Donor Advised Funds vs. Private Foundations

Donor advised funds are a simple and cost-effective alternative to private foundations. We handle the administrative work, while you make the grants so you can Impact Today and Transform Tomorrow!

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Private Foundation

Legal Entity/Tax Status

- Component fund at CF
- Public charity

- Separate nonprofit entity
- Private charity

Donor Involvement

- Donor recommends grants to nonprofits
- CF approves request

 Donor appoints board to oversee grantmaking decisions

Minimum Distribution / Grantmaking Support

- No minimum distributionLocal expertise can help identify
- Local expertise can help identify and assess grant recipients, provide input on community needs, and verify nonprofit status of groups
- Required to 5% distribution of net asset value annually
- Researches and evaluates its own grants

Administrative Costs / Minimum Contribution

- Zero start up costs; 1% annual fee based on the daily average fund balance; CF provides back office support
- \$10,000 fund minimum
- Thousands of dollars for legal and accounting expenses and filing fees
- Typically millions of dollars

Privacy & Reporting

- Included as part of CF's annual Form 990
- Donor assets and grant activity are listed as the CF's activity, and kept completely anonymous
- Must file an annual Form 990-PF
- Asset and grant information is public through Form 990

Income Tax Deductions for:

- Cash
- Appreciated Stock
- Real Estate and Closely Held Stock
- Up to 60% AGI
- Fair market value up to 30% of AGI
- Fair market value up to 30% of AGI
- Up to 30% AGI
- Fair market value up to 20% of AGI
- Cost basis up to 20% of AGI

Questions? Call us to learn more about setting up a fund at your local community foundation!

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