

Grantmaking Due Diligence Policy

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I. Overview

It is the policy of Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc. (Foundation) to perform due diligence procedures on each grant made by the Foundation including grants made from a donor-advised fund (DAF) in response to a grant recommendation from a DAF's Grant Advisor. The Foundation only makes grants to organizations in accordance with this policy. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals. In accordance with this policy, the Foundation exercises full authority and control over the making of every donoradvised fund grant. This policy is designed to ensure that each grant recipient organization is qualified to receive a grant including grants connected with a specific DAF and that the grant is not made for a disqualifying charitable purpose.

In general, the Foundation's policies and procedures for grant due diligence are designed to assess the risk associated with: 1) the identity of the grant recipient; 2) the amount of a proposed grant; and 3) the charitable purpose of a proposed grant.

A. Identity of Grant Recipient

The Foundation implements a risk-based approach to determine the type and degree of grantmaking due diligence to perform for each grant recipient. The Foundation's risk-based approach distinguishes between U.S. charities that selfidentify that their activities are predominantly U.S.-based, U.S. charities that selfidentify that their activities are predominantly to pass-through to foreign based charities and foreign based charities.

Grant recipients may be disqualified for a number of reasons. Examples of disqualified grant recipients include non-501(c)(3) exempt organizations, private non-operating foundations, Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations, organizations that are not yet recognized by the IRS, organizations that otherwise fail the Foundation's due diligence procedures and organizations that appear on a watchlist such as the list of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) maintained by the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC).

In furtherance of this objective, the Foundation relies on GuideStar and its Charity Check™ service as the cornerstone of its identity due diligence procedures. Such reliance is consistent with the guidance provided in IRS Notice 2006-109 (51 I.R.B. 1121) as revised by Revenue Procedure 2009-32. Where GuideStar does not provide adequate information about a potential grant recipient, the Foundation requires additional procedures to be performed consistent with its risk-based approach. See Appendix A for the Foundation's Grantmaking Due Diligence Risk-Based Matrix.

B. Amount of the Grant

During 2022, the Foundation granted more than \$490 million spread across more than 121,000 grants to over 41,000 charities with an average grant amount of \$4,024 and a median grant amount of \$500. If an individual grant is over \$500,000, the Foundation's policies require that one of the Foundation's officers personally review the grant due diligence paperwork for that grant and personally authorize the grant.

C. Charitable Purpose of the Grant

The Foundation implements procedures designed to ensure that no grant is made for a disqualifying charitable purpose. The Foundation implements these procedures in order to maintain its exempt status as a charitable sponsor of donor advised funds and to avoid the imposition of excise taxes on the Foundation, its officers and Grant Advisors.

Grants may be made anonymously, in honor or in memory of a loved one or to support specific programs maintained by a qualified charity. However, grants may not be made in a fashion that benefits a Grant Advisor or related person such as a family member; pay for dues, membership fees, tuition, goods from a charitable auction or other goods and services; or support a political campaign or lobbying activity. In addition, the Foundation does not reimburse disqualified persons for expenditures made on behalf of a donor-advised fund.

Pledges. When recommending any grant, the Grant Advisor is required to notify the Foundation whether or not such grant is pursuant to a pledge. The Foundation does pay nonbinding pledges from its DAFs. The Foundation also pays binding pledges but only when the Foundation has previously agreed with the recipient organization to pay such binding pledge. If the Foundation was not previously obligated to pay a binding pledge (e.g., only the Grant Advisor or some other person is bound by the pledge), the Foundation will only pay such grants for a binding pledge from a DAF when each of the following characteristics apply:

1. The Foundation's grant letter may not refer to the existence of the pledge.
2. The Grant Advisor and any other related person cannot receive any benefit that is more than incidental due to the DAF's grant.
3. The Grant Advisor and any other related person cannot claim a charitable deduction by virtue of the DAF's grant.

Because of the above restrictions which are required under IRS Notice 2017-73, the Foundation strongly recommends that if Grant Advisors want a DAF to pay a pledge that is binding on a party other than the Foundation, then the Grant Advisor should discuss with the Foundation how the Foundation can be the party bound by the pledge.

When a Grant Advisor recommends a grant, the Grant Advisor certifies in writing that the grant is not for a disqualifying purpose. Further, the Foundation reviews each grant's charitable purpose as one of several items in its grantmaking due diligence procedures.

II. Regulatory Environment

A. Federal Charitable Statutes and Regulations

The Foundation makes grants to qualifying organizations described in IRC §170(c)(2)(B) and IRC §501(c)(3). However, the Foundation does not make grants to private non-operating foundations or non-functionally integrated supporting organizations.

The Foundation does not make taxable distributions as defined in IRC §4966(c). As such, the Foundation does not make grants to individuals nor does the Foundation make grants to organizations for a purpose not described in IRC §170(c)(2)(B) unless the grant is made subject to either equivalency determination or the expenditure responsibility requirements of IRC §4945(h).

In accordance with IRC §4967, the Foundation does not make payments to any person listed in IRC §4958(f)(7) that would be considered a prohibited benefit.

The Foundation implements these safeguards in order to maintain its exempt status as a Sponsoring Charity of donor-advised funds and to avoid the imposition of excise taxes on the Foundation, its officers and Grant Advisors.

B. Anti-Money Laundering / USA Patriot Act

To assist grantmaking charities with compliance with Anti-Money Laundering statutes and the USA Patriot Act, the Treasury Department issued *Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices For U.S.-Based Charities (Voluntary Best Practices)* in December of 2005.

In Section I of the Voluntary Best Practices, Treasury states:

The Guidelines are designed to **enhance awareness** in the donor and charitable communities of the **kinds of practices that charities** may adopt to reduce the risk of terrorist financing or abuse. **These Guidelines are voluntary** and do not create, supersede, or modify current or future legal requirements applicable to U.S. persons, including U.S. non-profit institutions. . . . Rather, the Guidelines are intended to assist charities in developing, re-evaluating, or strengthening a riskbased approach to guard against the threat of diversion of charitable funds or exploitation of charitable activity by terrorist organizations and their support networks.

In addition, these Guidelines are intended to assist charities in understanding and facilitating compliance with preexisting U.S. legal requirements related to combating terrorist financing, which include, but are not limited to, various sanctions programs administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"). [Emphasis added].

Historically, Treasury had focused its regulatory attention on financial institutions. However, as highlighted above, with regard to charitable organizations, Treasury has chosen to issue only voluntary guidance to assist a charity to develop a risk-based approach to Patriot Act compliant grantmaking.

While Treasury's guidelines are voluntary, Section VI of the *Voluntary Best Practices* contains recommended practices that charities may consider before making a charitable grant. The Foundation has developed its Grantmaking Due Diligence Risk-Based Matrix (See Appendix A) based on these Voluntary Best Practices.

The Foundation vets its own officers and directors against the OFAC SDN list when appointed. Because of the large number of U.S. based accounts opened with U.S. financial institutions each year, the authorized signers of the Foundation are subject to frequent Know Your Client / Patriot Act reviews by these institutions.

If the Foundation uncovers an organization or other party that is suspected of activity relating to terrorism the Foundation will take appropriate due diligence steps to determine if the match is valid. These steps may include the steps and further guidance available on OFAC's Web site at www.treasury.gov/Resource-Center/faqs/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx.

The Foundation will report to the proper authorities any suspicious activity relating to terrorism.

III. Grantmaking Due Diligence Framework

A. Grant Recipient Risk-Based Segments

The Foundation has segmented the charitable grant recipient market into the following risk-related segments listed in increasing order of assessed risk:

U.S.-Based, Registered Charities – This group is comprised of U.S. charities registered with the IRS whose activities are predominantly U.S. based. Examples of these charities include organizations such as the United Way, The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, art museums and zoos. While private non-operating foundations and Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations technically fall within this category, they are disqualified from receiving grants.

U.S.-Based, Non-Registered Charities – This group is comprised of U.S. charities that are NOT registered with the IRS whose activities are predominantly U.S. based. Examples of these charities include most churches, temples and other houses of worship, state and federal government entities, such as towns and police departments, and may also include some charities that have not yet been recognized by the IRS as a charity.

U.S.-Based, Registered "Friends of" Charities – This group is comprised of U.S. "Friends of" charities that are registered with the IRS, but serve as intermediaries to a limited set of pre-identified foreign charities that were the subject of their exempt organization application. Examples of these charities include American Friends of University College Oxford, Friends of Fondation de France Inc. and Friends of the Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information. Often, these U.S.-based, registered charities support one foreign charitable institution or charitable programs in a limited geographic region. In this market segment, the Foundation relies on the internal grantmaking due diligence procedures of the grant recipient charities.

U.S.-Based, Registered "Conduit" Charities – U.S. charities registered with the IRS that serve as intermediaries to a wide range of foreign charities under their own due diligence policies and procedures. Examples of

these charities include Doctors Without Borders USA, International Rescue Committee, Give2Asia, United Way International, Charities Aid Foundation America and King Baudouin Foundation US. Often, these charities support multiple foreign charities and charitable programs in a large geographic region. In this market segment, the Foundation relies on the internal grantmaking due diligence procedures of the grant recipient charities.

Foreign Charities Not Registered with the IRS – The Foundation assigns its highest risk assessment to foreign charities that are not registered with the IRS.

Historically, in excess of 98% of the Foundation's annual grant recipients fit in the first two market segments. In recent years, the Foundation has made charitable grants to organizations located in Canada, Mexico, Germany, UK, South Africa and Australia.

B. Reliance on GuideStar (including Charity Check™)

The Foundation makes extensive use of GuideStar's Charity Check™ service to vet grant recipients. The Foundation has determined that its GuideStar due diligence procedures provide adequate risk mitigation for more than 98% of its grants made each year. GuideStar's Charity Check™ report:

- Verifies that a charity is included in the IRS's Business Master File,
- Verifies that a charity is included in IRS Publication 78,
- Incorporates weekly updates from the Internal Revenue Bulletin,
- Identifies the charity's public charity classification as reported by the IRS,
- Identifies whether the charity is classified as an IRC §509(a)(3) supporting organization, and
- Includes the result of GuideStar's OFAC verification.

C. Churches, Governmental Units and Other Qualified U.S. Charities Not Found in GuideStar

Certain otherwise qualifying U.S. charities do not appear in GuideStar, either because they are not required to register with the IRS or because their registrations are in process. Where this is the case, it is the Foundation's policy to conduct an increased level of scrutiny before approving or denying a proposed grant.

1. Churches

Most churches choose to not register with the IRS and therefore are not listed in the GuideStar database. Nevertheless, churches are generally qualified as a permissible charitable grant recipient under IRC §§170(c)(2)(B) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i). When a church is the proposed grant recipient and is not listed in the GuideStar database, the Foundation performs reasonable additional procedures. These procedures may include research of the church's internet website, finding the church on a third-party authored directory or registry of churches and obtaining documentation directly from the church.

The Foundation's procedures are designed to substantiate that the organization qualifies as a church under the Internal Revenue Code. In Publication 1828, the IRS published a number of criteria that characterize a church:

Certain characteristics are generally attributed to churches. These attributes of a church have been developed by the IRS and by court decisions. They include: distinct legal existence; recognized creed and form of worship; definite and distinct ecclesiastical government; formal code of doctrine and discipline; distinct religious history; membership not associated with any other church or denomination; organization of ordained ministers; ordained ministers selected after completing prescribed courses of study; literature of its own; established places of worship; regular congregations; regular religious services; Sunday schools for the religious instruction of the young; schools for the preparation of its ministers. The IRS generally uses a combination of these characteristics, together with other facts and circumstances, to determine whether an organization is considered a church for federal tax purposes.

It is not required that an organization have all of these characteristics in order to be classified as a church.

2. Governmental Units

Governmental units do not register with the IRS and therefore are rarely listed in the GuideStar database. Nevertheless, governmental units are generally qualified as a permissible charitable grant recipient under IRC §§170(c)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(v). When a governmental unit is the proposed grant recipient and is not listed in the GuideStar database, the Foundation performs reasonable additional procedures. These procedures may include contacting the governmental unit directly to obtain written confirmation signed by an official (e.g., City Attorney or County Clerk) on official letterhead substantiating that the recipient entity is a State, possession of the U.S. or political subdivision of these.

3. Other Qualified U.S. Charities Not Found in GuideStar

The Foundation's policy is generally to prohibit grants to organizations that are not listed in the GuideStar database (other than churches or governmental units). However, in rare cases the Foundation may choose to make such a grant under the expenditure responsibility exception of IRC §4966(c)(1)(B)(ii) or upon the Foundation's determination that the organization is eligible to receive charitable grants and will use the awarded grant funds for one or more charitable purposes.

D. International Purpose Grants to “Friends of” and “Conduit” Organizations

These types of organizations appear in the GuideStar database. However, the international purpose of such grants requires an additional level of scrutiny. Once the Foundation has verified the organization's suitability for the charitable purpose of the proposed grant and qualified charity status (e.g., via GuideStar), the Foundation next focuses on the recipient organization's reputation and grantmaking due diligence procedures. If, in the Foundation's judgment, the organization acts appropriately to mitigate risk, then a proposed grant that otherwise meets the Foundation's grantmaking criteria may be approved for payment.

E. Grants to Foreign Organizations that are Not Registered with the IRS

Grants to foreign organizations that are not registered with the IRS are deemed high risk (see Appendix A) and require significant additional procedures to ensure to the Foundation's reasonable belief that the organization is either equivalent to a U.S. Charity or that the organization agrees to report its use of the grant funds under expen-

diture responsibility. Chief among these procedures are those *Voluntary Best Practices* that seek to ensure that the potential grant recipient organization will not divert the grant to non-charitable purposes or utilize the grant for terrorist activities.

In addition to the best practices adopted by the Foundation from the Treasury's *Voluntary Best Practices*, such grants are also subject to expenditure responsibility under IRC §4945(h). Expenditure responsibility generally requires:

1. That the Foundation conduct a pre-grant inquiry to determine whether the proposed grant recipient is reasonably likely to use the grant for the specified purposes.
2. That the Foundation and grant recipient sign a written grant agreement with specific terms required by law.
3. That the grant recipient maintain the grant funds in a separate account on the grant recipient's books.
4. That the grant recipient report to the Foundation, in writing, not less than once each calendar year during the term of the grant, explaining how it used the funds and describing its compliance with the grant terms and its progress toward the grant purposes.

The Foundation makes grants directly to qualified foreign grant recipients subject to each of the following parameters:

- None of the foreign grant recipient's key officers or directors are listed in the OFAC or similar databases that are intended to identify terrorists. The Foundation contracts with a vendor to perform this database search.
- The foreign grant recipient must cooperate with the Foundation's expenditure responsibility and/or equivalency determination reporting requirements.
- The foreign grant recipient must provide information to the Foundation regarding its management structure, sources and use of money and charitable programs.
- The foreign grant recipient must be operated in a business-like manner.
- A special fee will be charged by the Foundation based on the complexity of the grant and the number of hours the Foundation expects to spend to exercise expenditure responsibility oversight and/or equivalency determination and implement necessary follow-up reporting about the grant.
- Costs associated with grants to an international organization must be borne by the DAF from which the grant is to be made. The Foundation anticipates that the fees and costs associated with a typical grant to a foreign grant recipient will be approximately \$4,000 when the due diligence process runs efficiently.
- The Foundation's minimum grant amount to a foreign organization that is not registered with the IRS is \$50,000, exclusive of associated costs.

F. Other Considerations

The Foundation recognizes that reliance on lists and other parties does not constitute the full spectrum of potential due diligence procedures. Therefore, the Foundation encourages its officers, directors, employees, agents and Grant Advisors to be generally aware of the environment in which the Foundation and its grant recipients operate.

To this end, Foundation staff are regularly encouraged to:

- Pay attention to media reports of activities of various organizations and governments both in the U.S. and abroad;
- Participate in industry trade groups in order to receive input from other grantmakers and regulatory authorities; and
- Be aware of pronouncements by governmental agencies that bear on the Foundation's grantmaking activities.

Grantmaking Due Diligence

Risk-Based Matrix

The following risk assessment matrix is derived from the Treasury Department's *Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices For U.S.-Based Charities* published in December of 2005. The matrix focuses on Sections VI-A and VI-B related to the vetting of grant recipient organizations and their personnel.

In developing the matrix, the Foundation has assigned a risk level to each recommended practice. The purpose of this risk level assignment is to assess the necessity of implementing the practice in order to mitigate risk. The assignments are made across identified market segments. Therefore, a practice that is of nominal value in one market segment may be of highest importance in another. The Foundation's decision to implement or not implement a particular practice for a particular market segment reflects the Foundation's assessment of the contribution of that practice to risk mitigation in that market segment.

A decision to make a grant is based upon a comprehensive assessment of all relevant risk factors. Risk factors are not weighted equally. Therefore, failure to satisfy one or more risk factors is not necessarily conclusive as to whether a grant will be made or denied. At the same time, a failure of any single risk factor could be sufficient to prohibit the grant. Given the penalties associated with inappropriate grantmaking, it is the Foundation's policy to err on the side of caution and work with Grant Advisors to seek alternatives when a grant is proposed for a charity which the Foundation determines presents an unacceptable level of risk.

Risk Categories

The Foundation has chosen to assign risk levels of "Low Risk", "Moderate Risk" or "High Risk" to each recommended practice. In designating a practice as "Low Risk," the Foundation considers the degree to which a particular market segment is regulated by U.S. government agencies such as the IRS, the high probability that a particular market segment participates in the U.S. financial system through banking and investment relationships, the high probability that the market segment utilizes U.S. governance practices and the high probability that a market segment's activities are primarily conducted in the U.S. or its territories. An assignment of "Low Risk" generally implies that the Foundation's reliance on the GuideStar Charity Check™ service is appropriate and sufficient.

An assignment of "Moderate Risk" is warranted where regulation by U.S. government agencies is absent, but there is a high probability that a particular market segment participates in the U.S. financial system through banking and investment relationships, a high probability that the market segment utilizes U.S. governance practices and a high probability that a market segment's activities are primarily conducted in the U.S. or its territories. Under these circumstances, the Foundation requires that the proposed grant recipient satisfy additional procedures.

An assignment of "High Risk" is warranted where there is little or no regulation by U.S. government agencies, the market segment does not participate in the U.S. financial system and the activities of the market segment are largely conducted outside the U.S. In this case, the Foundation requires the exercise of equivalency determination or expenditure responsibility (as defined in IRC §4945(h)) before approving and honoring a proposed grant request.

Voluntary Best Practices

Risk Assignment Matrix

The Foundation Conducts Basic Information About Proposed Grant Recipients

	U.S.-Based, Registered Charities	U.S.-Based, Non-Registered Charities	Foreign Grants		
			U.S.-Based, Registered "Friends of" Charities	U.S.-Based, Registered "Conduit" Charities	Foreign Charities Whether Registered with IRS or Not
1. The grantee's name in English, in the language of origin and any acronym or other names used to identify the grantee.	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	High Risk
2. The jurisdictions in which a grantee maintains a physical presence.	Low Risk	Low Risk for churches and governmental agencies High Risk for new unregistered charities	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
3. Any reasonably available historical information about the grantee that assures the Foundation of the grantee's identity and integrity, including: (i) the jurisdiction in which a grantee organization is incorporated or formed; (ii) copies of incorporating or other governing instruments; (iii) information on the individuals who formed and operate the organization; and (iv) information relating to the grantee's operating history.	Low Risk	Low Risk for governmental agencies Moderate Risk for churches High Risk for new unregistered charities	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
4. The available postal, email and URL addresses and phone number of each place of business of a grantee.	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk

	U.S.-Based, Registered Charities	U.S.-Based, Non-Registered Charities	Foreign Grants		
			U.S.-Based, Registered "Friends of" Charities	U.S.-Based, Registered "Conduit" Charities	Foreign Charities Whether Registered with IRS or Not
5. A statement of the principal purpose of the grantee, including a detailed report of the grantee's projects and goals.	Low Risk	Low Risk for churches and governmental agencies High Risk for new unregistered charities	Low Risk	Low Risk	High Risk
6. The names and available postal, email and URL addresses of individuals, entities or organizations to which the grantee currently provides or proposes to provide funding, services or material support, to the extent reasonably discoverable.	Low Risk	Low Risk for churches and governmental agencies High Risk for new unregistered charities	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
7. The names and available postal, email and URL addresses of any subcontracting organizations utilized by the grantee.	Low Risk	Low Risk for churches and governmental agencies Moderate Risk for new unregistered charities	Low Risk	Low Risk	High Risk
8. Copies of any public filings or releases made by the grantee, including the most recent official registry documents, annual reports and annual filings with the pertinent government, as applicable.	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	High Risk
9. The grantee's sources of income, such as official grants, private endowments and commercial activities.	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	High Risk

The Foundation Conducts Basic Vetting of Proposed Grant Recipients

	U.S.-Based, Registered Charities	U.S.-Based, Non-Registered Charities	Foreign Grants		
			U.S.-Based, Registered "Friends of" Charities	U.S.-Based, Registered "Conduit" Charities	Foreign Charities Whether Registered with IRS or Not
<p>1. The Foundation conducts a reasonable search of publicly available information to determine whether the grantee is suspected of activity relating to terrorism, including terrorist financing or other support. The Foundation does not enter into a relationship with a grantee where any terrorist-related suspicions exist.</p>	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<p>2. The Foundation assures itself that grantees do not appear on OFAC's master list of Specially Designated Nationals (the "SDN List"), maintained on OFAC's website at www.treasury.gov/resourcecenter/sanctions/SDNList/Pages/default.aspx and are not otherwise subject to OFAC sanctions. The Foundation may search other similar databases as well.</p>	Low Risk	Low Risk for governmental entities Moderate Risk for churches High Risk for all others	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<p>3. With respect to key employees, members of the governing board or other senior management at a grantee's principal place of business and for key employees at the grantee's other business locations, the Foundation, to the extent reasonable, obtains the full name in English, in the language of origin and any acronym or other names used; nationality; citizenship; current country of residence; and place and date of birth. The Foundation assures itself that none of these individuals is subject to OFAC sanctions.</p>	Low Risk	Low Risk for governmental entities Moderate Risk for churches High Risk for all others	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk

	U.S.-Based, Registered Charities	U.S.-Based, Non-Registered Charities	Foreign Grants		
			U.S.-Based, Registered "Friends of" Charities	U.S.-Based, Registered "Conduit" Charities	Foreign Charities Whether Registered with IRS or Not
<p>4. The Foundation is aware that other nations may have their own lists of designated terrorist-related individuals, entities or organizations pursuant to national obligations arising from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).</p>	Low Risk	Low Risk for governmental entities Moderate Risk for churches High Risk for all others	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<p>5. With respect to the key employees, members of the governing board or other senior management described in the preceding paragraph, the Foundation also considers consulting publicly available information to ensure that such parties are not reasonably suspected of activity relating to terrorism, including terrorist financing or other support.</p>	Low Risk	Low Risk for governmental entities Moderate Risk for churches High Risk for all others	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<p>6. As a pre-condition to the issuance of a charitable grant, the Foundation requires grantees to certify that they are in compliance with all laws, statutes and regulations restricting U.S. persons from dealing with any individuals, entities or groups subject to OFAC sanctions, or, in the case of foreign grantees, that they do not deal with any individuals, entities or groups subject to OFAC sanctions or any other persons known to the foreign grantee to support terrorism or to have violated OFAC sanctions.</p>	Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk