



County Endowment Funds

An introduction to growing your County's charitable resources for today, tomorrow, and generations to come

Your Community Foundation is a grant maker, endowment builder, and catalyst for local philanthropy. With 25 years of experience connecting people who care with causes that matter -- like yours -- we are poised to help you build your endowment and grow your County's charitable resources for here, for now, forever.

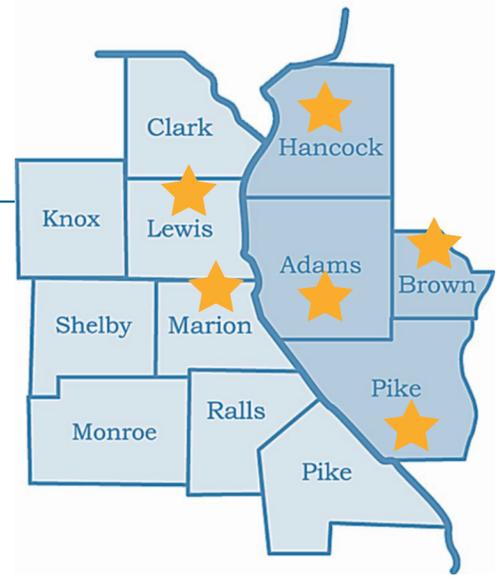




The Perfect Match

Our county contains a number of villages and towns, each with a distinct character. Yet, we also share a common wish — to preserve, maintain or improve our communities and county.

What plans do we, as residents, have to make that wish a reality?
What resources are available in our county to support local interests? What can we do now?



Be a Matchmaker

Right now, we have the opportunity to be a matchmaker. We can bring people together to support local charitable needs and opportunities in our county — and retain local assets — for today and tomorrow. By pulling together to pool financial resources, we can create our County Endowment Fund *and* get a match of up to **\$15,000** for our permanent fund — for our county, its communities, its nonprofits, and its people.

The Opportunity

County Endowment Funds began with a pilot program in Pike County, IL. In 2009, a few of the county's residents began raising money to establish a Pike County Endowment Fund with the Community Foundation. As they did, others started to realize that a county endowment fund provides a way to retain local assets to support a broad range of charitable needs and opportunities in their county — for good, forever.

Pike County's success led the Community Foundation to launch a County Endowment Fund Match Initiative. All 12 counties in the Community Foundation's service area were invited to participate. Why? Because the Community Foundation believes each county can effectively pool resources for community betterment and generate increased awareness of local needs and opportunities.

The Community Foundation continues to act on its mission of 'Connecting people who care with causes that matter' by offering its assistance — and up to \$15,000 in matching funds — to help us create and develop our county endowment fund. To help us develop locally-based philanthropy and leadership within our county. To keep local assets working for our county — permanently. To date, six counties have established endowments and met the match: Adams, Brown, Hancock, and Pike in Illinois and Lewis and Marion in Missouri.

When we form our local Fund Council, made up of volunteers from our county, the Community Foundation will assist our efforts to build our county endowment by offering its charitable status, investment experience and grant distribution services. It also offers its abilities to assist local donors in creating lasting legacies through a variety of giving options for our county.

Getting Started

Contact the Community Foundation to get started on the path towards your county's endowment.

217-222-1237 | info@mycommunityfoundation.org



Why County Endowments?

Why build a county endowment?

- **Capture today's wealth for tomorrow's needs:** In the next four decades, the United States will experience the largest ever intergenerational transfer of wealth from one generation to the next. Quite often, especially in rural communities, children move away from where they were raised. County Endowment Funds provide a mechanism for people to give a gift intended to ensure the community's future, thereby retaining assets locally.
- **Build community assets:** Assets are not only money. The dollars in a County Endowment Fund grow and are available to invest in the community. People get involved in making decisions about how to use the dollars. Philanthropy encourages new people to get involved and engages them in a way that's forward-thinking. That level of engagement is a real asset.
- **Invest in community opportunities:** People in a community are the ones who are best acquainted with the local issues and opportunities. With local philanthropic funds and local voice, you can use those assets to help people learn more about the issues, to choose the ones that are most important to address, or to provide seed funding.
- **Build a culture of philanthropy:** Building a culture of philanthropy recognizes and encourages community philanthropy, regardless of the amount available to give. This can help transform traditional ways of giving into an organized effort.



Why give to a county endowment?

- **Permanent support:** County Endowment Funds are endowed, meaning there will be dollars to support local nonprofits not only today, but for generations to come. Needs and opportunities in the County may change, but a County Endowment Fund is permanent, ensuring there will always be funds available to address the changing landscape.
- **Complement, not competition:** There are many great ways to support nonprofits and philanthropic efforts, and there is no "right" way to give. A County Endowment Fund provides an opportunity to invest in the future of your County, complementing the efforts of local nonprofits. It's not about slicing up the proverbial charitable pie – it's about making more pie!



Marion County Fund Council Chair, Irene Meyers, speaks to a group of supporters about the benefits and impact of the Marion County Endowment Fund.



Doubling Down for Pike County: One County's Success Story

In 2008, Pike County residents began noticing that assets were leaving the county. Specifically, when a Pike County resident passed away, all of the decedent's assets were liquidated, businesses sold, farms sold, bank accounts closed, and the wealth transferred to heirs who lived outside the county; in New York, California, Florida, and other places.

They believed there were people who cared enough about Pike County that, during their lifetime or at their death, they would leave a portion of their wealth for the county where they lived and where funds could be used for the betterment of Pike County communities for generations to come.



Those individuals met with the Community Foundation to see whether it would serve as the vehicle to assist with a Pike County Endowment Fund. Those individuals then met with several of the banks within the county. A very large percentage of the banks said they would support such a program, both financially and by informing their customers of the benefits. And, they found individuals who also believed in giving back.

With this in mind, that group of individuals formed the Pike County Fund Council to help educate individuals and businesses and to make contacts with those who might have an interest in donating.

"If you give to local causes today, you should consider giving to the Pike County Endowment Fund so that your gift will give back long into the future," said Pike County Fund Council Chair Kaye Iftner. "It's a way to 'pay it forward' and ensure that our communities will be cared for forever. Because we know needs and opportunities will change, these dollars allow us to remain nimble and provide support where and how it's needed at the time."

The Pike County Fund Council, comprised of individuals from towns and communities within the county, raises the funds and then reviews grant applications. Then, the council recommends grants that serve charitable causes in Pike County.

Since the fund was established, it has granted to more than a dozen local nonprofits with the help of contributions from more than 100 people, organizations, and businesses.

"Our Pike County Endowment will provide support for good, forever, for our county," said Iftner.

The Fund's goal is now to continue to build and grow so it can continue to support the worthy needs and opportunities in Pike County.

And, support from the Fund continues to grow. In September of 2021, an anonymous donor offered a \$25,000 dollar-for-dollar match to grow the fund's balance... and impact. By December 31, the Fund Council had not only met, but exceeded the \$25,000 goal. In total, the Pike County Endowment Fund grew by more than \$66,000 through the match effort.

"What a great response from the citizens and business from Pike County and beyond that took advantage of this dollar for dollar match," said the anonymous donor who issued the invitation to others to match their gift. "With the generosity shown by donors, the Pike County Endowment Fund will be able to grant to more nonprofits in our county, and in turn we will be able to help address some of the unique needs and opportunities within our own backyard. I hope this successful venture encourages others to follow suit."



County Endowment FAQs

Residents of a county may desire to build an endowment fund as a permanent resource to support a broad range of their communities' needs and opportunities. Those who have established county endowments are finding that they can more effectively pool their resources for community betterment, benefit from experienced investment and administrative services, and generate increased awareness of needs and opportunities by partnering with the Community Foundation.

Your Community Foundation assists and works with volunteers who form a County Fund Council made up of representatives from throughout their county. We also offer our ability and experience to assist donors in creating lasting legacies through a variety of giving options for their counties.



What is a county endowment?

- A county endowment is a permanent, steady, and secure fund that provides grants in your county to address present and future charitable needs and opportunities in your county.
- A Fund Council, made up of volunteers from throughout your county, provides the leadership, works to build the fund, and makes grant recommendations.

Why build a county endowment?

- Having a county endowment strengthens your county's ability to serve its citizens' needs and opportunities now and for future generations.
- A county endowment helps retain and build local assets rather than 'watching' those assets leave your communities.
- It is an attractive option to people who love their communities, particularly those who wish to make large gifts or leave a gift by bequest, since the fund is permanent and not expended for short-term operating costs.
- Building an endowment creates a vehicle for bequests and other gifts, modest or substantial, that will benefit the entire county.
- Those who give to county endowments often become more involved and provide leadership for local philanthropic organizations and endeavors. County endowments can be a powerful force in mobilizing community advocates.
- It is an investment in your county's present and future.



County Endowment FAQs

Who takes care of administration and fund investment?

- The Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status, handles the administrative work for your County Endowment — donor receipts, fund management, investment, accounting, tax reports, and more — eliminating the need and expense of residents trying to establish a nonprofit corporation.
- The Community Foundation has the fund documents, policies, and procedures ready for use which eliminates the frustration of trying to ‘start from scratch’ when residents decide to establish their county endowment.
- The Community Foundation’s Investment Committee has fiduciary responsibilities in overseeing investments of the Community Foundation, which includes reviewing asset allocation, individual manager and combined portfolio performances. The Investment Policy Statement directs the prudent investments of assets.
- The Community Foundation can pool endowment funds for investment purposes, thus providing the benefits of a balanced portfolio, diversification, appreciation, and potentially higher returns to each fund.
- Semi-annual Fund Statements are provided for county endowments.
- A professional administrative and support staff committed to meeting accounting/financial, program, and communication needs serves county endowments.

How do we create awareness of our county endowment?

- Community Foundation staff provide County Fund Councils with marketing and fundraising guidance and materials, including sample news releases, fact sheets, and other documents and communication services, on an as-needed basis.
- Each year, each county endowment fund is provided a \$500 marketing budget to support its county-specific efforts.
- County endowments share in the Community Foundation’s marketing efforts and are featured in materials such as the Community Foundation’s Annual Report, website, and fact sheet, all of which create more awareness of the county endowment among the donor community.
- County Fund Council members, prospects, and donors are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the Community Foundation’s special events and functions.



**Notification of Intent to Participate in the
County Endowment Fund Match Initiative with
Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri**

Name of County: _____ **State:** _____

The undersigned representatives of the above-named county wish to work with the Community Foundation to create a permanent fund that will support charitable needs and opportunities in our county. We acknowledge that this effort is also intended to further develop and refine locally-based philanthropy and leadership within our county.

We understand that the Community Foundation is offering a match up to \$15,000 as follows:

- \$13,500 for principal in our County Endowment Fund
- \$1,500 for initial grantmaking

We agree that to be considered for the match, we must:

Start Date: Month 1

1. Host informational meeting(s) to introduce the County Endowment Match with interested parties and the Community Foundation's authorized representative(s) to familiarize our county's residents with this program.
2. Recruit core leaders for our Fund Council.
3. Submit Notification of Intent to Participate.
4. Form our Fund Council and submit:
 - a. Names and contact information
 - b. Code of Conduct, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Forms – signed by each Fund Council member (CF will provide form.).

If accepted into this initiative:

Our Fund Council will adhere to the Community Foundation's policies as we raise our endowment and conduct our grantmaking activities. Policies include but are not limited to:

1. Donor-Initiated Fundraising Policy (CF will provide copy.)
2. Grant Policy (CF will provide copy.)

Suggested target for gifts raised by 12-month mark: \$5,000

By 18 Months from Start Date

1. Plan for success by submitting our Fundraising Plan
 - a. Sources
 - b. Timeline
 - c. Activities
2. Use the Community Foundation's promotion and fundraising templates which include but are not limited to:
 - a. Media Releases
 - b. Brochures
 - c. PSAs/Ads

Suggested target for cumulative gifts raised by 18 month-mark: \$10,000

We realize that our county's receipt of the match is contingent on:

By 36 Months from Start Date

Our county's receipt of the match is contingent on:

1. Submitting the signed Notification of Intent to Participate Form in the County Endowment Fund Match Initiative
2. Establishing our County Fund Council
3. Raising \$15,000 by 36 months from start date.
4. Complying with the Community Foundation's policies
5. Identifying areas for possible leadership and sustainability

**Counties that raise less than \$15,000 but at least \$7,750 will be eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match of principal and grant dollars, if all other requirements have been met.*

Having read the Notification of Intent to Participate in the County Endowment Fund Match Initiative, we submit this intent on behalf of our aforementioned county.

A minimum of three (3) people must sign

Primary Contact Person:

Signature:

Address (Work_____ Home_____)

Phone #/s (Home_____ Cell_____ Work_____)

Work/Business & Title:

Email:

Name:

Signature:

Address (Work_____ Home_____)

Phone #/s (Home_____ Cell_____ Work_____)

Work/Business & Title:

Email:

Name:

Signature:

Address (Work_____ Home_____)

Phone #/s (Home_____ Cell_____ Work_____)

Work/Business & Title:

Email:

Attach additional sheets as needed.



Ignite the charitable spirit in your county!

Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri
for _____ County Endowment Fund

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I/We wish to remain anonymous.

This gift is made in honor memory of _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

Make contributions payable to Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri or Community Foundation. We are registered as a not-for-profit under both names in the states of Illinois and Missouri.

The Community Foundation of the Quincy Area, dba Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri, is a publicly supported organization recognized under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires that we notify you that the Community Foundation has exclusive control over the contributed assets. Consult your tax advisor regarding maximizing your tax benefits for charitable gifts.

Contact us for more information.



For additional information:
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