

SELECTING A DONOR-ADVISED FUND PROVIDER: ARE YOU ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS?



If you're considering establishing a donor-advised fund – or moving an existing one – selecting the “sponsoring organization” that will administer your fund can be confusing. You have options, and knowing which questions to ask is the first important step in making an informed decision that is right for you.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

1. How many generations of successor advisors can be named? Can I pass this fund down to future generations indefinitely?
2. Are there circumstances in which the funds will roll into a general fund, effectively ending our family's right to direct those funds?
3. Are there circumstances in which my wishes regarding grants to be made from my fund will not be respected?
4. Will the sponsoring organization accept alternative assets, such as real estate, privately held stock or private equity shares? If so, will it hold those assets indefinitely, until I advise that they be liquidated?
5. If I want to form an advisory Board, hold meetings and involve my children in the fund's charitable giving activities, will the organization provide customized supportive services for that?
6. Are the fees quoted all-inclusive and transparent? Or are investment management and/or philanthropic support services subject to additional fees?
7. How many Donor Advised Funds does each administrator manage? Will I be one among hundreds of clients or will I be one of a few to whom they can provide focused and personalized service?
8. If I have a foundation as well as a Donor Advised Fund, can the organization help me manage both vehicles in a coordinated fashion so that my grantmaking is integrated?

LOCATIONS

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