



## **Community Investment Policy**

Stripes LLC proudly understands its role as a business leader in the communities it serves and accepts the responsibility to be a philanthropic leader in these same communities. The Company is committed to seeking and supporting promising programs from non-profit entities that are closely aligned with the Company's defined community giving guidelines.

### **Purpose of Policy**

This policy provides specific guidelines and criteria for measuring the appropriateness of solicited and unsolicited community contribution requests and to define the process by which Stripes LLC will make its decisions and, ultimately, its distribution of funds.

### **Oversight**

All requests, solicited or unsolicited, will be reviewed by the Company's Community Investment Committee (CIC). Stripes® VP of Marketing and Community Affairs Manager will provide oversight to the Committee to ensure continuity and consistency with the Company's stated objectives. The CIC will meet quarterly.

### **Charitable Focus**

Stripes LLC shall focus its community giving efforts exclusively on programs designed to enhance the health and education of youth residing in the communities served by the Company. Community Investment applications meeting this definition will be considered for, but not guaranteed, funding. Examples of programs that are included in the Company's Community Investment focus include:

- Programs or activities that explicitly address issues that enhance the health and education of children and teens in communities served by the Company.
- Events whose primary focus is specifically related to improving opportunities for healthier and better-educated youth.

- Programs that improve access to, and communication of, information related to the healthcare or education of youth; such as referral services and information resources.
- Programs that directly improve the quality of life of children residing in the Stripes LLC service area through advances in healthcare and education.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Organizations with programs aligned with the aforementioned charitable focus should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Agencies or organizations must provide a copy of their 501(c)(3) IRS designation or other recognized tax-exempt designation.
- Applicants cannot be individuals, labor organizations, or political organizations.

Additionally, Stripes LLC will not consider the following requests:

- Requests to support annual operating expenses will not be considered.
- Requests for endorsements, seminars, or reunions, or any travel costs associated with such, for any group or individual will not be considered.
- Stripes LLC does not allow third party marketing materials (i.e., flyers, posters, brochures, etc.) to be displayed on its property.
- Stripes LLC does not allow use of its property for outside fundraising efforts.

### **Process**

Organizations seeking funding are required to complete the following steps:

1. Download a Stripes LLC Community Investment Application from the Stripes LLC website ([www.stripesstores.com](http://www.stripesstores.com)), complete and submit the document by mail. The Committee will consider only fully completed applications that directly address the stated priorities of the Company's community giving guidelines, and are received by Stripes LLC ten business days prior to the end of each calendar quarter.  
Applications should be completed online under the *VERSIAC Link?*
2. Applicants will be notified of their application status by email or mail.

3. All applications/requests will be logged as they are received and will be reviewed for eligibility.
4. All eligible applications/requests will be submitted for review by the Community Investment Committee. The CIC will meet shortly after the close of each quarter to consider each completed application and to discuss the merits of each request tempered with the availability of budgeted funding and given other applications under review.
5. The Committee will provide recommendations to the Company's Executive Management group for final approval. Late submissions will, unfortunately, not be accommodated.
6. All applicants will receive decision notification, in writing, within ten (10) business days of review.
7. A check will be issued for approved applicants within fifteen (15) business days of review.

### **Special Handling of Smaller Requests**

Special handling guidelines have been established to accommodate faster local decisions of smaller requests and to accommodate small gifts-in-kind.

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| \$0 - \$499 | Donation requests, including coupons, in-kind, monetary, or product may be approved by the Community Affairs Manager. Eligibility Criteria must be met to warrant approval. Applications should be submitted in advance with at least sixty days prior to your event. |
| \$500+      | Donation requests must be reviewed by the Community Investment Committee. Applications should be submitted in advance with at least four months prior to your event.  |

The Company reserves the right to make changes to these policies at any time.