



DONOR ADVISED FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2025



Catholic
Charities
USA®

How does a Catholic Charities USA Donor Advised Fund (DAF) account work?

A donor advised fund is a philanthropic vehicle that allows donors to make an irrevocable charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time. The contributed funds are invested for potential growth. A donor advised fund is akin to a charitable savings account: The donor contributes to the fund then recommends grants from the fund to their favorite nonprofit organizations when they are ready.

Do I retain control over the monies I contribute?

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that in order to take the full federal income tax deduction in the year of the contribution, the donor must relinquish all control of the contributed assets to CCUSA; the contribution is irrevocable. However, all donors in the CCUSA DAF may recommend grants to qualified charitable organizations.

Who is an eligible donor?

CCUSA will accept contributions from individuals, companies, trusts and estates. We will also accept contributions from other donor advised funds and private foundations, although such donations may not be tax deductible. We recommend consulting a tax advisor for more information.



What sets the Catholic Charities USA Donor Advised Fund apart from other DAFs?

The investments in CCUSA's DAF pass the Catholic Values Screen. The funds are professionally managed and exclude companies involved in activities considered inconsistent with Catholic values, per guidelines developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

How do I open a DAF account and make contributions?

To open an account, visit ccusa.planmylegacy.org. Note that donations of complex assets come with additional rules and restrictions.



What are the investment options?

Donors may recommend their contributions be allocated among the DAF's investment funds, each of which is professionally managed according to different investment objectives.

The CCUSA DAF will maintain a subaccount ("Donor Account") that will reflect your contributions to the DAF. Individuals will receive a quarterly account statement and will have access to account information online at all times. Currently, the CCUSA DAF offers investments in various socially responsible investing (SRI) investment funds. Each fund meets the guidelines established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for SRI consistent with Catholic Social Teaching. **You may design your own investment strategy for the assets in your DAF account by allocating amounts across the funds in the CCUSA DAF Investment Funds Chart.**

CCUSA DAF Investment Funds Chart	
SRI Investment Fund	Objective
Cash Management Fund	Appropriate for donors with minimal risk tolerance who seek to preserve capital.
Income Fund	Appropriate for donors who are generally risk averse yet are willing to accept some degree of risk to achieve low to moderate appreciation potential.
Income and Growth Fund	Appropriate for donors who are seeking a total return, including both income and capital appreciation, and are willing to accept a moderate degree of volatility in their returns.
Growth Fund	Appropriate for donors seeking long-term growth. Donors who select this fund should be willing to accept a high degree of volatility in their returns.

Who is eligible to receive a grant from my CCUSA DAF Account?

The Internal Revenue Service allows grants to charitable organizations that are tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Code. All qualifying organizations whose missions do not contradict the principles of Catholic Social Teaching are eligible.

CCUSA will review all grant requests to determine whether they comply with applicable law and whether the potential grantee's mission makes it eligible. Grants cannot be made to individuals, political candidates or parties, private non-operating foundations, type III supporting organizations or any other entity prohibited by the IRS, and grants cannot be used to satisfy a preexisting pledge. Also, dues, tuition, membership fees and goods purchased at a charitable auction may not be eligible. Please consult your tax advisor.

How do I make a grant?

You may recommend charitable organizations to which grants will be made from your account by submitting a grant recommendation online. Grant recommendations are subject to approval by CCUSA. The minimum grant amount is \$100.

Grants are made by checks bearing the name of the CCUSA DAF account together with a letter that references the account name, the donor's name and any special acknowledgment (such as in memoriam or tribute gifts). Alternatively, the grants may be made anonymously, at your request.

A LEGACY OF GIVING

How does a Catholic Charities USA Donor Advised Fund support legacy planning?

CCUSA DAF accounts enable flexible, no-cost legacy planning.

Donors may name up to four designated individuals as successors on their account. Successors become account holders when the succession plan is enacted. Succession plans are enacted upon the notification to CCUSA of the death or incapacity of the primary and secondary owners of the fund.

May I name others to my account to help manage it?

An account holder may also appoint a secondary account holder, for example, a spouse or family member. Both the primary and secondary account holders have full and equal account access and privileges. This designation can be made when filling out the new account application form or at any time by contacting us.

Can my children/grandchildren be involved with my account?

Yes. Account holders can establish a succession plan when opening the account and may add successors at any time by contacting us. If a successor is a minor, a legal guardian must approve all account activity until the minor reaches the age of 18. We also recommend including family members in the grantmaking process, instilling the value of generosity and leaving a legacy of philanthropy for future generations.

Can I convert my private family foundation into a donor advised fund?

Yes! For donors who prefer the simplicity and cost effectiveness of a donor advised fund, a private foundation can be converted. Please contact us directly if you are considering this option, and we can work with your attorneys and advisors to seamlessly complete the transition.

I have a donor advised fund at another firm. Can I move it to Catholic Charities USA?

Yes! We make it simple for donors who prefer their funds be invested in a manner consistent with Catholic Social Teaching to move their fund. Please contact us directly for assistance.



FINANCIAL AND TAX INFORMATION

What are the costs associated with a Catholic Charities USA DAF?

The minimum amount to open a CCUSA DAF is \$2,500. Costs include administrative fees of 1%, half of which go to CCUSA. Investment fees will vary by the underlying investment chosen but are lower than industry average for actively managed investment accounts.

Unlike most investment firms, CCUSA does not pay sales bonuses or commissions to staff for opening accounts. This keeps fees low, allowing more money to be applied toward grants.



Will a receipt be issued for my contributions and grants, for tax purposes?

Since contributions to the CCUSA DAF are eligible for a current year income tax deduction, any other receipts or acknowledgments received (e.g., from a charity to which a grant has been recommended) are duplicative and not necessary for tax purposes. The CCUSA DAF streamlines your giving and your tax preparation.

Why should I consider funding my CCUSA DAF with non-cash assets?

Contributing appreciated non-cash assets or investments to your CCUSA DAF can be the most tax-advantaged approach because doing so allows you to avoid a capital gains tax that would normally be due if the shares were sold outright. In addition, contributing non-cash assets or investments may also help diversify a heavily concentrated portfolio.