



Fund Activity Policy

Policy Statement

This policy serves to guide the staff at The Alaska Community Foundation (the Foundation) and Donor Advised Fund holders of the minimum requirements for Donor Advised Fund activity.

Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline the acceptable types of fund activity for Donor Advised Funds, including the roles and responsibilities of the Foundation Board of Directors and Staff as related to managing this activity.

This policy applies to all current and future Donor Advised Funds held by the Foundation.

Acceptable Types Of Fund Activity

The following are definitions of fund activity leading to fund distributions which apply to funds that have more than \$5,000, the Foundation's minimum required balance to maintain a donor advised fund. If this policy conflicts with federal law or state law (including UPMIFA), the relevant law controls.

A fund is considered active when there is regular communication between a donor (or named successors) and the Foundation regarding the existence and purpose of that fund. Examples of **some** of the activities that would deem a fund active include (**but are not limited to**):

A. Regular Grant Recommendations

Donor advisor generally recommends grants at least annually to qualified charitable organizations. The amount of grantmaking can vary from year to year.

B. Developing a Philanthropic Program

Donor advisor makes a substantial contribution to donor advised fund, for example, upon the sale of his or her business, and refrains from recommending grants for a given initial period while the fund advisor consults with the sponsoring charity and/or does his or her own research to determine what types of grants will best meet community needs and/or her philanthropic goals.

C. Long-term Giving Plan

Donor advisor deliberately reduces the frequency or size of grant recommendations from fund, for example:

2017.08.15 – Fund Activity Policy – Approved

Page 1 of 5

- a. During his or her working years with the intention of increasing the donor advised fund balance to support grantmaking during his or her retirement, when the advisor expects his or her income to change.
- b. A donor may want to build a fund over time so the donor's children can make grants later (the idea being the donor is leaving a charitable legacy for the next generation to administer).
- c. Donor advisor refrains from recommending grants for a given period because the fund is invested in an illiquid or undervalued investment. Donor advisor intends to begin making grant recommendations when the investment can be sold at a reasonable price.

D. Long Term Project Grants

Donor advisor makes a substantial contribution to a donor advised fund and determines to recommend grants to a minimum of one qualified charitable organization over a period of 20 years so that the donor can monitor how the charitable organization performs, and to consider whether another organization would better achieve the donor's charitable objectives.

E. Short Term Project Grants

Donor advisor makes a substantial contribution to a non-endowed donor advised fund and determines to recommend grants to a minimum of one qualified charitable organization over a period not to exceed five years.

F. Starter Fund

Donor advised funds may need time to build the fund balance to make substantial grants to the community. Therefore, there may be no distributions made until the fund balance reaches an amount stated in the donor advised fund file.

G. Specific Occasion Grant

Donor advisor refrains from recommending grants for a number of years with the specific charitable goal of recommending a grant upon a specific occasion. Examples may include:

- a. Donor is incapacitated with no successor advisor(s) named so the community foundation waits until the donor's death to distribute the fund according to the donor's original intent;
- b. Fund has transitioned to named successor advisors but they are minors and no adult representative is named to represent them (so grants resume when successor advisors are adults);
- c. Founders of fund who are also the donor advisors are getting divorced so that grants are suspended until both the husband and wife agree on grants, which may include splitting the fund into two separate funds, one for each spouse to advise or eventually dissolving the fund by the making of charitable grants;
- d. Grants are suspended during litigation involving a fund (e.g., the donor has left his/her estate to a fund, but the donor's children are disputing the bequest so the community foundation does not allow grants until the litigation is resolved);

- e. Donor leaves a bequest to a fund and distributions are made periodically to the fund during the estate settlement process, but grants are not made until the estate is fully settled.

Activating Grantmaking

Should grant activity stop for more than a two year period, steps will be taken by the staff or the board to activate that fund. These steps may include such activities as:

- Notifying the fund advisor regularly and periodically (for example, three times over a period of five years) to encourage the fund advisor to activate the fund.
- Distributing grants from the fund to qualified grant recipients that align with donor intent, but if the community foundation determines such intent is obsolete, incapable of being fulfilled, impractical, or inconsistent with the community's charitable needs, then exercise of the Foundation overriding variance power to enable the community foundation to continue to use its resources to meet the needs of the community and to address the charitable purposes for which the funds were committed.
- Closing of a "starter" fund if the "starter fund" balance does not reach the Foundation's required minimum amount within a stated period of time, and, for example but not limited to, re-allocating of the fund proceeds to the Foundation's unrestricted fund or issuing the balance as a charitable grant to a qualified recipient.

Definitions Of Terms

Qualified Charitable Organization

Donors may deduct charitable contributions in accordance with Federal and their respective state tax codes only if donations are made to a qualified organization. Most organizations, other than churches and governments, and public schools must apply to the IRS to become a qualified organization. Refer to the Foundation's grantmaking policies for local grant making protocol.

How to check whether an organization can receive deductible charitable contributions. You can ask any organization whether it is a qualified organization, and most will be able to tell you. Or go to IRS.gov. Click on "Tools" and then on "Exempt Organizations Select Check" (www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check). This online tool will enable you to search for qualified organizations.

Sponsoring Organization

An organization, like a community foundation, that owns and controls donor advised funds.

Donor Advisor (sometimes referred to as "Fund Advisor")

A donor or person appointed or designated by the donor who has or reasonably expects to have advisory privileges with respect to the fund's distributions or investments. The donor retains the privilege to recommend grants from the charitable fund for which he or she has been designated as fund advisor.

Donor Advised Fund

A fund may be classified as donor advised if it has at least three characteristics: (1) a donor or person appointed or designated by the donor has, or reasonably expects to have, advisory privileges with respect to the fund's distributions or investments, (2) the fund is separately identified by reference to contributions of the donor(s), and (3) the fund is owned and controlled by a sponsoring organization, such as a community foundation. A fund possessing these characteristics may be exempt from the donor advised fund classification if it grants to one single public charity or government unit or if the fund meets certain requirements applicable to scholarship funds.

Disqualified Person

As applied to public charities, the term disqualified person includes (1) organization managers, (2) any other person who, within the past five years, was in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization, (3) donors and donor advisors with regard to transactions with a particular donor advised fund, (4) investment advisors to assets of donor advised funds, (5) and disqualified persons of supporting organizations who are also disqualified persons of the supported organization, (6) family members of the above, and (7) businesses they control. Paying excessive benefits to a disqualified person will result in the imposition of penalty excise taxes on that person, and, under some circumstances, on the charity's board of directors (see "intermediate sanctions": <http://www.cof.org/content/glossary-philanthropic-terms#sanctions>).

Policy Adoption, Review, and Revision History

Policy: Fund Activity Policy

Date	Action taken	Comments
2017.08.15	Approved by Board	

Next Bi-Annual Review Date: August 2019