What is a Donor-Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a giving vehicle that provides you with the ability to support nonprofits you care about while also receiving immediate tax benefits. Donor-advised funds are an efficient and cost-effective alternative to private or family foundations. We’ve partnered with the Amalgamated Foundation and are able to offer you access to a state-of-the-art donor-advised fund platform. With North Star Fund, your donor-advised fund can move resources quickly to support grassroots organizing and social justice where it’s needed most.

How Does a Donor-Advised Fund Work?

**GIVE**

Establishing a donor-advised fund is simple. Open your fund with a gift of cash or other assets, and take advantage of an immediate tax deduction for your gift. You may add to your fund over time; the minimum to open a donor-advised fund with North Star Fund is $1,000.

**INVEST**

Your fund assets can grow tax-free in pooled, professionally managed portfolios held by Amalgamated Charitable Foundation. When you open your fund, you will have the choice of keeping your contributions as cash or placing it into one of several investment options.

**GRANT**

You have the power to recommend grants at any time using Amalgamated Foundation’s online portal to eligible nonprofits inside or outside New York. We take care of all the paperwork, due diligence, and required reporting. Grants are awarded within five business days.

Why Should I Consider a Donor-Advised Fund?

- You’re looking for an easy introduction to philanthropy.
- You want to be more strategic. All of your philanthropy is in one place with access to financial advisors and social justice experts.
- You want to take advantage of a tax deduction now without the pressure of granting it immediately.
- You want to pass the practice of philanthropy onto future generations by involving children and grandchildren in the grantmaking process.

How Do I Get Started?

Setting up your donor-advised fund is quick and easy. Just complete the enrollment form and submit it to DAF@northstarfund.org. We will follow-up with you to complete the account creation process.
Benefits of a North Star Fund DAF

Expert Guidance: You get the full support of an established team with connections to justice movement leadership in New York and nationally. Meanwhile, your fund’s dollars are professionally managed by Amalgamated Foundation.

Confidence: North Star Fund is a partner in the Hate is not Charitable Campaign which implements proactive policies and screening to ensure that DAF funds do not flow to organizations that promote hate.

Simplicity: We simplify your record keeping and provide you necessary tax acknowledgements and easy-to-read statements. In addition to grants being processed in 5 days or less, you will have 24-hour access to your account and will be able to make grant requests and changes anytime.

Flexibility: You recommend grants when you’re ready. You can make regularly scheduled grants or respond immediately to urgent issues. You can support local work or contribute to national efforts.

Socially Responsible Investment Options: You have the option of investing your funds in various socially responsible investments.

Common Questions

How does this compare with setting up a private foundation?
By setting up a donor-advised fund, you avoid the excise taxes, administrative costs, and legal fees of setting up a private foundation, allowing more of your money to go towards the organizations you care about.

Are there restrictions beyond donating to a nonprofit?
Yes, there are some restrictions.

Grants must be in line with North Star Fund’s mission.

Grants cannot be made for memberships, benefit events, special events or other purposes where some portion of the gift is not tax-deductible.

Grants must be made within three years. Our priority is helping you move your money to the issues you care about.

Are there limits on the size and number of grants?
There are no limits to the number of grants you can make through your donor-advised fund. However, there is a minimum $1,000 grant amount.

Can I remain anonymous?
You have the option of being as anonymous or visible as you choose.