Thank you for your interest in the Ross Store-Based Giving Program. We evaluate each request based on satisfaction of our giving requirements detailed below.

**ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible, your organization **must**:

- Be a 501(c)(3) registered with the IRS. The federal tax-exempt number is required on application.
- Have not received a donation from Ross Dress for Less or dd’s DISCOUNTS within the past 12 months.
  - Ross will only make one donation per year to each organization.
  - If your organization has received a donation in the past, it will be eligible to receive another donation 12 months from the date of the last donation.
- Align with our charitable mission to create brighter futures by building academic achievement and life skills in economically disadvantaged youth. Please review the list of eligible and ineligible populations and programs below.

Ross Stores **will not** support:

- Organizations or programs that spread political or religious beliefs
- Organizations that discriminate

**OUR PHILANTHROPIC MISSION STATEMENT:**

At Ross Stores, we invest in brighter futures by supporting programs that unlock the full potential of the next generation. With a goal of building competence, confidence and character in the young people who need us most, Ross Stores, Inc. and the Ross Stores Foundation partner with organizations that work in our communities to build academic achievement and life skills.

**ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE POPULATIONS AND PROGRAMS**

**Populations Served:**

Our philanthropic mission is to support academic achievement and life skills for economically disadvantaged youth. This may include:

- Foster youth
- Homeless youth
- Youth in underserved communities
• Pregnant teens/teen mothers
• Youth with some developmental disabilities or mental health issues
• Youth survivors of abuse

Eligible Programs: Our philanthropic mission is to help prepare today’s youth for a bright tomorrow by supporting programs that unlock their full potential. To achieve this, we focus on three program areas:

1. **Academic Achievement**: Programs that build a foundation of academic competence that will help young people succeed in a competitive workforce. These include:
   - Literacy
   - STEM
   - Tutoring
   - School clothes
   - Pre-school/Headstart
   - GED programs
   - Stay-in-school efforts
     - Attendance support
     - Anti-truancy
     - Drop-back-in, recapture
   - College Readiness
     - SAT/ACT prep
     - Counseling for financial aid, grant applications, and loans

2. **Life Skills**: Programs that build confidence and character in young people. These include:
   - Mentoring
   - Financial literacy
   - ‘Soft Skills’
     - Communication
     - Active listening
     - Conflict resolution
     - Leadership
   - Career Readiness & Job Skills
     - Professional dress
     - Resume writing
     - Mock interviews
     - Retail- or fashion-specific career programs
     - After-school programs
     - Gang-prevention and anti-violence

3. **Emergency and Human Services for Foster Youth**: In addition to support for academic achievement and life skills, we also fund emergency and human services for foster youth. For that population, the need we support include:
   - Shelter
   - Clothing
   - Toiletries
   - Mental health and counseling
Ineligible Programs: While we understand that there is great need across our communities, in order to deliver the greatest impact on our philanthropic mission, Ross Stores will not support programs outside of our focus areas. Ineligible programs include:

- Medical and health programs
- Youth sports, fine arts and recreation activities
- Religious-focused programs
- Cash reserves or endowments
- Political or advocacy Support
- Direct support to individuals
  - Scholarships or tuition
  - Research or travel grants
  - Stipends or fellowships
  - Personal assistance
  - Conferences
  - Training or learning programs
  - Travel for any event
  - Mission trips
- Research
- Event sponsorship
  - Sober graduation parties
  - Prom, homecoming or other school dances
  - Galas
  - Walk-a-thons
  - Golf outings
  - Benefits
  - Conferences or seminars
- Animal welfare
- Capital campaigns or building upgrades

HOW TO APPLY
If your organization meets all of the requirements outlined above, you can apply for a donation online: [www.cybergrants.com/ross/storebasedgiving/quiz](http://www.cybergrants.com/ross/storebasedgiving/quiz)

Due to the volume of requests we receive, please allow six to eight weeks to receive a response to your proposal. Ross Stores does not accept email, mail, or fax requests.