

## Giving Hearts Day 2026 Eligibility Criteria

Giving Hearts Day (GHD) has become a social movement and wellspring of generosity throughout North Dakota and northwest Minnesota by creating an annual day for charities to collect not only donations but also goods and pledges for volunteers. Having a sound set of policies and criteria is important in helping to grow Giving Hearts Day not only in terms of funds raised but also in terms of cultivating a sense of confidence and support from the community. Below are two Giving Hearts Day 2026 eligibility checklists for all participating nonprofits. We encourage you to reach out to [GHDInfo@dakmed.org](mailto:GHDInfo@dakmed.org) with any questions regarding your organization's eligibility or expectations. The team would be happy to discuss what it means to be a successful Giving Hearts Day Charity.

### Participation Checklist (required)

- Be a 501(c)(3) **IRS tax-exempt** organization in good standing
- Complete a **GHD application** by the deadline of Friday, Aug. 15, 2025
- Review and sign off on the Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) Giving Hearts Day Policies as part of the application process
- Have an active **Giving Hearts Day Subscription** (\$825 must be fully paid by Aug. 29, 2025)

### Participation Checklist (recommended)

*Please note that meeting all eligibility criteria does not automatically guarantee acceptance, and missing any single criterion is not always an automatic disqualifier, exceptions may apply.*

- A High Impact nonprofit organization should have the following in place to ensure maximum effectiveness:
  - Annual board of directors review of your organization's strategic and/or operating plan
  - Annual executive director performance review
  - Regular review of the organization's budget and financials by the board of directors
  - Annual independent financial audit performed and available for public inspection
  - Maintenance and operation of bylaws and articles of incorporation
- Have a **significant local presence**, active programming within North Dakota and/or northwest Minnesota, local governing control, and attest that 100 percent of the money raised will be used locally\*
- Have at least **one paid staff** position
- Have an annual **operating budget of \$100,000 or more**
- Have **raised a minimum of \$3,000** on Giving Hearts Day 2025 (applicable only to returning charities)

### Important Info for Giving Hearts Day 2026

- Each year, GHD grows in size and substance. We strive to offer valuable training and technical assistance while also being able to maintain a personal relationship with all the participating nonprofits. **For us to be able to do this as effectively as possible, all applications must be received by Friday, Aug. 15, 2025.**
- Any new applications or inquiries received after Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, will be added to our contact list for Giving Hearts Day 2027.
- A Giving Hearts Day 2026 Subscription is \$825. That fee will increase to \$925 if received after Friday, August 29, 2025.
- New charities must attend GHD Kickoff Training in person or virtually by August 21, 2025.
- All Giving Hearts Day 2026 participants are required to secure and report a minimum of \$3,000 in self-raised match funding from an external funding source(s) by Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.
- As with any donor, DMF reserves the right to determine how GHD awards and incentive dollars will be used.

*\*Limited exceptions may be made for organizations located in North Dakota or northwest Minnesota that have local governing control but invest their resources outside of this service area.*