



Compare Your Charitable Options



A partnership with MCF offers compelling advantages over other charitable options.

See how we compare.

	MCF Donor-Advised Fund	Commercial Donor-Advised Fund	MCF Virtuoso	Private Foundation
Service Model	A dedicated philanthropic advisor is available to support all aspects of your charitable giving	Varies, but most financial institutions provide phone and online service from a support desk; advisory services may not always be offered	An expert team provides everything you and your family need to execute effective and meaningful philanthropy, including a custom strategic giving plan, and all fund administration	Members of the foundation manage their own giving, and hire consultants to handle administration, accounting, legal affairs and compliance
Expertise	Access to philanthropic advisors, field leaders and robust sector knowledge	Varies, but most providers encourage donors to conduct their own online research using charitable databases	Your team comprises certified philanthropic advisors, tenured grant makers with deep issue and evaluation expertise, marketing professionals and financial services staff	Members of the foundation hire consultants or conduct their own research
Philanthropic programs	MCF provides tailored services for you including custom research, giving strategy guidance, family philanthropy offerings and personal site visits to nonprofits	None	MCF curates experiential and educational events, offers exclusive philanthropic curricula and provides networking opportunities for you with business, government and community leaders	Must be arranged and paid for by the foundation
Privacy	You may choose to remain anonymous	Donor may choose to remain anonymous	You may choose to remain anonymous	IRS Form 990-PF lists officers, directors and trustees
Perpetuity	Yes, if you wish and if the fund has sufficient assets	Varies	Yes, if you wish and if the fund has sufficient assets	Yes, if donor wishes and if the fund has sufficient assets
Private label branding	None	None	MCF's marketing team can develop a brand for your fund, including logo, color palette, letterhead design and more (at no charge)	Must be arranged and paid for by the foundation
Annual administrative fees	A sliding scale, beginning at 0.65% and scaling down to 0.10% as fund balance increases	Varies based on fund size, but usually starts at 0.6% of assets and declines for larger funds	A sliding scale, beginning at 0.65% and scaling down to 0.10% as fund balance increases; depending on fund structure, audit & tax return preparation fees may be added	Grantmaking, administrative, legal, accounting & investment support are staffed and financed independently
Investment strategy	You can choose from MCF's professionally-managed investment pools	Donors choose from firm's investment pools or designate an advisor to manage investments	Your investment advisor may manage assets and design an investment strategy, or you can ask MCF to manage the assets	Donor appoints board which hires manager to manage assets
International grantmaking	Available for a minimal fee to cover due diligence costs	Grantmaking to internationally-based organizations is typically not available	Fees waived	Available, but foundation needs to manage and cover costs of due diligence
Income tax deductions for:				
Cash gifts	Up to 60% of adjusted gross income	Up to 60% of adjusted gross income	Up to 60% of adjusted gross income	Up to 30% of adjusted gross income
Publicly-traded securities	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Fair market value up to 20% of adjusted gross income
Real estate, closely-held stock	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Fair market value up to 30% of adjusted gross income	Deductible at cost basis up to 20% of adjusted gross income
Financial administration: IRS reporting	None	None	Depending on fund structure, annual tax returns and audits may need to be prepared and filed by MCF	Must prepare and cover costs of an annual tax return, detailed financial schedule and audit
Taxes	None	None	None	Excise tax is 2% of net investment income, including net capital gains
Distribution requirements	None	Most require a minimum of 5% of the fund's net assets on a five-year rolling average	None	At least 5% of net asset value annually. Penalty tax is 30% of undistributed amount
Tax status	Covered under MCF's public charity status	Covered under nonprofit status of corporate entity's charitable subsidiary	Covered under MCF's public charity status	Must apply to IRS for private foundation tax-exempt status
Start-up considerations: Costs	None	None	MCF covers most costs	Several thousand dollars for legal and accounting expenses and filing fees
Timeframe	Immediate	Immediate	Immediate	Several months
Minimum contribution	None	Varies, usually between \$5,000-25,000	\$5 million	None, but establishing a smaller foundation is not typically cost-effective

The Bottom Line

A **donor-advised fund at MCF** is ideal for people looking to take their giving to a new level, with personalized service, organized administration and easy access to knowledge and research.

A commercial donor-advised fund is ideal for people looking for a simple, transactional way to manage their giving, that doesn't emphasize personal service or philanthropic advice.

Virtuoso at MCF is ideal for people with a profound commitment to charitable giving and significant resources to commit – and who want to enjoy an extremely high level of customized service with no administrative burden.

A private foundation is ideal for people with significant wealth who want a formal structure to their giving and have the ability and desire to manage its administration.

For more information, please contact:



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