Donor-Advised Funds

What they are
Donor-advised funds offer community engagement, flexibility, and access to the expertise of Hartford Foundation staff about grantmaking and the region's nonprofit community.

Each fund is assigned a Foundation staff liaison who provides various services including grantmaking advice, grant processing, quarterly fund reports, donor briefings, site visits (as appropriate), and an ongoing listing of small grant opportunities.

The minimum amount to establish a donor-advised fund is $10,000 and donors may build up to that amount. Fees are charged at 1% up to $500,000, after which fees decline based on a sliding scale.

Experience worthy of your trust
Why consider a Donor-Advised Fund at the Foundation? Our experience.

Assets. We manage 222 donor-advised funds with total assets of more than $190 million. Currently 68 funds have assets greater than $250,000.

Activity. Our first donor-advised fund was created in 1974. 80 new funds were created in the past five years. This reflects a growing interest from donors in being involved with grantmaking during their lifetimes.

Focus. Major grantmaking categories include arts and humanities, education, health, housing and economic development, and family and social services.

Governance. Grants from donor-advised funds are made after review and approval by the Foundation Board of Directors, taking into account the specific donor’s wishes, and providing flexibility outside the requirements of the Foundation’s guidelines for grantmaking from unrestricted funds. For example, they may be made for religious organizations, independent schools, and nonprofit organizations outside our 29-town geographic area. Succeeding generations may advise on funds if the appropriate language is included in the original fund agreement.

Learn more. Here’s how.
We’d love to share more about Donor-Advised Funds. Visit our website at www.hfpg.org. Or contact Sally Weisman at 860-548-1888 or sweisman@hfpg.org

In 2020,
1,356 grants were made from donor-advised funds.
$24.3 million in total grants were awarded.
40% of total annual Hartford Foundation grants came from donor-advised funds.

FUND HIGHLIGHTS: Fund
Minimum: $10,000 (may build up)
Minimum Grant: $250
Family/Next Generation Involvement
Site Visits
No Geographic Limits
Online Donor Portal
Grants Express

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