



# NEWS RELEASE

## *For Immediate Release*

Division of Taxation

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## **Donation options available on Colorado income tax form**

**Denver, CO, February 25, 2016** – Colorado's individual income tax form (paper or electronic) provides a way for taxpayers to make donations to non-profit programs designated by the Colorado Legislature. The programs are listed on the tax form and taxpayers are able to make contributions to these programs whether they are getting a refund or they owe tax.

This year, there are 14 charitable causes listed on the Colorado 104 Individual Form. This year's voluntary "checkoff" Colorado programs are:

- Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Cash Fund
- Colorado Domestic Abuse Program Fund
- Homeless Preventative Activities Program Fund
- Western Slope Military Veterans Cemetery Fund
- Pet Overpopulation Fund
- Military Family Relief Fund
- Public Education Fund
- Roundup River Ranch Fund
- 9Health Fair Fund
- American Red Cross Colorado Disaster Response, Readiness, and Preparedness Fund
- Colorado for Healthy Landscapes Fund
- Habitat for Humanity of Colorado Fund
- Special Olympics of Colorado Fund
- Colorado Youth Corps Association Fund

Donations to the checkoff funds may also be made by contacting any of the agencies listed on the Checkoff Colorado Web site: [www.checkoffcolorado.com](http://www.checkoffcolorado.com).

(more)

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## **Facts about the Checkoff Colorado Program**

Colorado became the first state in the country to allow a taxpayer to “checkoff” a voluntary contribution to a non-profit program. In 1977, the Colorado Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund became the first state income tax checkoff fund in the United States.

Today there are hundreds of checkoff programs in nearly every state in the country. Every year, U.S. taxpayers contribute tens of millions of dollars to a diverse range of programs. Checkoff contributions are typically voluntary donations that reduce a taxpayer’s refund.

To be listed as a Colorado Income Tax Checkoff, each organization must be approved by the Colorado State Legislature. The organizations must receive donations of \$75,000 per year to remain on the form. New checkoffs have a two-year exemption from this rule to get established. In the third year, the fund must receive a minimum of \$75,000 to be retained on the form the next year. Most checkoffs are granted a five-year term for inclusion on the state income tax return. A checkoff organization may go before the Colorado legislature to extend its term.

## **Colorado Income Tax Filing Tips and Refund Status Information**

Tax Year 2015 income tax filing season tips are available on the Colorado Taxation Web site, [www.TaxColorado.com](http://www.TaxColorado.com). To file your income tax return and find the status of your refund, use CDOR’s free service, Revenue Online ([www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline](http://www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline)).

*The Colorado Department of Revenue is committed to providing security and customer service to assist taxpayers in voluntary compliance with state tax laws.*

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**Editors:** The Colorado Income Tax News Media Guide for Tax Year 2015, which contains information on what’s new with state income tax this year, filing tips and taxpayer resources, is available on our News Media Web page: <https://www.colorado.gov/tax/media-center-taxation>.