

Advisor's frequently asked questions.

A quick read to answer the most common questions advisors have for us.

As an advisor, may I consult directly with the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF)?

Yes! Our Donor Services team provides support to local philanthropists and their advisors, including attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. We will provide as much information as you would like, whether that's via e-mail, over the phone, in person, or us hosting a presentation at your office. Please contact us at giving@omahafoundation.org or (402)-342-3458 for more information.

How do I know if giving through the Omaha Community Foundation is right for my clients?

Does the client care about the greater Omaha area?

Does the client donate to more than one charitable cause?

Is the client interested in creating a personal or family legacy?

Is the client considering creating a foundation?

Does the client want to receive a charitable income tax deduction for their donation?

Does the client want to know more about charitable causes they support?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then your client may benefit from a partnership with OCF!

What options are available for philanthropists for lifetime giving?

OCF offers several tools for philanthropists who would like to make gifts during their lifetime. Our two most popular fund options are the Charitable Checkbook and Donor Advised Fund. Furthermore, our unparalleled services, resources, and knowledge—from planning for the future to family philanthropy—help to facilitate more effective, impactful giving. Learn more about our [Donor Services](#) and which fund might be a good fit for your client.

What options are available for philanthropists for their legacy giving?

We offer a full range of legacy giving options that allow philanthropists to make an impact on our community and leave a meaningful legacy. We will work with you and your clients to create a customized fund that will ensure that their charitable intentions are fulfilled. Read more about how we can help your client [leave their legacy](#).

How do OCF's costs compare with those of commercial gift funds and private foundations?

Our fees are competitive with commercial gift funds. More importantly, we offer unparalleled customer service and knowledge of community needs and the local nonprofit sector. [See a full listing of our fees](#). Further, establishing a fund at OCF is considerably less expensive than creating a private foundation since we handle all administrative details, including tax returns, due diligence, and processing and tracking grants.

What are the tax benefits of opening a fund with OCF?

OCF is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Donors who make gifts to OCF may be eligible to receive a charitable income tax deduction, up to IRS limits. Giving through OCF may reduce a donor's overall income tax bill, while also allowing the donor to support causes the donor cares about. Giving through OCF is efficient for both donors and their advisors, since the gift is complete for charitable income tax deduction purposes when the gift is received by OCF (as opposed to when the funds are ultimately distributed). Once a gift is made to OCF, OCF provides the donor with a gift letter setting forth the value of the gift made to OCF.

What are the minimums to open a fund and grant to a nonprofit?

Our two most popular funds are the Charitable Checkbook and the Donor Advised Fund. The minimum gift to open is \$1,000 and \$25,000, respectively. The minimum grant amount is \$100, and any 501(c)(3) public charity is eligible. (At OCF, we use the term "gift" to define a donation to OCF and "grant" to define a distribution from OCF to a 501(c)(3) public charity.)

How does a charitable fund work?

Your client's OCF fund acts like a checking account. They make donations to OCF whenever it makes the most sense for them financially, then use our expert services to distribute grants from the fund to any 501(c)(3) public charity across the country. Your clients may recommend grants, access their fund information, view their past gift and grant history, and download quarterly statements via our online portal. We are here to provide as much, or as little, service as your clients desire.

How do I set up a fund or refer a client to OCF?

Call us at (402) 342-3458, send an e-mail to us at giving@omahafoundation.org, or ask your client to complete an [online inquiry form](#). We work with your clients in the way that makes the most sense for them and you.
