

Gift Acceptance Policy (GAP)

The Good Food Institute (GFI) is funded by the philanthropic support of our global family of donors. Our mission is ambitious: to reimagine how meat is made. As part of GFI's strategic planning process, our leadership team rigorously prioritizes three elements: a focus on the highest-impact activities, sustainable growth, and responsible stewardship of donor funds. Our generous donor community powers the work of our seven organizations around the world: together we are fostering scientific innovation, influencing governmental and policy changes, and engaging the private sector in improving and growing their offerings of alternative proteins.

This policy governs acceptance of gifts offered to GFI, and affiliate organizations around the world, for the benefit of any of its operations, programs, or services and provides transparency, accountability, and consistency in the acceptance of those gifts to ensure alignment with GFI's mission, goals and ethical standards, as well as nonprofit best practices. This document does not constitute legal or tax advice to individual donors, and GFI urges all prospective donors to seek the assistance of personal legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts, including the resulting tax and estate planning consequences.

Please note that this document applies to all individuals, entities, or organizations offering philanthropic gifts to GFI. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and any other donor type.

A. Gifts generally accepted without review

GFI will generally accept gifts that are consistent with its mission, vision and values, and all gifts will be evaluated based on the following principles:

- **Legal and ethical considerations:** GFI will only accept gifts that adhere to all applicable laws and regulations governing nonprofit organizations, charitable giving, and taxation.
- **Alignment with mission:** Gifts must align with GFI's mission, objectives, and programs.
- **Impact:** GFI will consider the potential impact of the gift on its programs and operations.
- **Donor intent:** GFI will strive to honor the donor's intent for the gift to the best of its ability.
- **Risk assessment:** All gifts will be subject to a risk assessment, especially those with complex structures, restrictions, or unusual assets.

Below are the types of gifts generally accepted by GFI*:

1. **Checks and credit cards:** Gifts by personal check, credit card, electronic funds transfer, or online are accepted. More information about making a gift can be found [here](#).
2. **Marketable securities:** GFI can only accept publicly traded securities, which are received into GFI's brokerage account.

3. **Crypto:** GFI's online giving platform Fundraise Up accepts gifts made in certain crypto currencies. See the [complete list](#).
4. **Pledge:** A donor's pledge will require a signed [pledge form](#).
5. **Planned gifts, bequests and beneficiary designations under wills, irrevocable or revocable trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities, and retirement plans:** Donors may make bequests to GFI under their wills and may name GFI as the beneficiary under trusts, commercial annuities, retirement plans, and life insurance policies, so long as the donor agrees to pay, before due, any future premium payments owing on the policy. The amount of the gift will be credited to the donor when the bequest is distributed to GFI, as a will is revocable during a donor's lifetime. Requests from estate executors or trustees to sign acceptances and/or releases or waivers of claims as a condition of receiving a distribution from an estate should be forwarded to the General Counsel.

* Except those as noted below in the "Gifts that GFI may decline" section.

B. Gifts accepted subject to prior review

Prior to acceptance, certain gifts require review by GFI's CEO, Senior Vice President of Development, General Counsel, and Vice President of Operations. These gifts include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Alternative investments:** Gifts of closely-held securities, partnerships, limited liability companies, and other non-publicly traded assets, subject to a case-by-case evaluation.
 - a. **Restricted marketable securities:** In some cases marketable securities may be restricted, for example, by governing contracts, applicable securities laws or the terms of the proposed gift.
2. **In-kind contributions:** Non-cash donations of goods or services, as long as they support GFI's mission and can be used effectively. GFI's acknowledgement letter will provide the details of the donation without ascribing a value to the donation.
3. **Tangible personal property:** GFI considers the following in determining whether to accept tangible personal property (*tangible assets such as artwork, collectibles and other valuable items*):
 - a. Is the property marketable?
 - b. Are there any restrictions imposed on the property?
 - c. Are there any carrying costs for the property for which GFI could be responsible?
 - d. Is the title to the property clear?
4. **Real estate:** Prior to accepting any gift of real estate, GFI will evaluate the gift under criteria including whether:
 - a. The property is useful for GFI's purposes.
 - b. The property is readily marketable.
 - c. Title encumbrances including covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, encumbrances or other limitations are associated with the property.
 - d. Carrying costs (including insurance, property taxes, mortgages, notes, or the like) or maintenance expenses are associated with the property.
 - e. If there are any potential liabilities, including environmental concerns, or the costs of investigating potential liabilities is too high.

5. A new gift ≥\$25,000 from a first-time donor (individual or entity), or gifts made anonymously, as through a third-party vendor, will be subject to further due diligence before acceptance. Due diligence may be conducted on gifts below \$25,000 on a case-by-case basis. If GFI decides to decline the gift, the donor or third party giving platform, as applicable, will be made aware.

C. Gifts that GFI may decline

GFI always retains the right, in its sole discretion, to decline or return a gift if it is deemed by GFI not to be in the best interests of GFI or not in alignment with GFI's charitable purpose. Examples of situations in which GFI may decline gifts include, but are not limited to:

1. **Cash:** GFI does not accept gifts in cash (currency, bank checks, money orders).
2. **Gifts that harm GFI's standing:** GFI will decline any gifts that violate GFI's charter, may result in the loss of GFI's status as an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, injure GFI's reputation or standing, generate controversy, or that in any other way may result in unacceptable consequences to GFI.
3. **Donor ethics violations:** GFI may decline gifts from donors who violate GFI's mission, engage in discriminatory practices, violate human rights and/or fair labor laws, cause harm or damage with their products or services, maintain unethical investment practices, have been sanctioned for serious ethical violations, or in any way violate the norms of a free and open society.
4. **Donor conflict of interest:** GFI may decline gifts when there is the appearance or existence of a conflict of interest. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Donor request (explicit or implied) of a *quid pro quo* of services or favors as a condition of a gift.
 - b. Donor request to fund research projects for which the donor has a vested interest in a particular outcome.
 - c. Donor request for involvement in a fundraising campaign solely for publicity purposes or personal gain.
 - d. Donors who are engaged in a business relationship with GFI that may preclude a gift from being perceived as impartial (i.e. lacking donative intent).
 - e. Situations where a donor's gift will personally benefit an individual employed by GFI or a member of GFI's Board of Directors.
5. **Vulnerable donors:** GFI adheres to the ethical standards for nonprofit fundraising as described in the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Code of Ethical Standards and Donor Bill of Rights. GFI will take reasonable steps to assess whether donors or prospective donors may be in vulnerable circumstances, ensuring they have the capacity to make informed decisions about their giving.
6. **Excessive gift restrictions:** GFI may decline gifts that are inconsistent with GFI's mission or strategy, are too difficult to administer and/or are too expensive to administer in relation to their value. GFI may also decline gifts that are made with conditions as to how the gift is to be used, timelines for utilization, or reporting requirements.

Donors to GFI may not include criteria of an exclusionary nature that would discriminate against individuals based on age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, or physical or mental disabilities.

7. **Designation of GFI as trustee or assignation of fiduciary responsibility:** GFI will review documents naming GFI as trustee or requiring GFI to act in any fiduciary capacity.
8. **Gifts requiring financial commitment from GFI:** Some gifts may require a present or future financial commitment from GFI over and above the amount of the gift pledged. Examples of financial commitments that may be accepted or rejected at GFI's discretion after review include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Gifts that in any way require GFI to allocate additional resources as a condition of gift acceptance.
 - b. Gifts made with the intent of financing a construction project.
 - c. Gifts that establish a permanent, interest-bearing fund when the gift amount is not large enough to carry out its specified purpose.
 - d. Gifts made with the intent to finance and/or administer a project outside the charitable mission or current strategy of GFI.

D. Corporate gifts

This policy governs acceptance of gifts from corporations that are made to GFI for the benefit of any of its operations, programs, or services. A "corporation" or "company" means any type of business entity (corporation, partnership, LLC, etc) but does not include foundations or nonprofits.

1. GFI will accept gifts from corporations that do not fund, research, develop, manufacture or sell traditional meat, seafood, eggs, and dairy products or alternative protein products as a key part of their business model. This can be subjective, and the CEO and Senior VP of development will make this decision on a case-by-case basis.
2. GFI will not accept gifts from companies that meaningfully fund, research, develop, manufacture or sell traditional or alternative protein products as a part of their business model unless those gifts are used to fund:
 - a. Open-Access Scientific Research Grants (the GFI grants program and similar);
 - b. Other research that involves hiring contractors or consultants and that is open-access (e.g., taste studies, market research, LCA/TEA work, consumer research, scientific research); and
 - c. The Good Food Conference or other conferences, webinars, and similar events that are open to the general public.

In all cases, funded research and events will be published/open to the general public as broadly as possible, and funding companies will not be allowed to influence grant-making decisions or final outputs. All company-sponsored research will be transparently identified as such — with recognition on reports and in other instances where the research is publicized (e.g., web pages, press releases, etc.). Such gifts will not be used for GFI general operating expenses, although reasonable overhead expenses can be included.

3. GFI will acknowledge corporate sponsorships in ways that ensure transparency, but other than conference sponsorship packages will not offer corporate benefits beyond what follows:
 - o Mentioning the company on web pages related to their sponsored research or event. Logos can be included at GFI's discretion but would generally not be included on research, since the research is not run or directed by the companies.

- Mentioning the company in press releases related to their sponsored work.
- For research funding, inviting the company to a virtual meet & greet with grantees.
- Other benefits as worked out between the company and GFI that fit into the spirit of transparency but are not marketing (as approved by the Sr. VP of development, General Counsel, and CEO).
- Conference and event sponsorship may also include tiered opportunities (e.g., speaking slots, etc.), which will be available based on sponsorship levels that are available to all. If GFI has a limited number of top tier sponsorships, those will be offered to all and accepted in the order in which they are committed.
- Companies are free to promote their sponsorship in any way they like, within the bounds of honesty and ethics.

E. Confidentiality and privacy

All donor information and gift details will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Donor privacy will be respected, and GFI will not disclose any information without donor consent. [Read GFI's Privacy Policy.](#)

About GFI

The Good Food Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working internationally to make alternative proteins like plant-based and cultivated meat delicious, affordable, and accessible. GFI advances open-access research, mobilizes resources and talent, and empowers partners across the food system to create a sustainable, secure, and just protein supply. GFI is funded entirely by private philanthropic support.



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