

**Text of Email Sent by Elizabeth Comeau
PCFO Director, Rhodes Island – S.E. Massachusetts CFC
May 24, 2013**

Greetings to You!

Today I am communicating with you NOT as your CFC Director, but as a colleague (much like many of you), a development officer (or fundraiser).

I didn't make the decision almost 50 years ago to work in the not-for-profit world because of the great pay or benefits, I chose this work because I cared about my community – just like you. We know the rewards of service far outweigh any benefits we might receive working in the private sector.

As a colleague, I ask you to PLEASE review the changes OPM is recommending to the Combined Federal Campaign. Once you do, I have no doubt you will see that these changes will have a devastating impact on our local campaign and campaigns across the country at a time when our charitable organizations need as much help as possible.

Again, I will summarize the changes to which I (and you should) oppose...

- 1) Change Structure of the CFC (Loss of Local Governance)
 - a) Eliminate the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC), Principal Combined Fund Organization (PCFO) or the nonprofit organization hired by the LFCC to manage and administer the local campaign; and Loaned Executives
 - b) Replace LFCC with Regional Coordinating Committees made up of FEB/FEA and/or other federal agencies.
 - c) Replace PCFO with Central Campaign Administrators
- 2) Move to Exclusive Online Giving Campaign with Payroll and Credit Card Donations Only
 - a) Eliminate Paper Pledges, Paper Charity Listings, Cash and Check Donations including Donations from Special Events
 - b) Develop one central website to capture all donations and all charity applications
- 3) Charge Annual, Non-refundable Application Fees to the Charities

If you are NOT concerned about the change in structure/loss of local governance or the exclusive on-line giving campaign (although you should be concerned) since what is being proposed will sterilize the CFC to the point that it becomes an electronic, faceless, campaign that will be largely ignored by charities and the Federal community alike, then you should be concerned about paying an annual, non-refundable “pay to play” fee to apply.

According to OPM they have received few comments thus far, and I am VERY concerned.

I understand... you are all so busy. I understand... many of you do not receive a substantial sum from the CFC. In fact, 85% of the charities that participate in the RI and SEMA CFC receive \$1,000 or less in designations I ask you, though, to think about the community first not your particular organization. In 2012, \$1,054,060 was pledged by Federal donors. Of that amount, \$895,951 (85%) will be disbursed to

charities during 2013 whose designations amounted to \$1,000 or less. So while the loss to your organization might be \$1,000 or less, the loss to our community is HUGE!

Surveys have already been conducted and the results are startling. Many charities have responded indicating that they will not “pay to play” if the changes are implemented. Many federal employees, too, have indicated that they will not contribute if their favorite charities are not participating. Think about the loss to our local and global communities and the people who need the services provided by our CFC-participating charities – like yours.

PLEASE comment. Your voice MUST be heard. Respond to OPM – even an e-mailed or faxed response can be sent.

As noted in the Federal Register, OPM will consider comments received within 60 days from the date of publication of the proposed regulations (**Deadline: June 7, 2013**). You may submit comments, identified by regulation identifier number (RIN), by any of the following methods:

- Mail: Keith Willingham, Director, Combined Federal Campaign, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Room 6484A, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415.
- E-mail: cfc@opm.gov. Include “RIN 3206-AM68” in the subject line of the message.
- Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: [\(202\) 606-5056](tel:(202)606-5056) Attn: Keith Willingham.

Consider contacting our congressional leaders also (contact information attached). Truly, they are very aware of this situation and are waiting to hear from you.

No matter which federation or organization employs us, we are all working to help our community, help its people, lets work together to stop OPM from making these changes.

As always, PLEASE feel free to call or e-mail me anytime if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

I wish you and yours a safe, happy, AND healthy holiday weekend!

With best regards,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth J. Comeau, Development Officer

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