Six Simple Steps to Get Started

The Maine Community Foundation works with generous people every day to help them craft their plans for giving. Our goal is to make this process easy and productive for you. To that end, we have identified a six-step process you can use to make decisions about your charitable giving.

1. Think about your goals
What do you want to accomplish with your giving? Discuss these objectives with your family and financial advisors.

2. Consider your giving options
Compare and contrast the various charitable giving options available to you to see which ones correspond most closely with your goals and your situation. If you are considering a private foundation, you may wish to review the document “Private Foundation vs. Community Foundation.”

3. Consider when to give
Based on your situation, it might be best for you to establish a fund now, make a bequest in your will, or a combination of both. Ask your advisor for his or her recommendations and talk with us about different options available at MaineCF that will best meet your goals and needs, now and as your situation changes.

4. Choose which causes you want to support
Support the region’s greatest needs as they change over time, or focus your contributions more precisely by choosing specific issues you care about. Because the Maine Community Foundation is working “on the ground” every day, we’ll gladly share with you our firsthand knowledge of both the needs and the nonprofit organizations in the region working to address them. If you like, we can suggest organizations that might be a good match for giving in your areas of interest.

5. Decide what to give
Every donor’s personal and financial circumstances are unique. What kind of assets—cash, securities, real estate, or other types of property—would serve as the most sensible basis for your giving? Talk with your advisor and involve us in the conversation to find the best fit with your situation and options available through MaineCF.

6. Work with us to develop your plan
MaineCF manages several different types of funds, and our staff can work with you to develop and execute a giving strategy that ensures you meet your philanthropic goals.

We advise you to seek your own legal and tax advice in connection with gift and planning matters. The Maine Community Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice.