



## Partnerships To Meet Your Needs

Chicagoans who partner with The Chicago Community Trust are diverse. They have individual charitable interests, unique family situations, and specific financial circumstances. However, they share one characteristic -- they all want their giving to make an impact. They want to contribute to the betterment of metropolitan Chicago and its people for years to come.

The Chicago Community Trust understands that every philanthropic agenda is unique and that the needs of the region are broad and evolving. In its own grant making, the Trust prioritizes arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, education, and health. Our donor partners share these interests as well as many others, and we remain flexible to address a variety of evolving community needs. There are numerous options to consider as you work with the Trust in defining your own giving program:

**Donor Advised Funds:** These funds, which may be endowed or expendable over a period of years, allow you to be actively engaged in the grant making process and to designate a successor generation of advisors. They are attractive alternatives to private family foundations because of their tax advantages and reporting. You benefit from all of the resources of the Trust in establishing and increasing such funds as well as recommending the causes and organizations supported.

**Supporting Organizations:** For donors with significant assets to commit, supporting organizations offer a formal giving structure and significant benefits from affiliation with the Trust. A supporting organization has its own board of directors. Start-up and annual costs are less than those associated with private foundations, and tax benefits are greater. Reporting requirements are met by the Trust. Supporting organizations may be created with very specific giving intentions or for the general charitable good of the community.

**Unrestricted Funds:** These funds enable the Trust to continue to respond to evolving community needs and to develop new areas of support.

**Restricted Funds:** You may establish funds that are directed toward an area of interest or specify a charitable organization or organizations as the perpetual recipient/s of support. These funds may be established with endowed or expendable resources.

**Field of Interest Funds:** These funds allow donors to establish broad parameters for the use of resources, such as education, the arts, or people with disabilities. You may contribute to an existing field of interest fund or create one of your own.

The kinds of resources that may be used to establish—and increase—funds through the Trust as varied as the funds themselves. Commitments of cash, securities, and other property are the most traditional forms of fund support. Bequests often allow Trust partners to launch or build funds with commitments not feasible otherwise. Beyond bequests, there are many other estate planning options to help you fulfill your charitable intentions. Just a few of these include:

**Charitable Remainder Trust:** This trust makes payments of a fixed percentage of its assets to you, a family member, or another loved one either simultaneously or consecutively for a period of time. At the end of this period, the remainder of the trust is paid to The Chicago Community Trust for charitable purposes.

**Charitable Lead Trust:** This is the reverse situation from a charitable remainder trust. The Chicago Community Trust receives returns from your trust for a specified period. At the end of the “lead” period, as specified by the donor, the remainder of the trust is paid to designated family members or others.

**Charitable Gift Annuity:** This is an arrangement through which the Trust agrees to pay a fixed sum periodically to you or other recipients for the term of one or two lifetimes. Upon the death of the last annuitant, assets used to establish the annuity agreement immediately become assets of the Trust to be used for charitable purposes.

The Chicago Community Trust’s donors are encouraged to explore the individualized combinations of funding and philanthropic options that are right for them. You might want to designate some funds as totally unrestricted, for example, and other funds as donor advised. You might want to establish a fund with cash or securities and make an estate planning arrangement to increase that fund. Trust staff are ready to work with you and your financial advisors to develop the strategy that addresses your capacities and interests. Best of all, you know that your charitable intentions will be carried out by The Chicago Community Trust—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

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