

EXECUTIVE BRANCH CODE OF ETHICS

Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign

IN GENERAL:

The Executive Branch Code of Ethics, which applies to all employees of the executive branch of state government, prohibits you from soliciting or accepting gifts or donations from a person or business that does business with, is regulated by, seeks grants from, is involved in litigation against, lobbies or attempts to influence the actions of your agency

THE EXCEPTION:

However, the legislature created an exception to this general rule in 2002, which allows you and your agency to raise funds for charitable nonprofit organizations granted a tax exemption by the IRS under Section 501c of the Internal Revenue Code. See KRS 11A.055(1). The Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC) is such an organization.

Raising funds for charitable purposes includes, but is not limited to, holding events for the benefit of the charitable organization, contacting potential donors, providing prizes, and engaging in other forms of fundraising and providing the funds raised to the charitable organization.

What this means for KECC is that you may solicit donations from any person or business regardless of that person's or business's relationship to your agency. It does not matter whether the person or business is doing business with or is regulated by your agency.

When soliciting funds for KECC, you should keep in mind that:

- All funds donated as a result of such solicitation **must** be provided directly to KECC.
- Public acknowledgement of a corporate donor to KECC is **not** permissible if the acknowledgment appears to be an endorsement of the donor by the state.
 - No "active" acknowledgments, such as public statements in the newspaper or television, are permitted.
 - No acknowledgments that would favor one KECC donor over another are permitted.
 - "Static" acknowledgments of a donation, for example the placement of a sign or marker at an event, the printing of co-sponsors of an event on the back of t-shirts, are permissible, so long as they merely acknowledge the sponsorship (that is, the acknowledgments must be such that they do not serve as advertisements on behalf of the donors).
- The appearance of impropriety may still exist even if the Code of Ethics permits such solicitation. You should remain mindful of conflicts of interest when conducting fundraising activities for KECC.

Any questions regarding the Executive Branch Code of Ethics and fundraising activities on behalf of KECC should be directed to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission at 502-564-7954.

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