



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For questions or comments about AHAPAC, please contact **Shari Dexter, Director of Political Action** of the American Hospital Association at 202-626-2338 or [sdexter@aha.org](mailto:sdexter@aha.org).

## WHAT IS AHAPAC?

The AHAPAC is the American Hospital Association Political Action Committee. Founded in 1978, AHAPAC is committed to keeping the views of American's hospitals and health systems visible on Capitol Hill.

AHAPAC's mission is simple. The American Hospital Association Political Action Committee (AHAPAC) allows leaders of hospitals and health systems and AHA employees to join with peers who share their concerns — maximizing the collective impact of their financial contributions to political campaigns and helping to elect candidates of both political parties who support the hospital policy agenda.

AHAPAC works with the state hospital associations to meet yearly goals toward their PAC fundraising. Each year, AHAPAC sets annual state fundraising targets as directed by the AHAPAC Steering Committee. AHAPAC has successfully reached these national targets every year since 1990 through joint fundraising efforts with state hospital associations. State hospital associations use funds to support candidates at the state and local level, and AHAPAC uses the funds to support federal candidates for Congress.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Pursuant to federal law, AHAPAC can only solicit funds from a restricted group of AHA members and AHA employees and the families of both groups as spelled out by the Federal Election Commission. In general, AHAPAC's restricted class can make donations at any time during the year up to \$5,000 aggregately between January-December annually. For a copy of the Federal Election Commission guidelines, please go [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

If you make a donation directly to AHAPAC, your state hospital associations will receive full credit from AHAPAC toward their year shared fundraising goal.

Contributions or gifts to the AHAPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution is important to us, but we want to emphasize that all contributions are voluntary and have no impact on your job status, performance review, compensation or employment. Any amount given or the decision not to give will not advantage or disadvantage you. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year (January-December). Contributions to AHAPAC will be used for a political purpose.

## HOW WILL CLUB LEVEL DONORS BE RECOGNIZED BY AHAPAC?

While the AHAPAC is grateful for all contributions, three contributions levels have been established to recognize members for their generous support.

### Capitol Club \$350 and Chairman's Circle \$500

The Capitol Club and Chairman's Circle members receive special pins and invitations to the AHAPAC appreciation luncheon held during the AHA Annual Membership Meeting and special reception at the Health Forum/AHA Leadership Summit.

### Ben Franklin Club \$1,000

In 1751, Ben Franklin co-founded the Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital. He became a central figure in the history of American health care and is therefore inspiration for the Ben Franklin Club. Contributors at the \$1,000 or more entitles: receive special pins as well as invitations to the AHAPAC appreciation luncheon and private Ben Franklin reception held during the AHA Annual Membership Meeting and special reception at the Health Forum/AHA Leadership Summit.

## WHERE DO THE FUNDS COLLECTED BY AHAPAC GO?

AHAPAC is non-partisan and does not support candidates based on party affiliation. AHAPAC has a long history of providing support for candidates across party lines AHAPAC makes contributions to federal candidates for Congress who will be the strongest advocates on issues of importance to members such as adequate reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, expanded coverage and appropriate delivery system reforms.

Contribution priorities for the PAC include funding the election and re-election campaigns of:

- ▶ Candidates who have a track record of support for hospital issues.
- ▶ Candidates who have a record of advocating on hospital positions and legislation;
- ▶ Candidates who are recommended by state hospital associations and members; or
- ▶ Candidates who serve as leaders in their national political party committees.

## CANDIDATES WE SUPPORT

To view the most up-to-date list of federal candidates AHAPAC has financially supported, please go to [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org).