year. The application is on-line and may be located at <http://www.cvc.vipnet.org/charities.htm> and clicking on "Application".

You will need a copy of your I-990, your CVC code (stays the same unless you leave the campaign for more than two years) and a PIN number. PIN numbers may be requested in late February each year. The application is available March 1 through April 30th ONLY each year. For assistance with a PIN number or entering your application during this period, email us at CVCStaff@DHRM.Virginia.gov. Applications are only accepted in electronic format.

Additional help on completing an application is found at the end of this publication.

6. Complete an **Electronic Business agreement**. Download it from <http://www.cvc.vipnet.org/charities/electbusagree.pdf> then print a copy. Sign it and mail it to the address on the form. This is the only paper document that we require. Charities need to complete it anytime there is a change in their CEO or CFO staff.
7. Maintain **financial responsibility** by having an expense ratio (based on I-990 figures) of 25% or less. Any charity admitted to the CVC who has a subsequent increase of expenses to over 25% will be asked to sit out the campaign for a year. Appeals may be made for extenuating, one-time occurrences. If an appeal is granted, a one-time, one-year exemption *may* be granted at the discretion of the CVC Advisory Council. It is at the discretion of the advisory council to offer exemptions on an exception basis or to grant no exemptions at all. If the expenses do not drop to 25% or less in the year following the exemption, the charity will be asked to sit out the campaign for two (2) campaign years.
8. Because of the volume of charity applications (over 1600 a year) and the difficulty for employees to locate a specific charity among such large listings, charities must receive \$750 or more in a campaign in direct designations to remain in the campaign the following year. First-year charities must meet a minimum of \$250.00 the first year and \$750 each

New this
year →

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

year thereafter. Charities who do not meet this requirement will be asked to sit out of the campaign one (1) year.

9. Charities may apply as **independent/unaffiliated charities** or as a **member of a federation** (such as a United Way, Earth Share, Global Impact and many others). Charities who apply through a United Way or other federation must discuss application protocol with their federation liaison. Many federations apply on behalf of the individual charities using information submitted for the federation's campaign.
10. Charities applying as independent/unaffiliated charities and all federations applying on their own behalf and/or on behalf of their member charities must obtain a **PIN number** in late February for use in their electronic application process. PINs for existing federations and independent/unaffiliated charities are sent in late February.

Those charities who have not received a PIN by March 1 should write to CVCStaff@dhrm.virginia.org requesting a new PIN. PIN codes change every year, while CVC charity codes remain the same unless a charity drops out of the campaign for more than two full years.

11. All charities that complete applications by April 30th will be notified by mail or email of the status of their application by May 15th.
12. In the event that your charity application was rejected for incompleteness, excessive expenses, or less than required designations from the previous year's campaign, charities may submit an appeal of not more than 250 words, via email, within 15 days of the notice of rejection. Appeals should be sent via email to CVCStaff@cvc.vipnet.org. Appeals made on the basis of the rising cost of anything from gasoline, food, taxes, etc. will not be considered. Since the CVC does not have requirements related to the mission or activities of a charity, the financial requirements will be enforced.

VISIT the website at www.cvc.vipnet.org or email us at CVCStaff@dhrm.virginia.gov if you need more information.

Clarified
info on
Appeals
→

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

APPLICATION PROCESS TIPS

Before you start your application – have the following information ready:

1. Your most recent I-990
2. The date of your last audit
3. Your VDACS registration approval letter
4. Email, phone number, fax number, mailing address, and web address information for key contacts
5. Any changes in your mission statement. You need a 25 words or less “mini” statement that is used on profiles of charities and a longer statement that will be viewable in your application on line, after it has been approved.

To start the application process, go to

<http://www.cvc.vipnet.org/cgi-bin/cvc-welcome.cgi>

Step one of this process is displayed here for reference and appears on the application screen.

Step 1 In order to complete this application, you will need YOUR CVC CODE AND PIN NUMBER, your most recently completed IRS 990 tax form, your Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services registration status, a 25-word mission statement for your organization and some general program information.

All applicants must have 501.c.3 tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), with the exception of volunteer fire or rescue departments, which may be 501.c.4. Charities must be registered with the IRS as a c.3 or a c.4 for at least one year prior to participating in the CVC.

If you are a RETURNING participant, you are assigned a new pin number annually. This number was mailed to you in late February. As a returning participant, you already have an Electronic Business Agreement (EBA) on file with us. Please DO NOT send CVC another EBA unless you have had a change in leadership.

If you are a NEW applicant filing with us for the first time, you will need to be assigned a CVC code and pin number in order to access this application. If you have not received these numbers, please contact the CVC at CVCstaff@dhrm.virginia.gov. All NEW applicants must submit a completed [Electronic Business Agreement](#) (EBA), signed by the Chief Executive Officer, no later than April 30. All applicants that have not submitted the required EBA by April 30 will be rejected.

All applicants are responsible for submitting an accurate and complete application. Applications with incomplete fields or inaccurate data or statements will be rejected without the right of appeal.

Next, you will be asked to pick your federation status from a drop down box. Once you have made this selection, the information will prefill on your application.

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 2008 Guide for Charities

Step 2 Please select your Federation

Independent/Unaffiliated Charities

(If you do not belong to any Federation, please select Independent/Unaffiliated Charity.)

Then you need to enter your Charity Code and PIN. PINs change every year. Charity codes do not change unless you drop out of the campaign for more than two years.

Step 3 Select one of the following options:



I am a Federation (PIN:)



I am an Independent/Unaffiliated Charity (CVC Code: PIN:)

Click on the appropriate dot and indicate your charity's or federation's PIN *or* your CVC code and PIN as requested.

Then move on to the main application.

Complete each field, being careful to enter your charity name the way it should appear in our campaign directory. The system will take you to another screen if you have had an application in the *past two years*. If there is an application, you will be able to select the most recent version (if more than one is displayed) and select it. This returns you to the main application screen and pre-fills much of the information for you. Be sure to complete the email addresses as these are not pre-filled and to make any changes of address or phone contacts. The administrative email address is what the CVC uses to contact you.

When you get to the VDACS information, the system will take you to another screen to select your VDACS name. This updates against the VDACS database. If you have not yet filed with VDACS, you may enter PENDING but it must be complete before the beginning of the campaign (October 1) to stay in the campaign.

Management Expense, Fund Raising Costs, and Total Revenue should be pulled from your most recent I-990 or CVC Financial Worksheet.

When you complete the application, hit the SUBMIT button. Until you release the application, it is in UNSENT mode, and we cannot view it, approve it, or process it. UNSENT applications at the end of the application period are deleted by the system.

If you have questions concerning the application and data entry, please email us at CVCStaff@dhrm.virginia.gov.