A Field of Interest Fund supports a specific area of concern that you, as a donor, care about deeply. You identify an area of charitable need – as broad or as narrow as you define – and the Community Foundation of San Joaquin leverages its extensive grantmaking experience and knowledge of the community’s needs to carry out your charitable desires by implementing a custom grantmaking strategy.

A Field of Interest Fund is ideal for donors who wish to make an impact in a specific area of need but prefer to utilize the Community Foundation’s grantmaking expertise to implement a grants program. Donors can choose to participate in the grant application review process or delegate this to experienced staff or a committee composed of community representatives.

How it Works

- The Community Foundation works closely with donors to understand their charitable desires and develops a grantmaking strategy.
- The donor approves the grantmaking strategy and the process and may choose to participate to the extant they desire in the grant-review committee.
- Community Foundation staff handles the online grantmaking process, reviewing and issuing grants, and associated accounting and regulatory reporting.

About the Community Foundation of San Joaquin:

We are a public charity ready to serve people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in San Joaquin County. The Foundation offers individuals, families, businesses, and organizations the opportunity to create funds to help the community meet the growing demands and challenges of the time. The Foundation stewards more than $20 million in assets and invests, administers, and distributes these funds through multiple grants. Many of the grants given out each year go to humanitarian, educational, and cultural organizations in the county. Learn more at https://cfosj.org/

The Foundation is accredited by National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, which represents a community foundation’s commitment to going above and beyond federal and state requirements to demonstrate accountability and excellence to communities, policymakers, and the public.
Advantages of a Field of Interest Fund

**Flexibility.** Through the Community Foundation, an individual, family, organization, business, or foundation can create a fund with broad purpose or tailored to meet a specific need of the local or broader community. A Field of Interest Fund can be used to make grants in the San Joaquin Community or across the nation.

**Simplicity.** You can establish a fund today and make grant recommendations now or in the future. Grants from a Field of Interest may be made at any time. Community Foundation staff can implement a grantmaking process. We take care of all paperwork and required reporting. Grant awards are made in the name of the fund, unless you request anonymity.

**Special Tax Benefits.** Gifts of appreciated assets qualify for tax deductions based on current market value and avoid capital-gains taxes. We offer the maximum tax advantage for most gifts under federal law, and can facilitate gifts of complex assets. You can add to the fund any time, receiving tax benefits with each new gift.

**Expertise.** Community Foundation staff are ready to help you identify community needs, worthwhile programs, evaluate grant applications, assess program quality, and monitor grants to ensure that funds are used as intended.

**Cost Effectiveness.** The support fee for a Field of Interest Fund is tailored based on the complexity or simplicity of grantmaking. This fee covers full staff services, accounting and regulatory reporting, an annual audit, the monitoring of investment managers, evaluating grant requests, and grant processing.

**Professional Investment Management.** Donors have the option of investing their funds in one or more of the Foundation’s professionally managed investment pools. This means that donors may set assets away for future disbursement to charity without having to manage those assets themselves or hire an investment manager.

**Community Impact.** Giving through the Community Foundation ensures that your contributions make the biggest difference possible. We have created well informed and effective ways to make an impact on the organizations and issues that mean the most to you here in San Joaquin County.

### Establishing a Field of Interest Fund

**Minimum Initial Contribution to Open a Fund:** $50,000

**Support Fee:** Support fees are assessed based on the complexity of the Fund and amounts expected to be awarded each grant cycle. For more information, please contact the Foundation at (209) 943-2375.