Donor Fund FAQs



What is the minimum amount required to open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)?

The minimum initial contribution is \$50,000 managed by a Private Wealth Investment Strategist, \$250,000. Subsequent gifts can be made as often as you choose in increments of \$5,000 and above. In accordance with IRS regulations, receipts are provided to each donor shortly after the contribution date.

What types of assets can I contribute to a DAF?

The Comerica Charitable Trust (CCT) may accept cash, stocks, real estate, closely held interests, collectibles, and other such unique assets at the sole discretion of the CCT Advisory Council.

In what year can a charitable deduction be taken for a donor fund contribution?

Generally, the income tax deduction is taken in the year of contribution, but circumstances can vary by Donor and the type of contribution so a Donor should seek advice from an independent tax advisor.

Can I contribute assets from an IRA to a DAF?

No, this is not currently permitted by the IRS.

How do I make a grant recommendation?

At the time you open your DAF, you will be provided access to the online DAF grant making portal. You simply submit your recommendation using the online grant request form. The CCT then performs due diligence for each charity and mails the checks. Your grant-making activity is stored in the online portal.

What charities are eligible to receive grants from a donor fund?

Generally, grants can be recommended to domestic public charities, US governmental entities (for public purposes), and certain private operating foundations. All grants are reviewed for eligibility.

Is there an annual grant making requirement?

There are no annual payout requirements for a DAF; however, the CCT monitors each fund to ensure it remains in active status (activity within the past three years.)

Is there a minimum or maximum amount for each grant recommendation?

The minimum grant amount is \$250, and the maximum is the value of your account less any applicable fees to close your DAF.

Can I recommend a recurring grant to a charity?

Yes, the online portal allows for recurring grants to be recommended, thus eliminating multiple grant recommendation entries.

Can grants be made anonymously?

Yes, you have the choice to remain anonymous. That election is made in the online portal.

Can I take a tax deduction for each grant I recommend?

No. The tax deduction occurs at the time assets are contributed to a DAF. Individual grants made to charities from a DAF are not eligible for a tax deduction by the donor.

Can my company match a grant that I make from my DAF?

Yes. However, some companies may not consider gifts from a DAF as a qualifying gift to charity; thus, it's important to carefully review your company's matching gift policy and procedure.

Can I direct the investments of the fund?

Ownership of the assets is relinquished when the donation is made to the CCT; however, the Donor does have the opportunity to indicate his or her recommended goals for the DAF. The CCT has its own Investment Policy Statement for the overall management of the fund.

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Do investment returns of the DAF provide any future benefit to me?

While DAF's offer tax free growth within the fund, once the donation to the fund is made, it is deemed a completed gift and the assets are then owned by the charity. All growth of the fund remains in the fund for future charitable grant-making.

What is a successor advisor?

A successor advisor is an individual named by the original donor who receives the ability to recommend grants on the death or incapacity of the original donor. This individual will carry on your legacy, fulfilling philanthropic endeavors through grant recommendations. The financial advisor for the fund cannot be named as a successor advisor.

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