



TOOLS FOR GIVING

Comparing four approaches to giving

Discover the benefits of working through your community foundation

	Community Foundation Donor Advised Funds	Commercial Gift Fund	Community Foundation Supporting Organization	Private Foundation
Items to consider				
Donor Involvement	Donor recommends grants to qualified nonprofit groups. Grants are approved by community foundation board of directors	Donor recommends grants to qualified nonprofit groups. Grants are approved by trustees of the gift fund.	Community foundation and donor work together to appoint board. Supporting Organization board often controls investments and grantmaking.	Donor appoints board, which controls investments and grantmaking.
Tax Status	Public charity.	Public charity.	Public charity.	Private charity.
Income Tax Deductions for Gifts of:				
Cash	Up to 50% of adjusted gross income.	Up to 50% of adjusted gross income.	Up to 50% of adjusted gross income.	Up to 30% of adjusted gross income.
Appreciated stock	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Fair market value up to 20% of adjusted gross income.
Real Estate and closely held stock	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income.	Cost basis up to 20% of adjusted gross income.
Grantmaking Support	Professional staff is available to help identify and assess grantees, provide input on community needs, and verify nonprofit status of groups.	Varies.	Professional staff is available to help identify and assess grantees, provide input on community needs, and verify nonprofit status of groups.	Donors must arrange and support their own grantmaking and monitoring structure.
Start-up Costs				
Initial costs	None.	None.	Costs kept to a minimum through collaboration with community foundation.	Several thousand dollars for legal and accounting expenses and filing fees.
Minimum contribution	\$5,000	Varies.	Typically millions of dollars.	Typically millions of dollars.
Administrative Requirements				
Ongoing costs	Pooled administration; annual fee.	Varies.	Costs kept to a minimum through collaboration with community foundation.	Several thousand dollars for legal and accounting expenses and filing fees.
Reporting	Community foundation handles reporting.	Financial institution handles reporting.	Annual 990 tax form must be filed.	Annual 990 tax form must be filed.