208.38c Tax credit for 50% of contribution to endowment fund of community foundation; limitations; credit nonrefundable; “community foundation” defined; report.

Sec. 38c. (1) For the 1989 tax year and each tax year after the 1989 tax year and subject to the applicable limitations in this section, a taxpayer who does not claim a credit under section 261 of the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.261, may credit against the tax imposed by this act 50% of the amount the taxpayer contributes during the taxable year to an endowment fund of a community foundation.

(2) The credit allowed by this section shall not exceed 5% of the taxpayer's tax liability for the tax year before claiming any credits allowed by this act or $5,000.00, whichever is less.

(3) The credit allowed by this section is nonrefundable so that a taxpayer shall not claim under this section a total credit amount that reduces the taxpayer’s tax liability to less than zero.

(4) As used in this section, “community foundation” means an organization that applies for certification on or before May 15 of the tax year for which the taxpayer is claiming the credit and that the department certifies for that tax year as meeting all of the following requirements:

(a) Qualifies for exemption from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.

(b) Supports a broad range of charitable activities within the specific geographic area of this state that it serves, such as a municipality or county.

(c) Maintains an ongoing program to attract new endowment funds by seeking gifts and bequests from a wide range of potential donors in the community or area served.

(d) Is publicly supported as defined by the regulations of the United States department of treasury, 26 C.F.R. 1.170A-9(e)(10). To maintain certification, the community foundation shall submit documentation to the department annually that demonstrates compliance with this subdivision.

(e) Is not a supporting organization as an organization is described in section 509(a)(3) of the internal revenue code and the regulations of the United States department of treasury, 26 C.F.R. 1.509(a)-4 and 1.509(a)-5.

(f) Meets the requirements for treatment as a single entity contained in the regulations of the United States department of treasury, 26 C.F.R. 1.170A-9(e)(11).

(g) Except as provided in subsection (6), is incorporated or established as a trust at least 6 months before the beginning of the tax year for which the credit under this section is claimed and that has an endowment value of at least $100,000.00 before the expiration of 18 months after the community foundation is incorporated or established.

(h) Has an independent governing body representing the general public's interest and that is not appointed by a single outside entity.

(i) Provides evidence to the department that the community foundation has, before the expiration of 6 months after the community foundation is incorporated or established, and maintains continually during the tax year for which the credit under this section is claimed, at least 1 part-time or full-time employee.

(j) For community foundations that have an endowment value of $1,000,000.00 or more only, the community foundation is subject to an annual independent financial audit and provides copies of that audit to the department not more than 3 months after the completion of the audit. For community foundations that have an endowment value of less than $1,000,000.00, the community foundation is subject to an annual review and an audit every third year.

(k) In addition to all other criteria listed in this subsection for a community foundation that is incorporated or established after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subdivision, operates in a county of this state that was not served by a community foundation when the community foundation was incorporated or established or operates as a geographic component of an existing certified community foundation.

(5) On or before July 1 of each year, the department shall report to the house of representatives committee on taxation and the senate committee on finance the total amount of tax credits claimed under this section and under section 261 of the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.261, for the immediately preceding tax year.

(6) A taxpayer may claim a credit under this section for contributions to a community foundation made before the expiration of the 18-month period after a community foundation was incorporated or established.
during which the community foundation must build an endowment value of $100,000.00 as provided in subsection (4)(g). If the community foundation does not reach the required $100,000.00 endowment value during that 18-month period, contributions to the community foundation made after the date on which the 18-month period expires shall not be used to calculate a credit under this section. At any time after the expiration of the 18-month period under subsection (4)(g) that the community foundation has an endowment value of $100,000.00, the community foundation may apply to the department for certification under this section.


Compiler's note: Section 2 of Act 135 of 1990 provides: “This amendatory act shall apply to tax years after 1989.”