The opportunity: Answering nonprofits' specific funding needs

Many nonprofit organizations rely on a mix of donations and earned revenue to deliver the charitable services they provide. These organizations may earn revenue via contracts with local or federal government agencies (e.g., funding for a homeless shelter, or from ticket or membership sales (e.g., for a museum or theater. In addition to donations and earned revenue, many nonprofits seek an influx of capital to help them manage cash flow, make investments in facilities, or otherwise prepare for future growth.*

During times of crisis, nonprofits may have additional, specific needs, such as help responding to urgent situations or rebuilding depleted resources and bridging the gap while they wait for recovery financing. Whether in times of crisis or in response to a planned scenario, donors have the opportunity to support the organizations they care about through recoverable grant recommendations.

Giving more with recovered grant dollars

While one grant can build houses, feed communities, or treat patients, recoverable grants can empower these outcomes repeatedly, providing donors with the ability to make more of a difference with their Giving Account. Because the funds initially granted to an organization supporting a particular initiative may be returned to Fidelity Charitable, these same dollars can be used again to further support other causes in the future—multiplying the impact of their gift in powerful ways.

Fidelity Charitable® donors in the Private Donor Group can use their donor-advised fund, the Giving Account®, to recommend recoverable grants to nonprofit organizations with unique funding needs. If the nonprofit achieves certain predefined objectives, it may return the granted funds to the donor's Giving Account at Fidelity Charitable. The recovered funds give donors an opportunity to reuse those funds for new grant recommendations, effectively multiplying their potential to drive additional social and environmental impact.

What is a recoverable grant?

A recoverable grant is a philanthropic tool that provides nonprofit organizations with funding for specific revenue-generating programs and initiatives. If a program meets its financial and impact objectives, the nonprofit may return the grant funds to the donor advised fund for additional grantmaking. When donors recommend recoverable grants, there are documented expectations of the donor with respect to the grantee's use of the grant and the recommended schedule to return the funds to Fidelity Charitable.

Multiplying Support for Nonprofits with Recoverable Grants
A Closer Look

Fidelity Charitable® donors in the Private Donor Group can recommend recoverable grants to IRS-approved public charities using the funds they have contributed to Fidelity Charitable. Fidelity Charitable will coordinate grant structuring and administration and may work with other sourcing organizations. Additional fees, if applicable, will be disclosed in advance.

The donor and nonprofit can begin this process by initially discussing the donor’s key expectations, such as the intended schedule for the return of funds to Fidelity Charitable and the specific outcome(s) that are intended to be achieved before the grantee determines if it will return all or a portion of the funds to Fidelity Charitable to be reallocated to the donor’s Giving Account.

*While recoverable grants provide meaningful and flexible capital to nonprofits, they are not loans. The written agreement between the donor and nonprofit organization outlining the expectations of the grant is not legally binding. Fidelity Charitable will not pursue recovery of the grant amount if the nonprofit does not return the funds.

Want to learn more or ready to get started?

Contact the Fidelity Charitable Recoverable Grants Team