

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO RECOMMEND GRANTS FROM MY FUND?

DonorCentral, our online grantmaking tool, is the preferred method. If you do not wish to use DonorCentral, you may fill out and sign a recommendation form, which can be delivered in person, by mail, email or fax.

DOES THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF REVIEW MY GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS?

Yes, the staff provides due diligence on all grant recommendations to make sure the organization is a verified 501(c)(3). If a nonprofit is not verified by the IRS or has received a substandard report, we will let you know and provide suggestions of other organizations providing those same types of services.

HOW DOES THE GRANT PROCESS WORK?

Once we receive your grant recommendation, we perform due diligence and issue the check, along with a letter to the grantee that indicates the purpose of the grant, the fund that made the recommendation and where to send a thank you letter (unless the grant is anonymous). The letter also states that neither the donor advisor nor the Community Foundation is receiving any benefits for the grant. Donors also receive a letter informing them the grant has been processed.

NOTE: The fund or the name can be anonymous. Please let us know if you have special requirements.

IS THERE A MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT?

The minimum amount is \$250.

HOW QUICKLY ARE GRANTS PROCESSED?

Grants are generally processed once a week. As long as we receive your grant recommendation by **Tuesday at 5:00 pm**, it can be processed the same week. If your grantee is included on the Community Foundation's previously approved list, the check will be mailed on Friday after we receive the recommendation. If the potential grantee is unfamiliar to the Community Foundation, due diligence may require extra time. In these instances, we may ask you for additional information about the nonprofit to which you want to make a grant.

MAY I RECOMMEND GRANTS TO AGENCIES LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES?

Yes, donors may recommend grants outside of the U.S. as long as the organization is chartered in the U.S.

WHAT KINDS OF GRANTS CANNOT BE MADE FROM A DONOR ADVISED FUND?

Grants cannot be made to agencies based outside of the U.S., private foundations and agencies not certified 501(c)(3) by the IRS, or individuals. In addition, grants may not include tangible benefits to the individual donors.



CAN A DONOR ADVISED FUND BE USED TO PAY A PLEDGE?

No. When you make a contribution to a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation, you are entitled to take the full amount as a tax deduction. This is because you have received nothing in return for your contribution. If the Community Foundation satisfies your pledge, you will be receiving something in return for your contribution - release of a debt.

MAY I RECOMMEND A GRANT TO PAY FOR A TABLE AT A FUNDRAISING GALA?

No. You, as the donor, cannot receive any benefit from making grants through your Donor Advised Fund — even relatively small benefits. Even if the price of the dinner is separated out, these are called bifurcated gifts and not allowed by the IRS. We request that you pay for this sort of thing separately, outside of your Donor Advised Fund, unless you do not plan to attend or allow anyone you know to attend in your place. In that instance the donor may donate the entirety of the gala/event back to the charity, then a grant from their donor advised fund would be permissible. The notification letter to the charity would include the statement, “Not Attending,” “No Tickets” or “No Benefits.”

HOW DO I KNOW IF THE GRANT CHECK WAS DELIVERED TO THE ORGANIZATION?

We supply your name and address to the organization, so that they can send a personal thank you letter. If you wish to remain anonymous you can call us to see if the check was cashed. Please allow 3-4 weeks for nonprofits to deposit checks.

I RECEIVED A TAX ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE AGENCY I RECOMMENDED FOR A GRANT. DOES THAT MEAN I CAN TAKE THE DEDUCTION ON MY INCOME TAXES?

No. Your income tax deduction was earned when you made your contribution(s) to your Donor Advised Fund. The acknowledgment of your gift to the Community Foundation is your receipt to document your gift on your tax return. Thank you notes from agencies are sent to let you know that a gift was received and appreciated.

MAY I RECOMMEND GRANTS TO BE PAID AT SPECIFIC INTERVALS, SUCH AS QUARTERLY?

Yes. We will make sure that the grantee qualifies as an IRS section 501 (c)(3) organization and that the purpose of the grant is consistent with the Community Foundation’s charitable purposes. We can set a reminder to pay the grant at certain intervals selected by the donor.