



**Comments on Gift Annuity Rates**  
**Approved by the American Council on Gift Annuities**  
**October 16, 2002**  
**Effective January 1, 2003**

**ACGA Board Approves**  
**Reduction in Gift Annuity Rates**

At a special meeting on October 16, 2002, the Board of the American Council on Gift Annuities approved a reduction in suggested gift annuity rates, effective January 1, 2003. The new schedule of rates is attached.

The effective date is deferred until the first of the year to give software vendors, publications companies, and charities time to incorporate the new rates in their programs and literature. Some charities, concerned about the current rates, may choose to implement the reduction immediately.

Ordinarily, the ACGA Board acts on rates at its spring meeting, and any changes become effective on July 1. However, for the reasons stated below, the Board has decided to act now and recommend reductions in gift annuity rates effective the first of the year.

Although the ACGA Board will conduct its normal review in the spring and could recommend a further adjustment in rates, it is anticipated that there will not be a rate adjustment on July 1 unless economic conditions significantly change in the meantime.

**Reasons for Reduction in Rates**

1. Based on the September CMFR of 4.6% and the October CMFR of 4.2%, the charitable deduction will not be more than 10% when the current ACGA immediate and deferred rates are offered to annuitants:
  - younger than the low 60s, in the case of immediate two-life annuities,
  - younger than the mid 50s, in the case of immediate one-life annuities, and
  - when the current ACGA rates are used for deferred annuities with longer deferral periods.
2. Since the current ACGA rates were determined last spring, the yield on the 10-year Treasury bond has decreased from 5.25% to approximately 3.75%, and many economists are predicting only single-digit returns on stocks for the next five years or so.
3. Also, since the current ACGA rates were determined last spring, commercial annuity rates have decreased by approximately the same percentage that the ACGA rates are being reduced.
4. Based on the ACGA's mortality study, and, consequently setting female ages back by 1.5 years rather than 1.0 years, many of the current rates are .1% to .2% higher than the rates that would follow from the stated assumptions. The ACGA Board decided at the April meeting not to subject charities and vendors to a lot of inconvenience for only a slight adjustment. Meanwhile, as mentioned, interest rates have dropped precipitously, and if the rates were recalculated using the same assumptions and benchmarks as before, they would be significantly lower.
5. If charities continue offering the current ACGA rates for new annuities, the residuum in many instances will be well below 50%. Furthermore, the risk of losing money on gift annuities will increase.

6. Except for some adjustments at ages below 60, the current ACGA rates pre-date 9/11/01 and don't reflect the significant changes in economic conditions that have occurred in the past year.

### **Observations**

Even though the rates will be lower, they should continue to be attractive to donors because interest rates on fixed-income investments have also gone down. For instance, the ACGA rate for a 70-year-old will decrease from 7.2% to 6.7%, but in the course of the year the 10-year Treasury bond has decreased from 5.25% to approximately 3.75%, and the 5-year-CD at many banks has decreased from about 4.6% to less than 4.0%.

The assumed total return underlying the current rates is based on a portfolio consisting of (1) 35% equities using the average annual return over the past 100 years (10%), (2) 60% 10-year Treasury bonds using current yields (5.25% in the spring of 2002), and (3) 5% cash using the 90-day Treasury bill rate (1.75% in the spring of 2002). The weighted average return of such a portfolio is 6.75% (5.75% net of expenses, which are assumed to be 100 basis points).

The assumed total return underlying the proposed rates is 6.25% (5.25% net of expenses). The reduction results from using 4.5% as the yield on the 10-year Treasury. This is slightly above the average yield on 10-year Treasuries sold during the year. No change was made in the assumed return on equities.

For ages 53 – 86, the rates for single-life, immediate annuities follow from the stated assumptions. For ages above 86 and below 53, they are lower than the rates that would follow from these assumptions. Rates for ages above 86 are lower because the rates are graded up to the cap. Note that the cap on single-life rates has been reduced from 12% to 11.5%.

Rates for ages below 53, in the case of both one-life and two-life immediate annuities, are lower than the rates that would follow from the stated assumptions in order to result in a charitable deduction of more than 10%. The proposed rates for immediate annuities pass the 10% test for all ages and all payment frequencies using a CMFR of 4.0% or higher. For ages 53 and above, the rates for two-life immediate annuities follow from the stated assumptions.

### **The Importance of an Actuarially-Sound Industry Standard**

It is essential that charities operate their gift annuity programs so that they can fulfill commitments to annuitants and preserve a meaningful residuum for their charitable work. They are more likely to meet both objectives and minimize their risk if their gift annuity rates do not exceed the maximum rates suggested by the ACGA. It is also in the best interest of the charitable community if donors are encouraged to make decisions based on the charities they want to support rather than on which charities offer the highest rates.

**SUGGESTED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES**  
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**SINGLE LIFE**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Rate</b>		<b>Age</b>	<b>Rate</b>
0-1	3.7%		55	5.8%
2-5	3.8		56	5.8
6-12	3.9		57	5.8
13-19	4.0		58	5.9
20	4.0		59	5.9
21	4.1		60	6.0
22	4.1		61	6.0
23	4.1		62	6.1
24	4.1		63	6.1
25	4.1		64	6.2
26	4.2		65	6.3
27	4.2		66	6.3
28	4.2		67	6.4
29	4.3		68	6.5
30	4.3		69	6.6
31	4.3		70	6.7
32	4.4		71	6.8
33	4.4		72	6.9
34	4.4		73	7.0
35	4.5		74	7.2
36	4.5		75	7.3
37	4.6		76	7.5
38	4.6		77	7.6
39	4.7		78	7.8
40	4.7		79	8.0
41	4.8		80	8.3
42	4.8		81	8.5
43	4.9		82	8.8
44	5.0		83	9.1
45	5.0		84	9.4
46	5.1		85	9.7
47	5.2		86	10.1
48	5.3		87	10.4
49	5.4		88	10.8
50	5.5		89	11.2
51	5.5		90 and over	11.5
52	5.6			
53	5.7			
54	5.7			

**WARNING:** These annuity rates, for both immediate and deferred annuities and for both single life and two lives, should not be used if the gift portion, based on IRS tables and the applicable discount rate, is not more than 10% of the amount paid for the annuity.

**NOTES:**

1. The rates are for ages at the nearest birthday.
2. For immediate gift annuities, these rates will result in a charitable deduction of more than 10% if the CMFR is 4.0% or higher, whatever the payment frequency. If the CMFR falls below 4.0%, rates at certain young ages may have to be reduced to meet the 10% deduction requirement.

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**Two Lives - Joint and Survivor (Page 1 of 2)**

Younger Age	Older Age	Rate		Younger Age	Older Age	Rate		Younger Age	Older Age	Rate
0-5	All	3.6		58	58-59	5.4		72	78-80	6.5
6-12	6+	3.7		58	60+	5.5		72	81-83	6.6
13-19	13+	3.8		59	59-60	5.5		72	84+	6.7
20	20+	3.8		59	61+	5.6		73	73	6.3
21	21+	3.8		60	60-65	5.6		73	74-75	6.4
22	22+	3.8		60	66+	5.7		73	76-78	6.5
23	23+	3.9		61	61-64	5.7		73	79-80	6.6
24	24+	3.9		61	65+	5.8		73	81-84	6.7
25	25+	3.9		62	62-63	5.7		73	85+	6.8
26	26+	3.9		62	64-69	5.8		74	74	6.4
27	27+	3.9		62	70+	5.9		74	75-76	6.5
28	28+	3.9		63	63-67	5.8		74	77-79	6.6
29	29+	4.0		63	68+	5.9		74	80-81	6.7
30	30+	4.0		64	64-66	5.8		74	82-84	6.8
31	31+	4.0		64	67-71	5.9		74	85-88	6.9
32	32+	4.0		64	72+	6.0		74	89+	7.0
33	33+	4.1		65	65	5.8		75	75	6.5
34	34+	4.1		65	66-69	5.9		75	76-77	6.6
35	35+	4.1		65	70-74	6.0		75	78-79	6.7
36	36+	4.1		65	75+	6.1		75	80-82	6.8
37	37+	4.2		66	66-68	5.9		75	83-84	6.9
38	38+	4.2		66	69-72	6.0		75	85-87	7.0
39	39+	4.2		66	73+	6.1		75	88+	7.1
40	40+	4.3		67	67	5.9		76	76	6.6
41	41+	4.3		67	68-71	6.0		76	77-78	6.7
42	42+	4.3		67	72-75	6.1		76	79-80	6.8
43	43+	4.4		67	76+	6.2		76	81-82	6.9
44	44+	4.4		68	68-69	6.0		76	83-84	7.0
45	45+	4.5		68	70-73	6.1		76	85-87	7.1
46	46+	4.5		68	74-77	6.2		76	88-90	7.2
47	47+	4.6		68	78+	6.3		76	91+	7.3
48	48+	4.6		69	69-72	6.1		77	77	6.7
49	49+	4.7		69	73-75	6.2		77	78	6.8
50	50+	4.7		69	76-79	6.3		77	79-80	6.9
51	51+	4.8		69	80+	6.4		77	81-82	7.0
52	52+	4.9		70	70	6.1		77	83-84	7.1
53	53+	4.9		70	71-74	6.2		77	85-86	7.2
54	54	5.0		70	75-77	6.3		77	87-89	7.3
54	55+	5.1		70	78-81	6.4		77	90+	7.4
55	55+	5.1		70	82+	6.5		78	78-79	6.9
56	56-57	5.2		71	71-72	6.2		78	80-81	7.0
56	58+	5.3		71	73-75	6.3		78	82	7.1
57	57-58	5.3		71	76-78	6.4		78	83-84	7.2
57	59+	5.4		71	79-82	6.5		78	85-86	7.3
				71	83+	6.6		78	87-88	7.4
				72	72-74	6.3				
				72	75-77	6.4				

## Two Lives - Joint and Survivor (Page 2 of 2)

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## Procedure for Calculating Suggested Deferred Gift Annuity Rates

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1. Determine the annuity starting date, which is:

One year before the first payment, if payments are made annually.  
Six months before the first payment, if payments are made semi-annually.  
Three months before the first payment, if payments are made quarterly.  
One month before the first payment, if payments are made monthly.

2. Determine the number of whole and fractional years from the date of the contribution to the annuity starting date (the deferral period). Express the fractional year as a decimal of four numbers.

3. If the deferral period is 20 years or less, use the following formula to determine the compound interest factor:

$F = 1.0525^d$ , where  
F is the compound interest factor and  
d is the deferral period

Example: If the period between the contribution date and the annuity starting date is 11.5760 years, the compound interest factor would be  $1.0525^{11.5760} = 1.8082$

4. Multiply the compound interest factor (F) by the immediate gift annuity rate for the nearest age or ages of a person or persons at the annuity starting date.

Example: If the sole annuitant will be nearest age 65 on the annuity starting date and the compound interest factor is 1.8082, the deferred gift annuity rate would be  $1.8082 \times 6.3\% = 11.4\%$  (rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent).

5. For deferral periods of more than 20 years, the procedure for calculating the compound interest factor is somewhat more complex. That is because the compound interest rate decreases for periods longer than 20 years. The compound interest rates are:

	1-20 years	-	5.25%		
	20+ years	-	5.00%		
	Example: If the deferral period is 28.7050 years, follow this procedure:				
	$1.0525^{20}$	=	2.7825		
	$1.05^{8.7050} \times 2.7825$	=	4.2550		
	Each calculation is rounded to a decimal of four numbers.				

Comments:

- The annuity starting date for purposes of calculating the deferred gift annuity rate will be the same as the annuity starting date for calculating the charitable deduction, if payments are at the end of the period (which is usually the case). This was not true with the pre-July 1, 2001 methodology.
- An annuitant is credited with compound interest for the entire period from the date of contribution to the annuity starting date. Under the pre-July, 2001 methodology, compound interest was credited only for the number of whole years between the two dates.

**Note to Charities Issuing Deferred Gift Annuities  
in New York and New Jersey \***

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If the deferral period does not exceed 20 years, you may follow the same procedure as for all other states.

If the deferral period is more than 20 years, you must use a lower compound interest factor for the entire period. Through August of 2002, a compound interest factor not exceeding 5.25% for the entire deferral period would meet New York and New Jersey requirements in nearly all instances.

When New York and New Jersey release their interest assumptions later this year, the maximum compound interest factor for longer deferral periods may change. Information about the maximum compound interest factors for these two states will be posted on the ACGA website at that time. See <http://www.ACGA-WEB.ORG>.

\* New York and New Jersey are the two states known at this time to require different interest factors for deferred gift annuities with longer deferral periods.