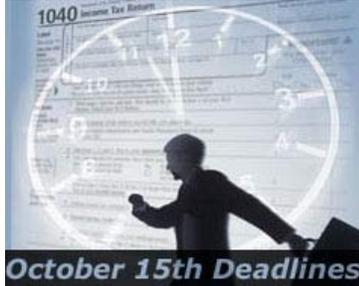


Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers/taxpayers

Customize and provide the following article on your website to help individuals and families help spread the word in their local charities stay tax-exempt.



Help your favorite local charities stay tax-exempt

You can help your favorite local charities or non-profit organizations, by telling them about a new law that may affect their exemption from paying federal income taxes.

A few years ago, Congress passed a law requiring all tax-exempt organizations, even the smallest ones, to file an annual return with the Internal Revenue Service. Any organization that does not file for three consecutive years automatically loses its federal tax exemption. Churches and some church-related organizations are among the few exceptions.

The first three-year deadline for filing those returns was May 17, 2010. While thousands of organizations did file, a significant number did not.

The IRS recognizes the value these local organizations give to their communities, so it extended the filing deadline to **October 15, 2010**. It also published a list with the names and last known addresses of organizations that are at risk of losing their tax-exempt status. "The last thing we want to do here at the IRS is have these groups lose their tax-exempt status because they haven't filed a short, simple form," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

The smallest organizations, with less than \$25,000 annual receipts, should file a [990-N \(ePostcard\)](#). The ePostcard asks only eight questions and is filled out and sent using the Internet. Larger organizations eligible to file the 990-EZ must file their past due returns by October 15 and pay a compliance fee.

You can help by checking the At-risk List or telling the local organization about the list. The list and information on keeping tax-exempt status are at www.irs.gov/charities.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are more information and links to IRS.gov on staying tax exempt.

- [One-time filing relief for small exempt organizations](#)
- Click [here](#) for information on filing your electronic **Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**
- [Frequently asked questions](#) on the automatic revocation of tax-exempt status for failure to file annual return or notice
- Widget for your website - [When Charities Lose, Everybody Loses](#)