

Field of Interest Funds

A Field of Interest Fund supports a general area of charitable activity such as adult literacy, preserving the environment, or the arts. A Field of Interest Fund can also support charitable work within a geographic area.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about Field of Interest Funds.

How do I establish a Field of Interest Fund?

Funds can be established easily and quickly. The Foundation assists donors and their financial advisors with the fund-establishment process. Once the details have been discussed with the Foundation, simply sign a fund agreement letter and transfer the assets to establish the fund.

Is there a required minimum balance?

It is not economical for the Community Foundation to administer funds with a long-term balance less than \$10,000. That balance may be reached over several years with a fundraising/donation plan approved by the Foundation.

How are the funds invested?

Our funds are professionally invested under the supervision of expert community volunteers. Funds are pooled and invested with other assets of the Foundation for fuller diversification, with each fund accruing its own share of the earnings. Each fund is accounted for separately. Donors may choose from a selection of portfolios and will receive quarterly financial statements.

Who manages the fund distribution process?

Our Distribution Committee's competitive grant making process ensures the greatest possible breadth, thoroughness, and equity in evaluating and prioritizing grant requests. These community volunteers thoroughly review each request to ensure the strength and viability of the project.

What are the administrative fees?

The fee is currently 1.25% of the principal annually.

What do the fees cover?

The fees cover all administrative tasks assumed by the Foundation. Tasks include recordkeeping, investment, filing all required reports, monitoring the charitable status of recipients of such grants, and the provision of tax receipts for gifts to the fund.

Can a Field of Interest Fund become obsolete?

Funds will never become obsolete. Endowed funds will provide an enduring legacy that meets the defined needs for generations to come. If a change of circumstances makes literal compliance with the terms of the gift unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of Western Massachusetts, our trustees can vary them.