



Published on National Council of Nonprofits (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org>)

Original URL: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-and-policy-issues/estate-tax>

# Estate Tax

## Why It Matters

The federal estate tax generates significant revenue for the operations of the federal government and encourages giving to the work of charitable nonprofits. The Giving USA Foundation estimates that in 2020, [Americans donated \\$43.21 billion](#) through charitable bequests.

## Where We Stand

"The National Council of Nonprofits support[s] tax and other incentives at all levels of government that encourage individuals to ... contribute money to the missions of charitable nonprofits."

- [Public Policy Agenda](#)

## Status

The [2017 federal tax law](#) maintains the estate tax, but doubles the exemption to about \$11 million for individuals and about \$22 million for couples, effective through 2025. The change is estimated to reduce federal revenues by nearly \$100 billion over ten years and lower charitable giving by an estimated \$4 billion per year.

## Additional Resources

- [Giving USA](#)
- [American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012](#) Section 101(c)