Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have questions about your charitable fund at Stark Community Foundation?
Here are some frequently asked questions from donors at the Foundation.

Donor Advised Funds

How do I make a donor recommendation from my Donor Advised Fund?

Donor Portal: Donor recommendations may be submitted via the **Donor Portal** through Stark Community Foundation's website by visiting **www.starkcf.org** and clicking 'Donor Login' in the top navigation bar.

Email: Email **donorservices@starkcf.org** with your recommendation. Please include the fund name, grant amount, grant purpose and any additional instruction in the email. A member of the Foundation's Advancement Team will email you a confirmation of the recommendation.

Mail/Fax: If you prefer to make manual recommendations, you can fill out the **Donor Recommendation Form**, which is located on the Foundation's website within the Resource Library under Donor Toolkit. You can then mail or fax the form to Stark Community Foundation.

How long does it take for my donor recommendation to be processed?
Generally, recommendations are processed within five business days.

Who can I make recommendations to?
Grant recommendations must be made to 501(c)(3) organizations (including schools, churches and government entities).

What is the minimum amount for a recommendation?
A $100 minimum is required for each grant recommendation.

Are any types of recommendations prohibited from my Donor Advised Fund?
Yes, IRS regulations state that grant recommendations from your Donor Advised Funds cannot be used to:

- Fulfill a legally binding pledge made to a charitable organization. To avoid satisfying pledges from your Donor Advised Fund, we encourage you to use pledge labels. To learn more about our **pledge policy** and how to request labels, visit the Foundation's **Donor Toolkit** online.
- Pay for raffle or event tickets (even if you do attend the event yourself), memberships, dinners or other activities that provide a benefit to you as the donor or to others.
- Pay for personal expenses incurred by any specific individual (example: naming a specific student to receive dollars for tuition). Gifts can be designated to general scholarships or tuition, but not to a specific student.
- Support specific political campaigns.

Are there limits to the grants that I can recommend?
There is no limit to the number of grants you can recommend in a year. However, some of our funds have a spending policy, usually in the case of second generation funds. These funds have an ATS (Available to Spend) amount each year, and their grantmaking is guided by that dollar amount. The minimum grant amount of $100 is required for all grants.

Designated Funds

How does my Designated Fund work?
Grants are made regularly to the nonprofits you've specified in your fund agreement. The amount of the grants is dependent on your fund balance and based on your distribution schedule as specified when the fund was established.

Can I change my designations for my designated fund?
Yes. Please contact Bridgette Neisel, vice president of advancement, at 330-454-7992 or **bneisel@starkcf.org** to discuss changing your designations through an amended fund agreement.

Field of Interest Funds

What are some examples of fields of interests?
Some examples of fields of interests are animal care and well-being, arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, education and historic preservation. Please note this is not an all-inclusive list.

Can I change my field of interest?
Yes. Please contact Bridgette Neisel, vice president of advancement, at 330-454-7992 or **bneisel@starkcf.org** to discuss changing your field of interest through an amended fund agreement.

Charitable Giving

Can I recommend grants outside of Stark County?
Yes. Donors can recommend grants to any 501(c)(3) United States public charity.

What are the tax implications of making a grant from my fund?
Recommending a grant will have no impact on your personal tax situation because you received a tax deduction when a gift was made to your fund. However, we offer maximum tax advantage under state and federal law for any additions made to your fund.

How do I add to my fund?
Once you have established a fund at Stark Community Foundation, you have the opportunity to make additional gifts that will increase your level of impact within our community today and well into the future. Traditional gifts of securities, real estate, cash or life insurance policies are welcomed additions to your fund and may be donated throughout the year. To make an addition to your fund, please contact Bridgette Neisel, vice president of advancement, at 330-454-7992 or **bneisel@starkcf.org**, or visit **www.starkcf.org/giving/add-to-your-existing-fund**.

Can I change the name of my fund?
Yes. The Foundation may change your fund name upon request. Please contact Bridgette Neisel, vice president of advancement, at 330-454-7992 or **bneisel@starkcf.org** to discuss changing your fund name through an amended fund agreement.

Can I include my family in grantmaking?
Yes. We encourage family philanthropy. However, only the donor and/or donor advisor associated with the fund(s) can officially make grant recommendations.

How do I know if my grant has been issued?
You will receive a copy of the check letter that was sent to the organization. This will be your "receipt" of the transaction and it will include the organization name, amount of grant, date of distribution and purpose of grant (if specified). In addition, your most recent grants will be listed on your **Donor Portal** under the Grant Request and Grants tabs.

How can the Foundation help identify nonprofits that I can support?
Stark Community Foundation's Advancement Team is here to answer any questions you may have regarding your charitable intentions. Please call the Foundation at 330-454-3426 or email **donorservices@starkcf.org** and we'll be happy to assist you.

How often are financial statements issued?
Financial statements are mailed and/or posted quarterly on the Donor Portal. The statements are mailed/posted the month immediately following the end of each quarter. If you use the Donor Portal, you will be notified via email when the statements are ready to be viewed online. If you are not receiving these notification emails, call 330-454-3426 or **donorservices@starkcf.org** so we can correct the issue.

What are some additional resources to help guide my giving?

- GuideStar: **www.guidestar.org**
- Glossary of Philanthropic Terms: **www.cof.org/content/glossary-philanthropic-terms**
- Profiles of U.S. charities: **www.give.org**

How do I ensure that my grant intentions are being honored by the nonprofit organization?
Stark Community Foundation and its donors sometimes require evaluative reports to measure the impact of our investments. The **Donor Grantee Evaluative Report** is utilized to capture a brief synopsis of the project as well as a description of the use of the funds that the organization was granted. The report is sent to the organization with the check letter, and each organization is given a deadline date to return the form to the Foundation. The results will be sent to the donor in a timely manner. To view the form, visit the Foundation's **Donor Toolkit** online. You can also contact the Foundation's Advancement Team at 330-454-3426 or **donorservices@starkcf.org** if you would like to require this report for your future grant recommendations.

Can I change the type of my fund?
Yes. Please contact Bridgette Neisel, vice president of advancement, at 330-454-7992 or **bneisel@starkcf.org** to discuss changing your fund type through an amended fund agreement.