



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When and how often may I submit grant recommendations?

Grants are typically processed and paid twice a month (15th and last day of the month). When the Foundation is in receipt of your grant recommendation(s) will determine when the grants are processed. **NOTE:** For the months of December and June, in order for grants to be paid by the last day of those months, we require that your grant recommendations are submitted by the 1st of those months.

Why do some grants take longer than others for the Foundation to pay?

Each recommended grantee must submit proper documentation to ensure its public charity status and must be researched and approved by the Foundation. Grant recommendations to local organizations that are frequent grantees will usually already have documentation on file, and generally these grants will be made in the next grant cycle. Organizations that are new to the Foundation require additional research and may take longer to process. We will notify you of any significant delay in processing your recommendation(s) or in the event an organization is ineligible to receive grants.

May I recommend a grant in honor or in memory of someone?

Yes. Please indicate that this is your intent on the grant recommendation form, and we will be happy to notify the organization of this special stipulation.

Can I recommend a grant for which I may receive benefits, such as tickets, preferred parking and membership benefits?

No. When you make a gift to Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, we provide you with a letter that says, "no goods or services were received for your gift." This statement confirms to your accountant and the IRS that the full amount of your gift is tax-deductible. Financial penalties apply if you, or a related party, receive more than 'token benefits.'

Can I recommend a grant to satisfy a pledge?

When are you approached by an organization to make a pledge or to fill out a pledge card, we suggest that you use the following language to inform them of your recommendation to the Foundation:

“THIS IS NOT A PLEDGE. I will, however, recommend that a grant of \$_____ be made to your organization from the {NAME OF FUND} of Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia.”

Can I recommend grants to non-profits outside the Foundation’s service area?

Yes. Grant-making through Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia’s funds is not limited to our service area or even Virginia. We recognize that donors have interests that extend beyond our geographic boundary, and we welcome recommendations to any qualified US 501(c)3 publicly supported organization.

Can I recommend grants to organizations outside of the US?

Yes, under limited circumstances and subject to IRS and Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia policy restrictions. Grant making to support recognized charitable purposes outside of the U.S. is permitted in accordance with IRS guidelines and in consideration of the Foundation’s view that international organizations provide services that indirectly benefit people in our community (e.g., through alleviating poverty or disease, or generally contributing to education or world peace). However, the community foundation generally approves such grants only to domestic charities undertaking international programs. If you are uncertain about the legal status of the charity, it is advisable to discuss the details of a potential international grant with the Foundation before making a recommendation.

Can I recommend grants to assist an individual in need?

No. The IRS prohibits donor advised funds from making grants to individuals.

Can I support the Foundation with my grant making?

Yes, absolutely! When making your grant recommendations through the Foundation’s Fund Advisor Portal, you can select from the drop-down menu to support **OTHER FOUNDATION FUNDS**. Choosing the **COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT FUND** supports our unrestricted grantmaking program and the Operating Fund supports our Administrative efforts.

Can I be recognized personally for recommending a grant?

The grant award notification always informs the grantee organization that the grant is made possible through the XYZ Fund of the Foundation. Please note that while we hope that grantees will also recognize the Donor Advisors by name, we, unfortunately, cannot control the respective grantees’ donor-recognition policies in their publications.

Can the fund I advise make anonymous grants?

Let us know your desire to remain anonymous, and we will refrain from including your name and/or the name of the Fund in the grant award notification.

What if I want to do fundraising for my fund?

Anyone considering conducting a fundraising activity to benefit a Fund of the Foundation should talk with staff and review our Fundraising Policy. It is the responsibility of the Donor or representative of the Fund to understand and adhere to the Foundation's Fundraising Policy, which is intended to keep the Foundation in compliance with applicable laws and to protect the Foundation against undue liabilities.

Can I recommend a grant to a religious organization?

Yes. The Foundation can make grants to qualified religious organizations.

If the investment markets increase or decrease in any given year, can I still make grant recommendations?

Yes. Because we calculate spending budgets using the three-year average values, grants can be made every year from a Fund.



**Thank you for choosing Community Foundation Serving
Western Virginia as your philanthropic partner.**