

# AEF Advantages Over Commercial Donor Advised Funds



## Independence

Like many advisors who actively promote their independence as one of the primary reasons clients should select their firms, American Endowment Foundation (AEF) similarly is a truly independent donor advised fund. AEF works with advisors from RIAs, broker-dealers, and banks on virtually all custodial platforms.

While many commercial DAF programs restrict advisors' management to accounts above \$250,000 or \$1,000,000 while others do not allow this at all, AEF allows advisors to manage their clients' charitable assets regardless of account size without being forced to pick from a restricted family of funds or pools. AEF does not offer its own investments, thus ensuring it will never compete with advisors or firms that bring clients to AEF. Some advisors express concern that some commercial DAF sponsors could compete because they offer funds and wealth management services.

AEF DAF accounts are also portable, so if a firm or advisor switches custodians, the donor and advisor can keep the DAF account at AEF.

## Flexibility

For over 25 years, AEF has accepted donations of a wide variety of assets and is willing in many cases to hold these assets instead of requiring their immediate sale. AEF accepts donations of real estate, closely held stock, and other complex assets valued at lower levels than many other DAF sponsors.

For AEF donors that need the help and guidance of a Philanthropic Advisory firm to develop a mission, facilitate a family meeting, evaluate their past grantmaking, identify grantees, or support other activities, AEF is able to refer its donors to these firms. In many cases, AEF is able to allow the donor to pay for the services out of their account. Few DAF sponsors offer this program, and some only allow payment for donors at the \$1 million level or above.

While some programs prohibit or restrict grants outside the U.S., AEF allows international grantmaking.

Because AEF works with all custodians, it often has more flexibility to accommodate end-of-year grant requests.

## Personal Size and Service

With over \$4 billion in assets and nearly 9,000 donor accounts, AEF has been the leading independent donor advised fund choice since 1993. Though truly independent, AEF fees are highly competitive and less costly than many other donor advised fund sponsors. Any tiny difference at the lowest levels in comparison to the largest commercial DAF sponsors is negligible when compared against the ability of the advisor to manage the account assets at any level.

AEF is committed to maintaining the highest level of personal service and support to all donors and advisors. Each donor and financial advisor are assigned to an individual contact at AEF, regardless of the value of the account. When offered at other commercial donor advised fund programs, this level of support for donors is only available for accounts exceeding \$3 million.