

Unrestricted, Field of Interest, and Designated

Unrestricted Fund

What is it?

This is a type of endowed fund named by the donor. This fund works well for those who wish to support, in perpetuity, the critical needs of the community without specifying particular nonprofit organizations or areas of interest. An unrestricted fund allows the Foundation to address a broad range of local needs – including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time a gift is made. Donors who establish an unrestricted fund recognize that the most pressing needs in Rhode Island today may not be the same in two or three years, or two or three decades from now.

What are the benefits?

Because there are no restrictions set forth on its use, an unrestricted gift enables the Rhode Island Foundation's staff and Board to do what we do best – assess community needs and respond by awarding grants to the nonprofit organizations that undertake our community's most critical work. Unrestricted funds help the Rhode Island Foundation support long-term solutions, respond quickly to emergencies, and meet changing social, cultural, educational, or environmental needs. Each year, approximately 4.75% of an unrestricted fund's average market value is paid out in the form of grants.

“With a minimum contribution of \$10,000, you may make a gift to establish an unrestricted, field of interest, or designated fund during your lifetime or through a bequest.”

Field of Interest Fund

What is it?

This is a type of endowed fund, named by the donor, to support a broad area of interest or geography without specifying a particular organization.

A field of interest fund addresses needs in an important area of community life, such as the arts, health, the environment, youth or a particular geographic community. The donor identifies an area of personal interest and the Foundation awards grants to community organizations and programs, making a tangible difference within the area the donor selects.

What are the benefits?

A field of interest fund provides flexibility to meet the community needs in the donor's interest area, while enabling the Foundation to better target specific needs as they arise or change over time. Like an unrestricted fund, a field of interest fund pays out approximately 4.75% of its average market value in the form of grants.

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Designated Fund

What is it?

This is a type of endowed fund, named by the donor. This fund works well for those who wish to support, in perpetuity, one or more specific organizations named in the creating documents of the fund.

What are the benefits?

A designated fund affords its donor the opportunity to offer a permanent “endowment” to a nonprofit organization(s) they care about. If, for any reason, a designated nonprofit organization ceases to exist, the Foundation will redirect the funds in order to most closely correspond to the original intentions and wishes of the donor. We would find an organization that closely matches or aligns with the original one you specified. Through the Foundation’s prudent stewardship, your intent will be honored and protected, forever. Each year, approximately 4.5% of a designated fund’s average market value is paid out in the form of grants.

How to establish

With a minimum contribution of \$10,000, you may make a gift to establish an unrestricted, field of interest, or designated fund during your lifetime or through a bequest. You can give cash, appreciated stocks, or other assets to create the fund. The fund can be in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor or memory of the person or organization you choose. You may also choose to be anonymous. To learn more about your options, please contact our Development department at (401) 274-4564.