

Comparing four approaches to giving

Discover the benefits of working through your community foundation

	Community Foundation Donor-Advised Fund	Commercial Gift Fund	Community Foundation Supporting Organization	Private Foundation
<i>Items to consider</i>				
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:				
<i>Cash</i>	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.
<i>Appreciated Stock</i>	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.
<i>Real estate and closely held stock</i>	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 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				
<i>Initial costs</i>	None.	None.	Costs kept to a minimum through collaboration with community foundation.	Several thousand dollars for legal and accounting expenses and filing fees.
<i>Minimum contribution</i>	Thousands of dollars.	Thousands of dollars.	Typically millions of dollars.	Typically millions of dollars.
Administrative Requirements				
<i>Ongoing costs</i>	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.
<i>Reporting</i>	Community foundation handles reporting.	Financial institution handles reporting.	Annual 990 tax form must be filed.	Annual 990 tax form must be filed.