

701—18.6 (422,423) Relief agencies.

18.6(1) Relief agency means the state, any county, city and county, city or district thereof, or any agency engaged in actual relief work. Nonexclusive examples of relief agencies are Salvation Army, Royal Neighbors, and Masonic Lodge. The sales of tangible personal property or enumerated services to relief agencies are subject to tax. A relief agency may apply to the director for refund of the amount of tax imposed and paid by it, upon the purchase of goods, wares, merchandise, or services rendered, furnished, or performed that are used for free distribution to the poor and needy.

18.6(2) Persons are determined to be in the poor and needy category when their incomes and resources are at or below poverty level. The department will use federal poverty guidelines in making this determination.

18.6(3) Listed below are some examples where the tax may or may not be refunded to the relief agency:

EXAMPLE: A relief agency purchases clothing for free distribution to a poor and needy person. The tax is refundable.

EXAMPLE: A relief agency pays the gas, light, or telephone bill for a person who is poor and needy. The tax is refundable.

EXAMPLE: An agency purchases items of clothing for residents of their living facility, and is partially reimbursed by the person using the items based upon the recipient's ability to pay. Tax on the portion of cost not recovered by the agency can be claimed as a refund of tax paid by using formula stated in 18.6(6).

18.6(4) Demolition v. repair costs. A nonprofit noneducational relief agency is not entitled to a refund of sales tax paid by contractors on building materials used in the alteration, expansion, repair, remodeling or construction of the facility since the materials were sold tax paid to the contractor who is the consumer of the material by statute. See Iowa Code section 422.42(9). However, the relief agency would be entitled to a refund of sales tax paid on the cost of the demolition of the building since the demolition of the building indirectly benefited the poor and needy. 1968 O.A.G. #841.

EXAMPLE: A relief agency, which is not part of a governmental unit, operates a home or orphanage for persons who are poor and needy or for orphan children. Food, lodging, and necessary items are furnished free-of-charge to the residents. The relief agency would be entitled to a refund of any taxes paid to operate this facility; such as, but not limited to, lights, heat, water, telephone, and repair items or services needed to maintain the facility.

18.6(5) Claims for refund must be filed quarterly with the department within 45 days after the end of the quarter for which the refund is claimed. Claims are to be submitted on forms provided by the department.

The claim shall include the following information:

a. The total amount or amounts, valued in money, expended directly or indirectly for goods, wares, merchandise, or services rendered, furnished, or performed used for free distribution to the poor and needy.

b. List the persons making the sales to the relief agency.

1. Include the date of the sale.

2. Include the total amount expended, itemizing sales tax.

3. Include the date of payment.

4. Include the check number, receipt number, or paid invoice verifying payment.

c. List the total operating income received (residents, donations, etc.)

d. List the operating income received from residents only.

e. The claim shall be signed by an authorized agent of the relief agency.

18.6(6) When a relief agency receives part of its operating income from the poor and needy it is serving, this income will be considered in computing the tax refund paid upon sales to it of products or services used for free distribution to the poor and needy.

To reasonably approximate the correct amount of tax to be refunded, where only a portion of the tax qualifies for refund, a formula will be used by the department. The prescribed formula the department will allow is operating income received from the poor and needy served divided by total operating income received. This percentage will be multiplied by the applicable gross receipts which are considered refundable to arrive at the correct amount of tax to be refunded.

If a person requests an alternative formula, the person shall first list the reasons why an alternative formula is necessary and, secondly, shall outline the proposed formula in detail. If approval is given, the department reserves the right to withdraw the approval or require adjustments in the formula upon notice to the person. Additional refunds or assessments may be made if an audit discloses the formula is incorrect.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.42(7), 422.43, 422.47, 423.1 and 423.2.