



Policy Clarification 2017-03-01

Title: Social Fundraising Accounts (Go Fund Me)

Date: 3/22/2017

From: Allison Miller, Family Medical Policy Manager

Program impacted: All Medical Assistance Programs

What is Go Fund Me?

Go Fund Me is a social fundraising platform that allows people to raise money for events ranging from life events such as celebrations and graduations to challenging circumstances like accidents and illnesses or raising money for a start-up business. There are additional websites that offer services similar to Go Fund Me, though Go Fund Me is the most common. This policy clarification applies to all of these types of fundraising accounts. Listed below are a few additional names of similar companies (this list is not all inclusive):

- You Caring
- Fundly
- Give Forward
- Kickstarter

How do I become aware of this type of income?

A consumer may report it as income or a resource on their application. It also may become known if deposits are seen on a checking/savings account statement. It would **not** be appropriate to inquire on the Go Fund Me website if not already reported by the applicant.

Resource

This type of account is always countable as a resource. Just like with other accounts, such as checking or savings, the amount of the income received in that month shall be deducted from the low balance of the account to determine the countable amount of the resource.

Income

Whether or not this type of account is countable as income is dependent on the purpose and intent of the account. The consumer should be asked to explain the purpose and intent of the account. Self-attestation of the purpose and intent is acceptable. The income shall be treated as Irregular Unearned Income. The income is viewed as belonging to the person it was intended for. So, if the account was created to collect donations on behalf of a sick child, the income is treated as if it belongs to the child, even when deposited into a parental checking account.

- Contributor donates, and doesn't expect to get any benefit from this donation. Examples: sick child or rebuilding after a fire
 - Income for MAGI: Exempt
 - Income for E&D: Countable when in excess of \$50. See KEESM 6410 (26).
- Contributor donates, and expects to receive a service or item in return. Examples: Membership fee or Website fund (a payment is made in order to continue to receive access to a specific website)
 - Income for MAGI: Countable
 - Income for E&D: Countable
- Contributor makes an investment, expects to receive a return on their investment.
 Example: Investment to fund a research project
 - Income for MAGI: Exempt
 - Income for E&D: Exempt

Verification

Verification is required, consistent with how the entity releases their funds to the individual. Each company may have a varied process to pay-out the donations.

Verification of Income

- Verification can be in the form of a statement from the website or the bank account the deposits are made to.
- Verification should be obtained for the last 30 days in order to determine a monthly amount. When multiple statements, showing several months' worth of income are provided, an average should be taken of no more than three months.

Verification of Resources

- Verification can be in the form of a statement from the website or the bank account the deposits are made to.
- Verification should be obtained according to regular resource verification policies.

Additional Information about Go Fund Me accounts:

- Go Fund Me uses a payment service called WePay.
- Withdrawals are made by either electronic deposit into a checking/savings account or by a paper check.
- Electronic deposits will appear as deposits from WePay on the checking/account statement.
- Deposits can be made daily, weekly, or monthly, at the preference of the individual.
- Go Fund Me does not hold the funds in an account.
- The countable resource is determined by any funds which continue to exist in the individual's checking/savings account after the month of receipt, or as cash if they are cashing checks sent by Go Fund Me.

KEES Income Type

Countable and exempt income is required to be entered into KEES. When income verification is not required because the income is exempt, use the self-attested amount.

Use the following codes for this type of income:

- Contributor donates, and doesn't expect to get any benefit from this donation.
 - Income Category: Loans, Gifts, Contributions
 - Income Type: Cash Gifts

- Contributor donates, and expects to receive a service or item in return.
 - Income Category: Miscellaneous
 - Income Type: Other – Countable
- Contributor makes an investment, expects to receive a return on their investment. Example: Investment to fund a research project
 - Income Category: Miscellaneous
 - Income Type: Other – Exempt

When entering in KEES, suggest including an entry in the Description box that indicates the type of income. See screenshot below.

Copy Save and Return Cancel

Income Detail

* Indicates required fields.

Name: [Fetch Information](#)

Category: Type: Frequency:

Description:

Example:

Below is an example of how a Go Fund Me account will appear on an individual’s checking account.

U.S. Bank National Association

Deposits / Credits (continued)

Date	Description of Transaction	Ref Number	Amount
Aug 26	Electronic Deposit REF=162370070387060N00	From DFAS-CLEVELAND FED SALARY3041036004	530.04
Aug 29	Transfer Deposit (Branch)	From 251801295162	225.00
Aug 29	Transfer Deposit (Branch)	From 251801201236	475.00
Aug 29	Transfer Deposit (Branch)	From 251801200972	475.00
Aug 29	Electronic Deposit REF=162420059965070N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	556.52
Aug 31	Electronic Deposit REF=162440069156350N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	96.50
Aug 31	Electronic Deposit REF=162440069156320N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	290.70
Sep 6	Electronic Deposit REF=162500029710520N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	314.07
Sep 7	Electronic Deposit REF=162510081224800N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	96.80
Sep 7	Electronic Deposit REF=162510081224840N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	183.29
Sep 9	Electronic Deposit REF=162510105196580N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	200.08
Sep 13	Electronic Deposit REF=162560158670490N00	From AR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT 1716014466	308.00
Sep 19	Electronic Deposit REF=162630010259760N00	From WePay SV9T WEPAY 1043575881	48.25
Total Deposits / Credits			\$ 3944.60