DONOR ADVISED FUND FAQs

What is the minimum amount to establish a donor advised fund (DAF)?

A DAF can be established at Napa Valley Community Foundation with a minimum initial contribution of $25,000.

What is the minimum balance that I need to maintain in my DAF?

To maintain an active DAF, we ask that you keep a minimum balance of $500 in your Fund at all times.

What can I contribute to my DAF?

You can use cash, publicly-traded stocks, bonds, mutual funds to contribute to your DAF to be eligible for an immediate tax deduction. Gifts of real estate and non-publicly traded assets may also be used, subject to approval. Qualified charitable distributions from an IRA during your lifetime cannot be donated to a DAF at this time, due to IRS regulations.

Is a contribution to my DAF irrevocable?

A contribution to a donor advised fund is an irrevocable commitment to Napa Valley Community Foundation; by law, the funds cannot be returned to you or any other individual or used for any purpose other than grantmaking to charities. As the Fundholder, you retain the right to recommend grants from your DAF, recommend investment allocation, and to appoint additional Fund Advisors.

What fees can I anticipate?

There is no set-up fee for a donor advised fund at Napa Valley Community Foundation, and our administrative fee schedule declines as your balance increases:

- Minimum annual administrative fee.......................... $500
- On amounts between $0 and $250,000..........................1.00%
- On amounts between $250,001 and $1,000,000..........0.50%
- On amounts between $1,000,001 and $3,000,000........0.25%
- On amounts above $3,000,001...........................................0.10%

How can I support local Napa Valley organizations and needs through my DAF?

You can recommend grants from your DAF to any qualified 501(c)3 organization in the U.S.A. at any time, but we’d be delighted to help you with suggestions of Napa Valley organizations and projects that match your interest areas - our grantmaking team is knowledgeable and happy to assist.

Donor advised funds with balances below $250,000 also participate in NVCF’s Community Impact Areas by designating between 2-4% of their fund to NVCF focus areas annually: Investing in Youth, Championing Community, Affordable Housing, and/or Fighting Poverty. Your DAF contribution to Community Impact Fund(s) is a built-in way to support local organization and learn more about priority grantmaking needs in Napa County.
What is an endowment or an endowed fund? How do I establish one?

An endowment is a special kind of Fund that is set up to last in perpetuity. Fundholders trust Napa Valley Community Foundation to steward their charitable intentions and the assets in their Fund past their lifetimes and into the future. An endowed Fund can be established with a minimum gift of $100,000, is automatically invested in our long-term pool, and is subject to annual spending amounts determined by the NVCF Board Finance Committee.

How will my DAF be invested?

Fundholders have a choice of three investment pools among which they may recommend allocation of their Fund’s assets. All investments are overseen by professional investment advisors, guided by the NVCF Board’s Investment Policy.

Can my DAF or my recommended grants be anonymous?

Yes: you can choose not to include your name in the name of your fund and request total anonymity and/or ask us to keep your grantmaking anonymous on a grant-by-grant basis. The choice is yours.