**Why choose the Western Colorado Community Foundation?**

**Commitment to western Colorado** – we are a regional, place-based organization whose board and staff all live in the community.

**Maximum tax benefits** – we are a 501(c)(3) public charity offering full charitable tax deductions as allowed by the IRS.

**Complex gifts** – we can accept a wide range of assets, from cash and stock to real estate, royalty interests and business holdings.

**Administrative ease** – we take care of all legal, tax, and accounting reporting so you don’t have to.

**Low fees** – our administrative fees are less expensive than establishing a private foundation.

**Community expertise** – we conduct research and share our knowledge of community needs and nonprofit organizations with our donors to help them maximize their philanthropic impact.

**Community of donors** – you are part of a larger circle of donors who can learn from each other and work together to make a difference.

**Charitable legacy** – your donation will be well-managed and used for the purposes you intend, invested over the long-term and benefiting the community for generations.
The Western Colorado Community Foundation (WCCF) is a nonprofit public foundation established by local community leaders in 1996. We work with community-minded donors who share a connection with western Colorado and want to make a difference where they live.

WCCF serves a seven county region that includes Mesa, Garfield, Eagle, Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and Rio Blanco counties.

We currently manage over 250 charitable funds totaling $90 million in assets and award over $5 million in grants and scholarships annually.

Community Foundations are

- Tax-exempt, public charities dedicated to improving communities.
- A collection of many funds established by separate donors to carry out their charitable interests within a defined geographic area.
- Primarily endowed funds – invested to grow over the long-term, with the earnings available annually for charitable purposes.
- Experts on the needs and opportunities in our communities, providing grants, scholarships, and other resources to the counties served.
- Community leaders, identifying problems and bringing together donors, nonprofits, and other resources to help communities grow and thrive.

Flexible and Personal Giving for Donors and Families

A donor-advised fund is very flexible and popular for donor families. This type of fund allows you and your family members to stay actively involved in your annual charitable giving. You create a fund in your name (or the name of someone close to you, perhaps a relative you want to memorialize) and receive an immediate tax deduction. Funds are invested to grow over time. Each year, you recommend grants to qualified nonprofit organizations. Our Community Foundation takes care of confirming IRS status, distributing grant checks and, in some instances, monitoring the use of the grant funds to ensure your intentions are honored.

How do I set up a donor-advised fund?

To establish a new donor-advised fund, simply complete a fund agreement and make an initial donation of $5,000 or more. You will select a name for your donor-advised fund. You may add to your fund any time during your lifetime, or through a bequest gift.

Benefits of a donor-advised fund

- **Simplicity** – Setting up a fund requires completing paperwork and takes about 10 minutes. You do not need to hire a lawyer or incorporate a new organization. We handle tax receipts, record-keeping, investment management, and distribution of grants.
- **Flexibility** – Funds can be allowed to grow over the long-term or be spent down over a period of time. New donations to a donor-advised fund can be made, in any amount, at any time, and by any person.
- **Cost-Effective** – Donor-advised funds are typically easier and less costly to administer than other charitable giving vehicles, such as private foundations.

How do I make grants from my fund?

Complete and submit a donor-advised fund grant recommendation form or notify us through e-mail. Grants must be made to qualified charitable organizations in the U.S. You may direct your grant for a specific purpose or make a general support grant. Grants may be made throughout the year. The minimum grant size is $100. Per IRS rules, grants may not be made to individuals.

You will receive annual statements showing your fund contributions, earnings, grants you have made, and balance available for grants.

“**We thought about starting a private foundation, but a WCCF donor-advised fund allows us to achieve our charitable goals without the legal and administrative requirements, at a very reasonable cost to us.**”

Family Legacy – Donors rely on our experience in working with multi-generation families to involve their children or grandchildren in their family’s tradition of philanthropy.

Privacy – Donors may choose to be publicly acknowledged or remain anonymous.

Staff Support – Our staff can provide information on organizations and causes you may be interested in supporting.