

## **DEDUCTING MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION EXPENSES**

If you plan to claim a deduction for your medical expenses, here are some guidelines:

### **AGI THRESHOLD:**

The amount of allowable medical expenses you must exceed before you can claim a deduction is 10 % of your adjusted gross income.

### **TEMPORARY EXCEPTION FOR AGE 65:**

The Adjusted Gross Income threshold is 7.5 % of your Adjusted Gross income if you or your spouse is age 65 or older.

This exception will apply through December 31, 2016.

### **YOU MUST ITEMIZE:**

You can only claim your medical and dental expenses if you itemize deductions on your federal tax return. You cannot claim these expenses if you take the standard deduction.

### **PAID IN 2015:**

You can only include the expenses you paid in 2015. If you paid by check, the day you mailed or delivered the check is usually considered the date of payment. Expenses incurred on a credit card are considered paid if they are charged by Dec. 31st.

### **COSTS TO INCLUDE:**

You can include most medical, dental, or vision costs that you paid for yourself, your spouse and your dependents. Some exceptions and special rules apply. Any costs reimbursed by insurance or other sources do not qualify for a deduction.

### **QUALIFYING EXPENSES:**

You can include the costs of diagnosing, treating, easing or preventing disease. The cost of insurance premiums that you pay for policies that cover medical care qualifies, as does the cost of some long-term care insurance. The cost of prescription drugs and insulin also qualify. For a complete list of qualifying expenses, please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) Publication 502.

### **TRAVEL COSTS COUNT:**

You may be able to claim the cost of travel for medical care. This includes costs such as public transportation, ambulance service, tolls and parking fees. If you use your car, you can deduct either the actual costs or the standard mileage rate for medical travel. The rate is \$ .23 per mile for tax year 2015.

### **NO DOUBLE BENEFIT:**

You cannot claim a tax deduction for medical and dental expenses you paid with funds from your Health Savings Accounts or Flexible Spending Arrangements since these funds are tax -free.

*(Charitable deductions on back)*

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

### QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS:

You must give to a qualified organization; contributions made to specific individuals, political organizations, P.A.C.'s and candidates are *not deductible*. See IRS Publication 526 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to see what constitutes a qualified organization.

\*\*\*\*\* State of Ohio deductions, see below.

### YOU MUST ITEMIZE

To deduct a charitable contribution, you must itemize deductions, you cannot take the standard deduction.

### IS IT DEDUCTIBLE?

If you receive a benefit because of your contribution used as merchandise, tickets to a ball game or other goods and services, then you can deduct only the amount that exceeds the value of the benefit received.

Raffle, lottery & bingo tickets are *not deductible*. Also, value of your time or services is *not deductible*.

Rental value of a right to use property is *not deductible*.

Donations to civic leagues, sports clubs, labor unions and chambers of commerce are *not deductible*.

### RECORDKEEPING

#### Cash Donations:

No deduction is allowed unless you have either bank records (like canceled checks) or written acknowledgement from the charity. Using cash with no receipt from charity means no deduction.

If you donate more than \$250 in any one day to any one organization you must have written acknowledgement from the organization.

#### Non Cash Donations:

Recordkeeping must include: name of charitable organization, date and address, description of items donated, fair market value of donated items.

### TRAVEL COSTS COUNT:

The rate is \$ .14 per mile for tax year 2015.

\*\*\*\*\* Ohio allows a tax credit of \$50 per taxpayer for donations to candidates running for:

Governor or Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Auditor of State

Treasurer of State

Attorney General

Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Ohio Board of Education

Ohio Senate

Ohio House of Representatives

(Medical expenses on back)