

Frequently Asked Questions

With simple answers that help you maximize your philanthropic impact

Contents

Getting Started	2
Contributing to Your Account	5
Investing Your Contributions	8
Giving to a Charity	10
Succession Planning	16

Key



Indicates content of particular interest to investment advisors.

Getting Started

Common questions (click to link to the answer)

- [What is a donor-advised fund and how does it work?](#)
- [What types of donor-advised fund accounts does Schwab Charitable offer?](#)
- [How much does a Schwab Charitable account cost?](#)
- [I'd like to understand more about the tax advantages of a donor-advised fund; where can I find more information?](#)
- [How do I open an account?](#)
- [Are there advantages to giving to charity through a donor-advised fund rather than giving directly or through another vehicle?](#)
- [What should I read before setting up a Schwab Charitable account?](#)
- [Is there a minimum account balance that I must maintain?](#)
- [Can I withdraw my assets once they're contributed to my account?](#)
- [I'm not sure who I want to list as a successor or charitable beneficiary on my application. Can I come back to that later?](#)
- [Can I create a special account name for my donor-advised fund?](#)
- [Can I name others on my account to help me manage it?](#)
- [Is Schwab Charitable a nonprofit organization?](#)
- [How are Charles Schwab & Co. and Schwab Charitable related?](#)

Q: What is a donor-advised fund and how does it work?

A: A Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund is a simple, tax-smart solution for supporting charitable organizations you care about. Once you set up an account with Schwab Charitable and contribute cash, securities, or appreciated assets, you'll be eligible for a current-year tax deduction and can be more strategic about your giving decisions.

[Learn more about how a Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund works](#)

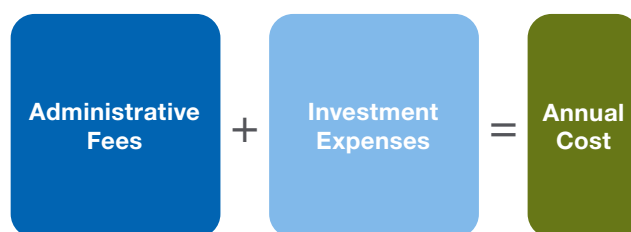
Q: What types of donor-advised fund accounts does Schwab Charitable offer?

A: We offer two different types of Schwab Charitable accounts. Our core donor-advised fund account does not require a minimum initial contribution and donors can recommend investment of account assets among a selection of investment pools. For larger accounts (minimum \$250,000 initial contribution and ongoing balance), our professionally managed account option enables clients to recommend an investment advisor to invest the account in a wider range of investments.

[Learn more about investment options for both core and professionally managed accounts](#)

Q: How much does a Schwab Charitable account cost?

A: The basic cost structure of a Schwab Charitable account consists of two parts: administrative fees and investment expenses.



In certain situations, we may assess additional fees on individual accounts to cover special costs. These may include legal and professional costs, taxes, or transaction costs.

[Learn more details about account fees in our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more details about account fees online](#)

Q: I'd like to understand more about the tax advantages of a donor-advised fund; where can I find more information?

A: Contributing to a donor-advised fund could have certain tax benefits, but these will be unique to each donor's circumstances. For example, the availability of federal income tax deductions depends on whether you itemize deductions. Rules and regulations pertaining to deductions for charitable giving vary at the state level as well. What's more, capital gains tax benefits can vary depending upon what you're contributing and how long you've held it. Finally, there may be estate tax benefits associated with certain contribution arrangements, but again, these are unique to each person's individual circumstances.

We encourage you to explore our resources regarding the potential tax advantages of contributing non-cash assets, but we always strongly recommend that you consult with a qualified tax advisor and/or legal counsel to review the specific tax implications of your proposed contributions.

[Learn more about contributing non-cash assets](#)

Q: How do I open an account?

A: You can [open an account](#) online or, if you prefer, you can complete our application by hand. You may also ask your investment advisor to help open your account by initiating an application through the Schwab Advisor Center, though you will need to read and sign the application. Either way, here's what you'll need to complete the application:

- A U.S. permanent resident address, social security number, date of birth, and contact information for each person listed on the account
- A signature for each designated account holder
- An irrevocable contribution of cash or non-cash assets like securities, publicly traded stock or even real estate
- Funding information, depending on the method you choose to contribute to your account
- Confirmation that you have reviewed and agreed to the terms and conditions of our [Program Policies](#)
- If you are an investment advisor and would like to open an account on behalf of your clients, please see next steps and advisor forms

Be sure to read through our [Program Policies](#) before opening a Schwab Charitable account. When you sign our application, you'll need to agree to the terms and conditions described in those policies.

[Read our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more about opening an account from our How-To Video Series](#)



[Advisors, learn how to open and manage Schwab Charitable accounts for your clients](#)

Q: Are there advantages to giving to charity through a donor-advised fund rather than giving directly or through another vehicle?

A: A Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account can enhance your overall charitable giving strategy, whether used alone or in conjunction with giving directly or through other vehicles such as private foundations, charitable gift annuities, or trusts. Each method has different features and benefits, so it's best to consult with your financial advisor, CPA, or attorney about your specific situation.

Some key advantages of a Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account include:

- You may qualify for a current-year tax deduction
- You can recommend grants to charities over time at your convenience or when the charitable assets have had the chance to grow
- We streamline recordkeeping, making it easier to donate appreciated investments or other assets that may be more difficult for smaller charities to accept directly. That may help you to stay organized and eliminates the need to keep track of checks and credit card receipts for tax preparation.

[Learn more about aligning your giving strategies](#)

[Learn more about your contribution options](#)

Q: What should I know before setting up a Schwab Charitable account?

A: Explore our website at schwabcharitable.org. From donor-advised fund basics to in-depth articles on philanthropic giving strategies, we offer a wide variety of resources at your fingertips.

Be sure to read through our [Program Policies](#) before opening a Schwab Charitable account. When you sign our application, you'll need to agree to the terms and conditions described in those policies.

[Learn how our donors are maximizing the impact of their charitable giving](#)

[Read our Program Policies](#)

Q: Is there a minimum account balance that I must maintain?

A: There is no minimum balance requirement for a core account, although if an account has no balance for 12 months, we'll reach out to re-engage you. If we can't reach you, we may need to close the account.

Professionally managed accounts have a minimum balance requirement of \$250,000. If a professionally managed account falls below \$200,000 for more than a year, we'll reach out to you and your advisor to discuss converting to a core account.

[Learn more about zero balance accounts in our Program Policies](#)

Q: Can I withdraw my assets once they're contributed to my account?

A: Per the IRS, because you may claim an immediate current-year tax deduction if you itemize, **contributions to a Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account are irrevocable**. Put simply, that means donations can't be withdrawn once contributed. Donated assets are now subject to the full control and discretion of Schwab Charitable and can no longer be counted among your personal investments. However, you recommend how to use the available funds in your account to make grants to charities and causes that are important to you.

[Learn more by reading our Program Policies](#)

Q: I'm not sure who I want to list as a successor or charitable beneficiary on my application. Can I come back to that later?

A: Yes. You can update your successors and charitable beneficiaries at any time using our [Update Succession Plan](#) form. However, we highly recommend that you designate successors and charitable beneficiaries upon opening your account. You might also consider exploring our [Charitable Legacy Program](#), an estate-planning strategy designed to help you extend your philanthropy beyond your lifetime.

[Access the Update Succession Plan form](#)

[Learn more about the Charitable Legacy Program](#)

Q: Can I create a special name for my donor-advised fund account?

A. Absolutely. That's the very first thing you do when you open an account! While account names can be deeply personal, they don't need to be unique. They may include words like *Foundation*, *Fund*, or *Account* (e.g., ABC Charitable Fund), but they cannot contain the word *Trust*, as this denotes a different type of charitable giving vehicle. If requested, account names can be included on the grant award letter that accompanies the check. The account name is a secondary way to identify you as the donor. You can change the name of your account at any time using our [Update Schwab Charitable Account Information](#) form.

[Learn more about opening an account from our How-To Video Series](#)

[Access the Update Schwab Charitable Account Information form](#)

Q: Can I name others on my account to help me manage it?

A: Yes. You can appoint up to five people to serve as secondary account holders. Both the primary and secondary account holders have full and equal account access and privileges, though the primary account holder is our first point of contact.

You can also recommend an investment advisor to help manage your account, although privileges will differ depending upon the type of account you have (core or professionally managed). Schwab Charitable partners with thousands of registered investment advisors across the U.S. We support investment advisors through the entire cycle of their client relationships and provide resources and guidance that help them champion charitable planning and giving efforts with their clients.

[Read our Program Policies to learn more about account roles and privileges](#)

[Send your advisor here for resources and more information](#)

Q: Is Schwab Charitable a nonprofit organization?

A: Yes, Schwab Charitable's tax ID is: 31-1640316

Schwab Charitable is an independent nonprofit organization and is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity as defined by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Sections 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1), and 170(b)(1)(A) (vi), and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). Schwab Charitable is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions under IRC Section 170(c). Schwab Charitable was established by Charles Schwab & Co. in 1999 but is governed by an independent board of directors.

[Learn more about the history of Schwab Charitable](#)

Q: How are Charles Schwab & Co. and Schwab Charitable related?

A: Schwab Charitable is an independent public charity that was established in 1999 with the support of Charles Schwab & Co. and is governed by an independent board of directors. Charles Schwab & Co. and its affiliates provide certain investment management, administrative, and recordkeeping services to Schwab Charitable.

[Learn more about the history of Schwab Charitable](#)

Contributing to Your Account

Common questions (click to link to the answer)

- [Are there specific contribution minimums?](#)
- [What types of assets can I contribute?](#)
- [How long does it take to process contributions for a new Schwab Charitable account?](#)
- [Can other people \(third parties\) contribute to my account?](#)
- [Can my advisor contribute to my account on my behalf?](#)
- [Will I get a tax receipt for my contribution?](#)
- [How are contributions processed?](#)
- [How do you calculate the fair market value of my contributions?](#)
- [Can I name my Schwab Charitable account as a beneficiary in my will, or of my annuity or other retirement benefits?](#)
- [Can I contribute to my Schwab Charitable account directly from my IRA as part of the Qualified Charitable Distribution \(QCD\)?](#)
- [How do I determine if I need to file IRS Form 8283?](#)
- [Can I use my Schwab Charitable account to receive donations from a fundraising event or activity?](#)
- [Can I use my Schwab Charitable account to receive donations in honor or memory of someone?](#)
- [What are year-end contribution guidelines?](#)

Q: Are there specific contribution minimums?

A: You can open a core account with no minimum initial contribution. The minimum amount needed for a professionally managed account is \$250,000. For additional information, learn more about our [Account Fees and Minimums](#).

If you have a Schwab brokerage account, you can make contributions to your donor-advised fund online. If you prefer, print and complete the [Contribute to Your Account](#) form and mail or fax it back to us. If you want to make a contribution from a non-Schwab account, please use our [Transfer of Assets](#) form.

[Contribute to Your Account form \(from a Schwab account\)](#)
[Transfer of Assets form \(from a non-Schwab account\)](#)

Q: What types of assets can I contribute?

A: You can contribute both cash and non-cash assets held more than one year. The most common contributions are cash and appreciated, unrestricted publicly traded securities, like stocks, ETFs, mutual funds, and bonds. Appreciated non-cash assets such as restricted or privately held stock, private equity, hedge funds, real estate, cryptocurrency, and tangible personal property are accepted on a case-by-case basis. If you have questions regarding the contribution of these asset types, please contact Schwab Charitable at 800-746-6216.

[Learn more about making non-cash contributions](#)

Q: How long does it take to process contributions for a new Schwab Charitable account?

A: Typically, accounts are opened, funded, and ready for granting within a week of the receipt of the initial contribution. In some cases (during periods of high volume or when assets are being transferred from a financial institution other than Charles Schwab), the process can take several weeks. To avoid delays, we encourage you to plan your giving in advance—to Schwab Charitable and ultimately, to your recommended grant recipients. Many donors are inspired to establish donor-advised fund accounts as the calendar year or a charity's fiscal year comes to a close, but planning in advance and giving throughout the year can help keep vital funds flowing consistently to charitable organizations, especially in times of economic uncertainty.

[Learn more about structured giving](#)

Q: Can other people (third parties) contribute to my account?

A: Yes. We accept third-party contributions to accounts from individuals or entities, such as private foundations, corporations, and other donor-advised funds as long as the contributions haven't been solicited; due to both federal and state regulations, we don't permit fundraising in our donor-advised funds.

Please notify us in advance of third-party contributions to help ensure proper processing and confirmation to the third party for tax reporting purposes.

Note that third-party contributors have no account privileges and they can't receive any goods or services in exchange for—or in consideration of—their contribution.

[Learn more about contribution options](#)

[Learn more by reading our *Program Policies*](#)

Q: Can my advisor make a contribution to my account on my behalf?

A: If your advisor is approved by Schwab Charitable and has the appropriate authorizations, he or she may contribute cash to your account on your behalf. And because the Schwab Charitable online platform is fully integrated with the [Schwab Advisor Center](#), authorized advisors can easily transfer assets from Schwab accounts to Schwab Charitable, or initiate transfers from external accounts.

[Learn more about advisor requirements and privileges in our *Program Policies*](#)

 [Advisors, look here for additional resources](#)

Q: Will I get a tax receipt for my contribution?

A: Yes. We'll provide a timely written acknowledgment for each contribution. This confirmation serves as evidence of the contribution for tax-reporting purposes for those who itemize. Contribution acknowledgments can also be viewed online on Schwab.com or the [Schwab Advisor Center](#) at any time.

As a reminder, a contribution to a Schwab Charitable account is eligible for a current-year itemized income tax deduction; any subsequent receipts from charitable recipients are duplicative and shouldn't be used for tax-reporting purposes.

[Learn more about recordkeeping with Schwab Charitable from our How-To Video Series](#)

[Learn more about what's included on a contribution acknowledgment in our *Program Policies*](#)

Q: How are contributions processed?

A: For core accounts, Schwab Charitable typically accepts and liquidates contributions as quickly as possible once the required paperwork and assets have been received in good order. Thinly traded or illiquid securities generally take longer to liquidate and may incur additional fees. Note that we can't hold assets beyond standard processing times upon an account holder's request. Also note that during high-volume periods, such as at the end of the calendar year, processing times can be delayed.

For professionally managed accounts, the investment advisor is responsible for arranging the sale of contributed securities.

[Learn more by reading our *Program Policies*](#)

Q: How do you calculate the fair market value of my contributions?

A: Once you make a contribution, we provide a contribution acknowledgment; it may include an estimated fair market value (FMV) for certain types of non-cash assets. FMV is generally determined on the date a contribution is received. The process for assessing the value depends upon the asset or investment type. In the case of contributions of unrestricted, publicly traded stock, the FMV is the average of the high and the low for the day that the stock was received by Schwab Charitable. In the case of contributions of mutual funds, the FMV is the closing price on the date of receipt by Schwab Charitable. Securities are typically liquidated the business day after receipt, so the FMV for tax purposes may differ from the amount of sales proceeds credited to the account. Note that you may be required by the IRS to obtain a qualified appraisal for other types of non-cash assets.

[Learn more about making non-cash contributions](#)

[Please read our *Program Policies* for more details about contribution acknowledgments](#)

Q: Can I name my Schwab Charitable account as a beneficiary in my will, or of my annuity or other retirement benefits?

A: Yes. You can name your Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account as a charitable beneficiary in your will or other testamentary instrument. You can also name your account as a charitable beneficiary with respect to non-probate property, including but not limited to annuities, retirement plans, charitable trusts, life insurance, brokerage, or other accounts allowing designation of beneficiaries. Generally speaking, naming a public charity like Schwab Charitable as a beneficiary on such accounts may have certain tax benefits. That said, we strongly recommend that you consult with a qualified tax advisor and/or legal counsel to review the specific tax implications of any proposed contributions,

including those related to estate planning; we don't provide individualized tax, legal, or investment planning advice.

[Please read our *Program Policies* for more details about testamentary contributions](#)

[Learn more from our *Planning for Your Charitable Legacy* brochure](#)

Q: Can I contribute to my Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund directly from my IRA as part of the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A: While you can make a distribution from your IRA to your Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund, it is important to know that currently, the IRS has determined that any distribution from an IRA account to a donor-advised fund isn't a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for tax purposes and therefore would be considered taxable income to you. There are, however, other types of contributions that may have potential tax advantages. We encourage you to explore our resources regarding the potential tax advantages of contributing non-cash assets. As always, we recommend that you consult with a qualified tax advisor and/or legal counsel to review the specific tax implications of any proposed contribution.

[Learn more about contributing non-cash assets](#)

Q: How do I determine if I need to file IRS Form 8283?

A: Contributions of appreciated non-cash assets can involve complicated tax analysis and advanced planning. The below response is meant only as general information and isn't intended to provide tax or legal guidance; we can't complete IRS Form 8283 on your behalf. Be sure to consult with your tax advisor for assistance.

The IRS requires that donors complete and file with their federal income tax return Section A of IRS Form 8283 for non-cash charitable contributions exceeding \$500. It is only required to be submitted to Schwab Charitable for signature when the contribution is more than \$5,000 and consists of non-cash property other than publicly traded securities. For contributions exceeding \$5,000, you'll need to complete all of Section B of this form except Part III (Declaration of Appraiser) and Part IV (Donee Acknowledgment). Forward the completed Form 8283 (Section B, Part I and II) to ask@schwabcharitable.org for prompt verification and signature. We'll return the signed form directly to you.

[Learn more detail about IRS Form 8283 requirements in Section 4 of our *Program Policies \(Income Tax Considerations\)*](#)

[See the 8283 instruction sheet on Schwab Charitable Client Center](#)

Q: Can I use my Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account to receive donations from a fundraising event or activity?

A: No. Because fundraising activity, particularly across social media, presents significant regulatory and administrative complexities, Schwab Charitable donor-advised funds may not be used for fundraising purposes.

[Learn more by reading our *Program Policies*](#)

Q: What are year-end contribution guidelines?

A: For our most up-to-date year-end giving timelines, please click on the link below. Note that many donors are inspired to open donor-advised fund account as the calendar year comes to a close, but planning in advance and giving throughout the year can help keep vital funds flowing consistently to charitable organizations, especially in times of economic uncertainty.

[Access our year-end giving guidelines](#)

[Learn more about structured giving](#)

Investing Your Contributions

Common questions (click to link to the answer)

- [How are contributions to my donor-advised account invested prior to granting?](#)
- [What if I don't specify an investment pool allocation on my core account application?](#)
- [Do you offer socially-responsible investment options?](#)
- [How does Schwab Charitable select the underlying mutual funds for the pools?](#)
- [Do the investment pools you offer ever change?](#)
- [Do you charge loads or commissions for investments in the investment pools?](#)
- [How do investment advisors manage investments in the professionally managed account?](#)

Q: How are contributions to my donor-advised fund invested prior to granting?

A: We offer a variety of investment options depending on account type.

For core accounts, you may recommend an asset allocation among a selection of investment pools. For professionally managed accounts, you may recommend a qualified investment advisor to invest account assets in a broad range of options outside of the investment pools, including stocks, bonds, ETFs, and mutual funds.

[Learn more about our current investment options](#)

[Explore our asset allocation calculator](#)



Advisors, learn about the requirements to manage Schwab Charitable accounts for your clients

Q: What if I don't specify an investment pool allocation on my core account application?

A: Not everyone is prepared to make an allocation decision when completing an application and this section may be left blank. If that happens, we will allocate 100% of your contribution to the Money Market Pool. We encourage you to actively participate in your account allocations; you can recommend a reallocation of the account assets at any time on Schwab Charitable Client Center, on the Schwab Mobile app or by using the [Update Investment Pool Allocation](#) form. Having trouble deciding? We offer many resources to help you define your philanthropic goals and strategies for how you might achieve them.

[Access the Update Investment Pool Allocation form](#)

[Explore our asset allocation calculator](#)

Q: Do you offer socially responsible investment (SRI) options?

A: Yes. Investment advisors may explore an SRI allocation within a professionally managed account. Additionally, for core accounts, we offer three investment pools with underlying funds supporting socially responsible mandates.

- Socially Responsible Balanced Pool follows a multi-asset environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy that invests in underlying funds that integrate ESG analysis into equity and debt security selection and portfolio construction (Pax Sustainable Allocation, PAXIX)
- Large-Cap Equity Managed Pool invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of U.S. large-cap stocks with ESG criteria (Parnassus Core Equity Fund, PRILX)
- Socially Responsible Fixed Income Pool invests primarily in a broad range of investment-grade U.S. fixed income securities and gives special consideration to certain ESG criteria (TIAA-CREF Core Impact Bond, TSBIX)

We also feature a variety of resources that explore incorporating socially responsible values into your charitable giving strategies.

[Learn more about socially responsible grantmaking by defining your charitable mission](#)

[Explore the Schwab Charitable Giving Guide to define goals for measuring and reviewing the impact of your charitable giving](#)

Q: How does Schwab Charitable select the underlying mutual funds for the pools?

A: With support from the Schwab Center for Financial Research, we establish each pool's investment objective and then we select the underlying mutual funds from leading investment providers. In selecting the funds, we factor in the stability and strength of the mutual fund's investment company, investment objectives, long-term risk/return profile, peer ranking, size, fees, and the length of time the fund has been managed by the portfolio manager or portfolio committee. We then monitor the selected funds on a continuing basis.

Note that the investment pools aren't registered funds themselves and therefore aren't available for investment separately from Schwab Charitable.

[Learn more about our current investment options](#)
[View the fact sheet for our current investment options](#)

Q: Do the investment pools you offer ever change?

A: We change the available investment pools and their underlying mutual funds from time to time. With support from the Schwab Center for Financial Research, we select what we feel are the best options for our clients, factoring in the stability and strength of the mutual fund's investment company, investment objectives, long-term risk/return profile, peer ranking, size, fees, and the length of time the fund has been managed by the portfolio manager or portfolio committee. We then monitor the selected funds on a continuing basis.

[Learn more about our current investment options](#)
[View quarterly performance reports for our current investment pool options](#)

Q: Do you charge loads or commissions for investments in the investment pools?

A: No, we don't charge separate loads or commissions for the investment pools. However, each investment pool has investment and operating expenses, including those of the underlying mutual fund, and these are reflected in each pool's net asset value. For this reason, the performance of an investment pool will differ slightly from the performance of the underlying mutual fund.


[Learn more details about account fees in our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more details about account fees and expenses online](#)

Q: How do investment advisors manage investments in the professionally managed account?

A: Professionally managed accounts, which are available for accounts of \$250,000 or more, allow you to recommend an investment advisor to manage assets outside of the investment pools. Your recommended advisor, if approved, may invest account assets in individual equities, bonds, or mutual funds consistent with our investment policy and guidelines.

Your investment advisor would work with you to select an investment strategy and performance benchmark for your account by considering your philanthropic goals, target return, risk tolerance, other special considerations, as well as our investment guidelines. The investment strategy and benchmark established for your account must comply with Schwab Charitable's investment guidelines.

 [Advisors, learn about the requirements to manage Schwab Charitable accounts for your clients](#)

Giving to a Charity

Common questions (click to link to the answer)

- [How do I recommend a grant?](#)
- [Is there a minimum grant amount?](#)
- [How long does it take to process a grant recommendation?](#)
- [Why do some grants take longer than others to process?](#)
- [Do you have a list of approved charities?](#)
- [What if the charity to which I want to grant doesn't appear in the search results when I am making my online grant recommendation?](#)
- [How do you ensure that grants go to legitimate charities?](#)
- [I've seen the term "more than an incidental benefit." What does that mean, exactly?](#)
- [I've seen the term "IRS-qualified public charity." What does that mean, exactly?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to cover the tax-deductible part of a ticket to a charity event if I pay for the taxable portion another way?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to pay for my attendance to a fundraising event supporting a charity?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to satisfy a pledge I've made?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to pay for a membership to a charity?](#)
- [Can I support a missionary with a grant from my Schwab Charitable account?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to support a scholarship or for a tuition payment?](#)
- [Can I recommend a grant to my political party?](#)
- [My favorite charity is promoting a matching gift and I need my grant to get to them by a certain date in order for the amount to be matched. How can I make sure my grant gets there in time?](#)
- [Can my company match grants to charities from my Schwab Charitable account or contributions into my Schwab Charitable account?](#)
- [Can you send the grant check to me so that I can deliver it to the charity in person?](#)
- [Will I get a grant checkbook so that I may write grant checks to my favorite charities?](#)
- [Why might a grant recommendation be declined?](#)
- [Am I required to grant a minimum amount in any given year?](#)

Q: How do I recommend a grant?

A: To recommend a grant online, just log into your account or use the [Schwab Mobile app](#). Click on the "Grant to Charity" tab at the top, and you can then recommend a new grant recipient or use the *Grant Again* option for a charity you've previously designated, which streamlines the process and saves you time.

You can also recommend a grant by completing a [Recommend a Grant](#) form and returning it by fax or mail. Instructions are included on the form.

Note that all contributions to a Schwab Charitable account are irrevocable and contributed assets are subject to the full control and discretion of Schwab Charitable as to their use and distribution. Grant recommendations aren't binding, and we may decline grant recommendations at our discretion. That said, grant recommendations are generally approved as long as the recipient organizations are classified by the IRS as 501(c)(3) public charities and the grants comply with guidelines specified in our [Program Policies](#).

[Learn more about researching and recommending grants](#)

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

[Recommend a Grant form](#)

Q: Is there a minimum grant amount?

A: You can recommend grants of \$50 or more to eligible U.S. tax-exempt organizations or to certain international organizations. We allow unlimited—and recurring—grants from an account to the extent that the account balance allows.

If there isn't enough in the account to fund the grant, we'll contact the primary account holder to determine if additional contributions are expected or if the grant should be canceled. For professionally managed accounts, the investment advisor is responsible for ensuring sufficient cash is available to fund a grant recommendation.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[View our granting tutorial](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: How long does it take to process a grant recommendation?

A: If we've already granted to a charity and it remains eligible, a personalized grant letter and check will generally be mailed to the charity within three to five business days after the grant recommendation is received by Schwab Charitable. Don't forget to allow time for the post office to deliver the check to your charity—that always takes a few days.

If we haven't previously granted to the charity or its eligibility status has changed for some reason, the required due diligence may add time to the processing of your grant, depending on the type of charity you are granting to and how responsive the charity is. During peak activity periods (calendar and fiscal year-end), grants sometimes take longer to issue. Eligible international grants can take eight to 10 weeks to process.

[Learn more about grant eligibility from our Granting Guidelines](#)

[Learn more about giving to international charities](#)

Q: Why do some grants take longer than others to process?

A: If we haven't previously granted to a charity, the initial due diligence process can take longer depending on the type of charity. There are many different 501(c)(3) public charity classifications and, in some cases, additional documentation is required in order to verify the charity's eligibility. Other factors, including a charity's responsiveness, can also impact the processing time. Additionally, during peak activity periods (calendar and fiscal year-end), grants may take longer to issue. If the grant is recommended for an international organization, the grant may take two to three months to process.

[Learn more about our due diligence requirements by reading our Program Policies](#)

Q: Do you have a list of approved charities?

A: We don't "approve," endorse, or represent any charity. However, we are committed to helping you make informed granting decisions. We provide several resources to help you identify legitimate, highly effective charities that can have the greatest impact on the causes you support. You may search for charities addressing a specific cause or research the effectiveness or background of any charity by perusing databases at the *Center for Disaster Philanthropy*, *Charity Navigator*, and *Charity Watch*.

[Explore database resources](#)

Q: What if the charity to which I want to grant doesn't appear in the search results when I am making my online grant recommendation?

A: The vast majority of recommended grant recipients are in our database, which includes more than a million charities, and grants to these charities are quickly approved. Use key terms and phrases when searching for your charity. However, if the charity of your choice isn't in our database, please click on the *Search* field on the *Grant to Charity* tab and provide as much information as you can, such as the charity name, address, phone number, tax ID, and/or contact person, and we'll perform the necessary due diligence to determine whether the organization is eligible to receive a grant from a donor-advised fund. If it's eligible, we'll add it to our database to facilitate future granting. Please note that our due diligence efforts for a new charity may add time to the processing of your grant, depending on the type and responsiveness of the charity.

[Learn more about grant eligibility from our Granting Guidelines](#)

[Recommend a Grant to Charity form](#)

Q: How do you ensure that grants go to legitimate charities?

A: We're committed to ensuring that all grants are used exclusively for charitable purposes. As one part of our due diligence process, we check all recommended grant recipients against the Treasury Department's list of Specially Designated Nationals, other U.S. and foreign government watch lists, and the IRS list of organizations whose tax-exempt status has been suspended under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(p). We won't approve grant recommendations to organizations that appear on these lists. We may also conduct our own media review, and if a recommended charity or its principals are under investigation by a regulator or law enforcement agency, we may freeze granting until the matter is resolved.

[Learn more about our due diligence requirements by reading our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more about IRS and other agency due diligence on our Explore Charities page](#)

Q: I've seen the term "more than an incidental benefit." What does that mean, exactly?

A: Per the IRS, grants from a donor-advised fund must be made exclusively for charitable purposes with no more than incidental benefits to you or any third-party contributor. A "more than incidental" benefit generally refers to items of financial value, such as event tickets, raffle tickets, auction items, or any other goods or services. The IRS considers certain items/services of minimal to be of "incidental" benefit, such as parking spaces, logo-bearing keychains, coffee mugs, or calendars.

If you want to recommend a grant that may result in "more than incidental" benefits, you may do so if you waive the benefits. If this is the case, we suggest that when you make your grant recommendation online, follow these steps:

1. When you reach Step 5 in the online granting process, select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize it*
2. Then select *My need is more specific*
3. In the *What would you like the charity to know?* pop-up section, state that the grant is for a membership but that you waive all benefits

If using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in *Section 3—Grant Details* under "Additional information for Schwab Charitable staff."

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that nobody will receive more than incidental goods, services, or other private benefits from the charity as a result of the recommended grant.

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)
[Recommend a Grant to Charity form](#)

Q: I've seen the term "IRS-qualified." What does that mean, exactly?

A: An "IRS-qualified organization" is a charitable organization that has successfully filed an exemption application with the IRS for its public charity status, or other organizations that the IRS considers tax-exempt without filing, such as certain religious, educational, and government institutions. When you begin to recommend a grant and the recipient organization of your choice isn't in our database, that doesn't necessarily mean it isn't IRS-qualified or is ineligible for granting. Please click on *Manually Enter a Charity* on the *Grant to Charity* tab and provide as much information as you can, such as the organization's name, address, phone number, tax ID, and/or contact person, and we'll perform the necessary due

diligence to determine whether the organization is eligible to receive a grant from a donor-advised fund. If it's eligible, we'll add it to our database to facilitate future granting. Please note that our due diligence efforts for a new organization may add time to the processing of your grant depending on the type and responsiveness of the organization.

To research IRS-qualified organizations, please click on the links below.

[Explore database resources](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to cover the tax-deductible part of a ticket to a charity event if I pay for the taxable portion another way?

A: No. This is known as bifurcation and the IRS explicitly prohibits this: bifurcated, or "split," gifts cannot be made from a donor-advised fund. We cannot approve recommended grants intended to pay for all **or a portion** of the cost of tickets to attend a charitable event. This includes grants just for the tax-deductible portion of the ticket price. The entire ticket price (the tax-deductible and non tax-deductible portions) must be paid separately from any Schwab Charitable grants.

You may, however, recommend a grant to pay for a ticket to a charitable event if you waive the benefit altogether. If this is the case, we suggest that when you make your grant recommendation online. After completing items 1-4 in the granting process, follow these steps:

1. Under question 5, *How do you want the charity to use this grant?*, select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize*.
2. Next, select *Charity Event (not attending)* from the list of choices.
3. Click the *Enter Certification* button and check the box to certify that you waive all benefits, and in the *Additional comments* box, state that you waive all benefits associated with the event. (If you are using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in *Section 3—Grant Purpose* under "Details for Schwab Charitable staff.")

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that you understand and agree to the following: *Grants may not be used to provide any portion of admission to any charitable event or other benefit functions when the account holder would receive a quid pro quo, such as the value of a dinner or the privilege to attend, that if received in return for a charitable contribution, would reduce an account holder's charitable deduction.*

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)
[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to pay for my attendance to a fundraising event supporting a charity?

A: Per the IRS, grants from donor-advised funds can only be made for events if the donor doesn't receive a personal benefit and the donation is considered 100% tax deductible by the recipient charity. The IRS prohibits donor-advised fund account holders, additional account users, and any of their family members from receiving non-deductible benefits from grant recommendations. While you always have the option to waive the benefit, if you would like to attend or participate in the event, you must use another method of payment.

If you'd like to recommend a grant to pay for a ticket to a fundraising event that you won't attend and waive all benefits, we suggest that when you make your grant recommendation online. After completing items 1-4 in the granting process, follow these steps:

1. Under question 5, How do you want the charity to use this grant?, select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize*.
2. Next, select *Charity Event (not attending)* from the list of choices.
3. Click the *Enter Certification* button and check the box to certify that you waive all benefits, and in the Additional comments box, state that you waive all benefits associated with the event. (If you are using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in Section 3—Grant Purpose under “Details for Schwab Charitable staff.”)

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that you understand and agree to the following: Grants may not be used to provide any portion of admission to any charitable event or other benefit functions when the account holder would receive a quid pro quo, such as the value of a dinner or the privilege to attend, that if received in return for a charitable contribution, would reduce an account holder's charitable deduction.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to satisfy a pledge I've made?

A: Per the IRS, donor-advised funds can't be used to satisfy a legally binding pledge or agreement between an individual and a charity. That is, the pledge is considered an intention to give, not a signed, legally binding contract. Instead, donors may agree to recommend grants from their donor-advised fund accounts over time with a special purpose noted. Please note that grant recommendations with a designated special purpose may take a bit longer to be distributed, as manual processing is required.

You may, however, recommend a grant to satisfy a non-binding pledge. If doing so online, when you reach Step 5, select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize it* and then select *Pledge (non-binding)* from the options provided under *Do any of these cover what you are looking for?* If using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make a note regarding the non-binding pledge in Section 3—Grant Purpose under “Details for Schwab Charitable staff.”

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that the grant will not be used to fulfill a pre-existing pledge, and the following language will appear on the letter that accompanies a grant: *This grant is for a non-legally binding pledge. The grant funds may not be used to fulfill an existing obligation. If this commitment is considered legally binding, please return the grant to Schwab Charitable.*

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to pay for a membership to a charity?

A: You can recommend a grant for this purpose only if the organization confirms that its membership fee is 100% tax-deductible and/or that membership benefits are incidental. The IRS considers certain items/services of minimal value to be of “incidental” benefit, such as parking spaces, general admission, logo-bearing keychains, coffee mugs, or calendars.

If this is the case, when you make your grant recommendation online, follow these steps:

1. When you reach Step 5 in the online granting process, select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize it*
2. Then select *My need is more specific*
3. In the *What would you like the charity to know?* pop-up section, state that the grant is for a membership but that you waive all benefits

If using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in Section 3—Grant Purpose under “Details for Schwab Charitable staff.” We may have the charity's confirmation of membership benefits on file; if not, we'll need to confirm membership benefits and these due diligence efforts may add time to the processing of your grant recommendation, depending on the responsiveness of the charity.

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that nobody will receive more than incidental goods, services, or other private benefits from the charity as a result of the grant.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I support a missionary with a grant from my Schwab Charitable account?

A: Grants from a donor-advised fund cannot directly benefit a specific individual. You may recommend a grant to be used to support the projects or efforts of a particular missionary, but not the person him/herself. When you make your grant recommendation online, after completing items 1-4 in the granting process, follow these steps:

1. Under question 5, *How do you want the charity to use this grant? select I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize.*
2. Next, select *My need is more specific* from the list of choices.
3. In the *What would you like the charity to know?* box enter the missionary's name and note the grant is to support their missionary endeavors. For example, "Missionary First Name Last Name—Support for missionary work",
4. There is an optional *Is there anything that the Schwab Charitable Staff needs to know?* box where you can include additional notes for our staff.

(If you are using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in Section 3—Grant Purpose under "Details for Schwab Charitable staff.")

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that you understand and agree that the grant will not support a specific missionary project of an individual who is related to you, any other account holders or users, or to advisors on your account.* The personalized letter to the charity that accompanies the grant will include the following statement: *We understand that you will have full control and discretion regarding the use and application of the grant funds. We hope that you will consider applying the funds to support the work done by your missionaries like [first name last name].* We may add additional disclaimer language to grants that are recommended for missionaries, specifically that the grant will not support a specific missionary project of an individual who is related to you or other account holders or advisors to the account.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to support a scholarship or for a tuition payment?

A: Per the IRS, a grant from a donor-advised fund can't be used for the tuition payment of a specific person or for a scholarship where the account holder or account holder's relatives have a majority or deciding vote over the recipients.*

With those restrictions in mind, you can recommend a grant for the purpose of supporting a scholarship program that is administered and overseen by an IRS-qualified public charity, as long as it doesn't satisfy someone's financial obligation.

After completing items 1-4 in the granting process, follow these steps:

1. Under question 5, *How do you want the charity to use this grant?* select *I have a specific use for this grant or need to customize.*
2. Next, select *Scholarship Fund* from the list of choices. (If you are using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in Section 3—Grant Purpose under "Details for Schwab Charitable staff.")

Please note that you'll be asked to certify that you understand and agree that the grant will not support a scholarship if any account holder or advisor on account (or any relative) is an eligible recipient or has a deciding role in selecting the scholarship recipient.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can I recommend a grant to my political party?

A: Per the IRS, a grant from a donor-advised fund can't be used to support a political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office, or to support organizations that conduct activities that are in direct support of, or in opposition to, a specific piece of introduced legislation.

However, you may recommend grants to IRS-qualified charities that advocate on issues of public concern that support their charitable purpose.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Can my company match grants to charities from my Schwab Charitable donor-advised fund account or contributions into my account?

A: Company policies vary; please check with your employer to understand its policy for matching gifts of grants from or contributions into donor-advised fund accounts. For matching grants from a donor-advised fund account, your employer may ask that you make a note in the special purpose section of your grant recommendation. If so, please plan on extra time for delivery, as grant recommendations with a designated special purpose may take longer to be approved; manual processing is required.

[Learn more about grant eligibility from our Granting Guidelines](#)

[Recommend a Grant to Charity form](#)

* "Family members" for the purposes of the Schwab Charitable Program Policies means spouses, domestic partners, ancestors, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, as well as the spouses or domestic partners of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, and sisters.

Q: My favorite charity is promoting a matching gift and I need my grant to get to them by a certain date in order for the amount to be matched. How can I make sure my grant gets there in time?

A: Grants issued from donor-advised funds take time to process; for time-sensitive grants, you may wish to seek an alternate way to participate in the matching gift promotion.

If we've already granted to the charity and it remains eligible, the check will generally be mailed to the charity within three to five business days and it will take a few additional days for the post office to deliver the check to your charity.

If we haven't previously granted to the charity or, if for some reason its eligibility status has changed, the required due diligence may add time to the processing of your grant. Additionally, during peak activity periods (calendar and fiscal year-end), grants sometimes take longer to issue. Eligible international grants can take eight to 10 weeks to process.

Should you decide to participate using your Schwab Charitable account, when you make your grant recommendation online, in the *Purpose of Grant* section, select *Other purpose not listed* from the dropdown menu and under *Additional Notes*, state that the grant is specifically for the matching gift. If using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, make that note in *Section 3—Grant Purpose* under "Details for Schwab Charitable staff."

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)
[Recommend a Grant form](#)

Q: Can you send the grant check to me so that I can deliver it to the charity in person?

A: No. As a donor-advised fund sponsor, we are required to maintain full control of account assets; for this reason, we mail the grant checks directly to the recipient charities, not to you. However, the check is accompanied by a personalized letter that may include your name and address for acknowledgment purposes. When you recommend a grant online, simply complete the *Select what you want to include in the letter* section of question 6. If recommending a grant using our [Recommend a Grant to Charity](#) form, be sure to complete *Section 3—Grant Purpose*.

You can always access a copy of the personalized grant letter online at any time to present to the charity if you wish. Once logged into your account, click on *Grant Letters* from the right hand *Quick Links* menu to view letters associated with your grant history.

[Recommend a Grant to Charity form](#)

Q: Will I get a grant checkbook so that I may write grant checks to my favorite charities?

A: As a donor-advised fund sponsor, we are required to maintain full control of account assets and therefore must handle all grant processing and distribution. All final grant approvals are made at our discretion and we therefore can't provide checkbooks to account holders.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)
[Recommend a Grant to Charity form](#)

Q: Why might a grant recommendation be declined?

A: We approve grants only to eligible organizations and then only for permissible purposes. Grant recommendations are typically only declined if the charities are not IRS-qualified public charities and/or not eligible to receive grants from donor-advised funds, if the terms of the grant recommendation result in benefits to an individual, or if the terms of the grant violate any other restrictions as listed in our [Program Policies](#). Employing a rigorous due diligence process, we take great care to comply with all IRS guidelines affecting donor-advised funds.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)
[Learn more from our Granting Guidelines](#)

Q: Am I required to grant a minimum amount in any given year?

A: While there is no minimum annual granting requirement, our mission is to increase charitable giving in the U.S., and we expect you to be actively involved in recommending grants to eligible charities. If no one recommends any grants during a period of 30 months, we consider the account inactive, and we'll reach out and ask that you make a grant recommendation.

If no account holder recommends grants during a subsequent two-year period, the account will be considered dormant. Schwab Charitable will again ask the primary account holder to make a grant recommendation. If no grant recommendation is made, the account may be closed or the succession plan may be enacted.

[Learn more from our Program Policies](#)

Succession Planning

1. What succession planning options do I have?

Schwab Charitable offers you several succession planning options, along with the following methods for distributing funds to beneficiaries. A succession plan for your donor-advised fund account typically is part of an overall estate planning strategy, and the plan's primary objective is continuing donations with maximum charitable impact while reducing estate taxes. In your succession plan you can recommend family members or other individuals as successors on your account, recommend charities as beneficiaries of final grants of your account balance, or recommend charities for recurring grants over a specific timeframe (Schwab Charitable Legacy Program).

The **Whole or Decimal Percentages Method** allows you to designate beneficiaries to receive a whole percentage or decimal percentages of your account's balance, rounded to the hundredth place. The designated amounts must equal 100%. This method can be used as the sole method or can be combined with the **Fixed Amount Method** (see below). For example, three successors, designated at 33.33%, 33.33%, 33.34% or 40%, 35.55%, and 24.45%.

The **Even Split Method** allows you to distribute funds evenly between beneficiaries. For example, four successors/charitable beneficiaries, designated as 1/4th each or seven successors/charitable beneficiaries, designated as 1/7th each. The distribution amount will appear as a fraction. The even split can be requested as the sole method, or it can be combined with the **Fixed Amount Method** (see below). For example, four successors, designated as 1/4th each or seven successors/charitable beneficiaries, designated as 1/7th each.

If you use the **Fixed Amount Method**, you will select a fixed dollar amount **and** a percentage of the whole account in the case the value of the account drops below the fixed dollar amount. Note that any charitable beneficiary with a designated fixed amount will receive funds resulting from this method first, and the remaining funds will be distributed per the secondary method elected.

Also note that any time you select the **Fixed Amount Method**, you must allocate at least one other successor and/or charitable beneficiary using either the **Even Split** or **Decimal Percentages Method** for the remaining funds. This allocation is designated in case the fixed amount provided is not the actual balance of the account at the time the succession plan is enacted, i.e., whether there is enough money to meet the total amount allocated or the balance is higher than expected.

[Learn more about enrolling in succession plans](#)

2. What is the Legacy Program?

The Legacy Program is available to account holders who wish to support charitable organizations over time after their lifetime. To be eligible for the Charitable Legacy Program, the account balance must be at least \$100,000 once the program is activated.

[Learn more about the Schwab Charitable Legacy Program](#)
[Learn how to extend your philanthropy beyond your lifetime](#)

3. Can I add or make updates to my succession plan online?

Yes. If you have web access, you can update your successors and charitable beneficiaries online by logging into your account and visiting the Account Services page.

Enrolling in or updating an account for inclusion in the Schwab Charitable Legacy Program must be done via the [Update Succession Plan](#) form. It cannot be completed online.

[Learn more about building a charitable legacy](#)
[Learn more about the Schwab Charitable Legacy Program](#)

4. What is the difference between a successor and a charitable beneficiary?

A successor is an individual with a social security number. A charitable beneficiary is an eligible 501(c)(3) organization.

[Discover resources to help you identify eligible charities](#)

5. When an account holder passes, how do account privileges change for an account holder and an account user?

Account holders are automatic successors; therefore, the surviving account holders will remain on the account as account holders.

Once all account holders pass, account users will no longer have any authority on the Schwab Charitable account. If account users are also listed as successors to the account, then they will need to complete paperwork to take over the account as account holders before they will regain authorization on the account.

[Learn more about account holders and account users in Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies](#)

6. My spouse and I are both listed as account holders. If I should pass first, will my spouse remain on the account, or do they need to be listed as a successor?

Your spouse would remain on the account. All account holders automatically succeed to the account. The succession plan is not enacted until all account holders pass away.

[Learn more about Succession Planning](#)

7. Can I use my trust as a beneficiary to my donor-advised fund?

No. These funds are for charitable giving, and once they have been contributed into the donor-advised fund account, the ownership transfers to the Schwab Charitable Fund.

[Learn more about contributing to your account](#)

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning to learn more about designating successors and beneficiaries](#)

8. Can my attorney/advisor be listed as my successor?

Yes. Note, however, that if your account is professionally managed by your financial advisor that you select as your successor, once the succession plan is enacted the advisor is not allowed to draw fees from the account they succeeded on.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more about successors](#)

9. My child/children are minors. Can I appoint them to be successors to my account?

Yes, but if they are still a minor at the time of succession enactment, their legal guardian will have to act on their behalf until they reach the age of 18.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more about successors](#)

10. How can I set up my donor-advised fund as a beneficiary to another type of account?

Detailed instructions for this process can be found in the [Schwab Charitable Legacy Program brochure](#).

[Learn more about Schwab Charitable's Legacy Program](#)
[Designate your charitable beneficiaries](#)

11. How do contingent successors work, and when do they come into play?

A contingent succession plan may be enacted if all listed charitable beneficiaries are ineligible and/or all named successors are deceased, unwilling to serve, or otherwise ineligible.

If one out four successors and/or charitable beneficiaries is deceased, unwilling to serve, and/or ineligible, we will

reallocate the account funds pro rata between the rest of the listed charitable beneficiaries.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more about successors](#)

12. How many contingents can I have on my account?

You can name up to 10 contingent successors and/or charitable beneficiaries on your account.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more about successors](#)

13. How many successors and charitable beneficiaries can I have?

You can choose a combined total of 10 successors and/or charitable beneficiaries.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more about successors](#)

14. What happens to the money in my donor-advised fund account if I do not have a succession plan?

We recommend you create a succession plan so Schwab Charitable can follow your wishes as the account holder. However, if there is no succession plan in place when all the account holders have passed, Schwab Charitable will review your granting history and decide, based on your granting history, to which eligible organizations the funds will go. If there is not any granting history, the funds will go into the Schwab Charitable Philanthropy Fund, which is Schwab Charitable's giving fund, established to make charitable grants and to sponsor account holder and investment advisor education and research. Grants issued from the Philanthropy Fund are approved by the Board of Directors of Schwab Charitable.

[Read Section 7: Succession Planning in our Program Policies to learn more](#)

15. Can my Legacy Program be professionally managed?

Yes, you can have an investment advisory firm listed as an account user on your professionally managed Legacy Program. Fees still apply. Once the Charitable Legacy Program is activated, the investment advisor may continue to manage the assets as a professional account manager.

Note that once the balance of your account falls below \$200K for more than one year, Schwab Charitable will convert the account to a core account and reinvest the funds within the investment pools that Schwab Charitable offers, at the discretion of your advisor. Your advisory firm can remain linked to your Charitable Legacy Program account, with limited authority.

[Read about Account Fees and Minimums](#)

[Learn more about Fees and Expenses in Section 2 of our Program Policies](#)

