

Community Funds

A community's most valuable resources are its people. Its citizens successfully infuse new life and vitality into their community by addressing key issues and driving change.

That's why the foundation started its Community Fund Program. Community funds are grassroots charitable vehicles that act as catalysts in linking resources to people and community needs. The results of the foundation's mission of unlocking the power of people are reflected in each of its community funds.

PROGRAM >

The foundation establishes community funds in partnership with local leaders who are committed to providing financial resources to strengthen their local community. The foundation provides new funds with an incentive match to help fuel the fund in its early stages. The funds help support community services and programs at local nonprofits, government agencies and schools. Here's a look at why communities set up a fund:

- *No start-up costs, incorporation filings or separate tax returns.*
- *Access to leadership training and comprehensive community planning programs.*
- *Receive fundraising, asset management, marketing and accounting expertise.*

PROCESS >

Community Funds are started through a declaration that outlines the fund's structure. At least seven members act as the fund's governing board. The foundation provides a small annual grant for administrative costs and works with the board on recordkeeping, fundraising strategies and grant distribution. The fund pays a nominal annual fee based on fair market value of the fund's total assets as of June 30 of each year.

Income from the fund can:

- *Support community services and programs.*
- *Address community issues.*
- *Provide philanthropy education.*
- *Provide other charitable opportunities.*
- *Train other organizations, communities and individuals on the community fund model.*

PARTICIPATE >

Community funds require commitment and dedication from many community members. If your community is ready to take their local giving programs to the next level, contact the foundation's donor services professionals.

