



community foundationSM
of Marquette County

Donor Advised Fund Policy

What is a Donor Advised Fund of Community Foundation of Marquette County (“Foundation”) ?

A donor advised fund defined under the Internal Revenue Code possesses three characteristics:

- The fund is separately identified with reference to the contributions of a donor or donors. For example the Smith Family Fund established by the Smith family children.
- The fund is owned and controlled by a sponsoring organization such as the Foundation.
- The donor or persons appointed by the donor expect to have the privilege of providing advice with respect to the fund’s investments or distributions.

Minimum Fund Size

The minimum fund balance for each fund type (whether endowed or non-endowed) shall be \$10,000. The minimum amount for endowed funds may be attained over and up to for a five year period as described in the fund agreement. The establishment of any fund type requires Foundation Board approval.

Contributing to a Fund

Gifts to a fund are irrevocable. The assets of donor advised funds are owned and controlled by the Foundation. As long as the fund meets the minimum balance requirements, contributions to a fund may be made in any amount and at any time. Contributions may be made using cash, publicly traded securities or other property, including closely held stock, partnership interests, real estate, personal property, trusts and life insurance. Contributions are subject to acceptance by the Foundation. Contributions should be clearly designated by fund name: “The XYZ Fund of Community Foundation of Marquette County.”

Many donors make contributions using appreciated, publicly traded stock that has been held for longer than a year, to enjoy maximum tax benefits. Contributions of property that may not have

immediate liquidity are accepted at the discretion of the Foundation, and subject to completion of our due diligence procedures. Donors considering a gift in any form other than cash should contact the Foundation to discuss its appropriateness and to obtain delivery instructions.

Variance Power

Some donor advised fund agreements restrict distributions to a specific charitable purpose, such as education or the environment. Others may limit distributions to particular named organizations. These restrictions may apply from the inception of the fund or may come into effect at the conclusion of the advisory period. Any such restrictions are subject to modification by the Foundation if it determines, in its sole discretion, that the restriction or condition is unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community or area served.

Fund Advisors

The initial advisors to the fund are those persons named in the fund agreement. If at any time there is more than one advisor to the fund, the advisors will appoint a designee and all communications to and from the Foundation will be through the designee. If no designee has been appointed, the Foundation will consider the first advisor named in the agreement to be the designee.

Generally, when an advised fund is established, the fund may upon the donor's request, be advised by persons representing up to two generations – the donor's and one additional generation. At the time when advisors from the second-generation become active advisors, the fund, if not already endowed, will become an endowed fund and the Foundation's spending policy will determine the amount available for distribution annually.

In addition, the donor (and the successor advisors) will be encouraged to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of the Foundation's grant making staff. The Foundation will consider an exception to the above policy upon the request of the donor to involve a third generation. The donor may request designation of successor donor advisor in writing (see Appendix A). The response to a donor who has requested that a third generation be included as successor advisors will take into account the desire of the donor to encourage/expect that:

- Successor advisors (whether residing within Marquette County or not) will be active participants in the Foundation.
- A significant portion of the advised fund grants remain within Marquette County.

Recommending a Grant

Grants must be for charitable purposes. The minimum grant amount is \$1000.00.

The donor may recommend grants to any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with the exception of private Foundations. The donor may also recommend grants to most units of government (e.g., public schools, colleges and universities, town and municipal governments, police departments, etc.).

The Foundation does not make grants from donor advised funds, even for charitable purposes, to other types of nonprofit organizations (non-charities) or to businesses. Examples of organizations to which the Foundation will not grant include social welfare organizations (501(c)(4)); veterans' organizations; cemeteries; Chambers of Commerce and similar business associations; fraternities and sororities; social clubs; and fraternal organizations such as Elks and Moose.

The Foundation makes grants to US organizations that carry on their work in other countries. However, the Foundation does not make grants from donor advised funds to non-US organizations or governmental entities.

The donor shall recommend a grant using the Donor Advised Fund Grant Recommendation Form (see Appendix B). A signed Grant Recommendation Form must be submitted for a requested distribution to be considered for Board of Trustee approval. Processing the recommendation may take up to 30 days following receipt of the form.

From time to time the Foundation may bring to the advisor's attention grant making opportunities in which the advisor may have an interest. The advisor is not obligated to recommend a grant for the identified program. Donors may occasionally be furnished with lists of the unmet charitable needs of the community as determined by the Foundation.

Grant Restrictions

The Internal Revenue Code prohibits grants to individuals from donor advised funds. Also prohibited are grants for political contributions or to support political campaigns. Grants may not result in benefits, goods, or services to the donor, the fund advisor, members of their families, and businesses they control. Failure to observe this restriction can subject the fund advisor to tax penalties. Benefits include the payment of pledges, event tickets, meals, sponsorships, registration fees, discounted merchandise, preferred parking and/or seating, and memberships unless the membership confers nothing of value. Please contact the Foundation if you have specific questions about whether a grant you are considering recommending will result in a prohibited benefit.

Payments from a Donor Advised Fund

Expense reimbursements, loans, compensation, and other similar payments are not permitted from a donor advised fund to a donor, fund advisor, or related party.

Grant Acknowledgment

Unless other arrangements have been made (e.g. anonymity requested), the grant letter will indicate that the contribution is from “The XYZ Fund of Community Foundation of Marquette County” and that it has been given upon the recommendation of the named advisor. The recipient organization is encouraged to acknowledge the gift to the advisor and also to the Foundation. Additional language confirms that no benefits have been offered or provided to the Foundation or the advisor in exchange for the accompanying grant. If the recipient organization publishes a news release or a list of donors, it is asked to indicate the contribution as a grant from “The XYZ Fund of Community Foundation of Marquette County”.

Fundraising

Donors sometimes want to raise money to add to their advised funds. Fundraising, if permitted, must strictly adhere to the guidelines in the Foundation’s Donor Initiated Fundraising Policy and to any additional restrictions imposed as a condition of the Foundation’s consent.

Investments

The Foundation has the sole responsibility and authority for investment of the assets of each Donor Advised Fund. Decisions with respect to the retention, investment, or reinvestment of assets and with respect to commingling of assets shall be made by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Donor Advised Funds are customarily invested and commingled with assets of other funds of the Foundation.

The Foundation’s long-term investment objective is to preserve the real value of its permanent funds. This means that the Foundation seeks a total rate of return that supports the Foundation’s grantmaking, expenses, investment fees, and inflation. The Foundation will normally measure whether it has achieved that objective over a rolling five-year period.

The Foundation appoints the Finance Committee and investment managers from time to time to carry out some of its investment management responsibilities with respect to its invested asset pool.

Fees and Minimums

The Foundation assesses fees, including investment management fees, against all its funds to cover the cost of administration and to continue the Foundation’s important work in our community. Fees provide the necessary resources to operate efficiently and effectively, ensuring

fiscal responsibility in grant due diligence, donor and nonprofit education, research, and other activities. All funds are charged an administrative fee by the Foundation based upon the current published fee schedule. Fee rates are set by the Foundation's Board of Trustees and are subject to periodic review and changes. All investment return reporting is net of investment fees.

Termination

Unless otherwise specified in the fund agreement, upon the death, resignation or incapacity of the last advisor to the fund, or if the fund is determined to be inactive, the assets of the fund will become a part of the Foundation's unrestricted permanent endowment. If the principal balance of the fund exceeds \$50,000, the fund will continue to be maintained as a separate named endowed fund for discretionary purposes or as a field of interest, if the donor(s) or successor-advisor(s) have specified in writing one or more broad fields of interests for the fund.