Juneau
Legacy Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Juneau Legacy Challenge?

The Juneau Legacy Challenge is a community-wide campaign designed to secure funds to meet future needs and initiate important conversations about wealth transfer in our community. We incentivize individuals to complete their estate plans and share their estimated future gift value with the Juneau Community Foundation. In return, the Foundation distributes an immediate grant to your favorite local or Southeast nonprofit today, at no cost to you.

What is the goal of this Campaign?

Our goal is to build $20 million in **permanent endowment funds** to support Juneau and Southeast Alaska forever. To jumpstart this effort, a special matching pool will distribute $1 million to local nonprofits before **June 30, 2028**. You can activate an immediate 5% matching grant for your favorite charity today through one or both options:

- **Option 1** (Legacy Gift): Name the Foundation in your will, trust, or estate plan for a **minimum of $25,000** to add to an existing permanent endowed Field of Interest Fund.
- **Option 2** (Lifetime Gift): donate cash, appreciated stock, IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, or other assets of **$100,000 or more** directly into an existing permanent Field of Interest Fund endowment.

What is an endowment, and what does it do?

Endowments are permanent "forever" funds. Donations are invested professionally and kept intact. The earnings from these investments fund annual grants that support the changing needs and opportunities of Juneau and Southeast Alaska today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Can I establish an endowed Field of Interest Fund?

Yes. You can establish and name a new endowed Field of Interest Fund, with a commitment or pledge for $200,000 or more, directing its support to a specific area of interest that you care about. Grants can be directed to any qualified nonprofit serving your chosen geographic or focus area.

Disclaimer: We advise consulting a financial or tax advisor regarding the tax efficiencies of your specific gift.

How can I structure my fund or legacy gift, and which options qualify for the Foundation's immediate 5% matching grant?

The 5% matching grant only applies to gifts designated for permanent Field of Interest Endowments. Non-matching grant options include:

- **Donor Advised Funds**: You make annual grant recommendations yourself.
- **Agency Funds**: Nonprofit endowed or stewardship funds **do not** qualify for the 5% match. If the Foundation adds Agency Endowment Funds later, we will notify you and update your commitment and any match funds.

Please contact Amy Skilbred (907-523-5450) to discuss your goals and options for meeting them.

How does the 5% immediate grant work?

- Notify the Foundation that you have included a qualifying commitment or pledge by submitting either a confidential **Bequest Intention Form** or a **Multi-Year Donation Pledge Form**
- Provide a good-faith estimate of your future gift's value in today's dollars on the form.
- The Foundation calculates 5% of your qualifying pledge amount and sends a check for that amount to your recommended Juneau or Southeast Alaska nonprofit(s), up to a **maximum of $20,000 per household** (subject to matching pool availability).

Does the 5% grant reduce the eventual size of my gift?

No. Your gift remains 100% intact. The immediate 5% grant is paid today using a dedicated matching pool of $1 million established by the Foundation.

What happens if the matching pool funds run out?

The 5% immediate grant program is available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the availability of challenge match funds. **We encourage donors to submit their forms early to secure their match.**

What if my estate plan uses a percentage rather than a fixed dollar amount?

Most legacy gifts are designated as percentages (e.g., "10% of my remaining estate"). Because asset values fluctuate over time, we ask you to provide a conservative, good-faith estimate of what that percentage is worth in today's dollars.

What kind of assets can I donate?

For future legacy gifts, you can name the Foundation in your will or trust. You can also name the Foundation as a designated beneficiary on retirement accounts (IRA, 401(k), 403(b)), Donor Advised Funds held at a financial institution, bank account (Payable on Death/Transfer on Death), taxable brokerage accounts, life insurance policies, real estate (via a Transfer on Death Deed). If you prefer to donate now during your lifetime, we accept cash, checks, stocks, bonds, real estate, and Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRAs.

Disclaimer: We advise consulting a financial or tax advisor regarding the tax efficiencies of your specific gift.

Is my legacy commitment tax-deductible?

A legacy commitment made through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation does not provide an immediate income tax deduction during your lifetime, as the gift will be transferred later. However, it might reduce or eliminate future estate taxes for your heirs. Lifetime gifts made to the Foundation now may be eligible for immediate charitable income tax deductions under current IRS rules. Please consult a financial or tax advisor regarding the tax efficiencies of your specific gift.

Do I have to show you my private will or legal documents?

No. We deeply respect your privacy and the Foundation operates entirely on trust. We do not require copies of your will, trust documents, or financial statements. Your signature on our single-page, confidential **Bequest Intention Form** or **Multi-Year Donation Pledge Form** are all that are required to activate the grant. Besides you, only our Executive and Operations Directors will see these forms.

Why must my future gift go into a permanent Endowed Fund to recommend the 5% to nonprofit now?

Permanent endowments, such as Field of Interest Funds, are the bedrock of Juneau's financial future. Because the principal of an endowed fund is never spent, your gift creates a predictable, permanent stream of support. This ensures Juneau will always have resources to address changing future challenges long after we are gone.

Who decides the grants made by our Field of Interest Funds?

Grants are evaluated and recommended by volunteer committees composed of board members and community champions who possess specific interest and expertise in the fields each fund supports.

Can I split my 5% immediate grant among multiple local charities?

Yes. You can direct the entire 5% match total to a single local organization or divide it among a few qualified Southeast Alaska nonprofits.

Is the Bequest Intention legally binding if my family's financial situation changes?

No. We understand that family needs evolve; health and financial situations change. **The Bequest Intention Form is a non-binding statement of your current philanthropic intent.** It creates no legal or financial liabilities for you, your estate, or your heirs. **The Multi-Year Donation Pledge, on the other hand, is binding.**

If my estate plan is non-binding, what happens to the 5% match if I alter my will later?

Once the Foundation contributes the 5% to your designated nonprofit, that distribution is final and will not be recalled if your circumstances change. The Juneau Legacy Challenge operates entirely on a system of mutual trust and good-faith intent. We ask that donors participate with a sincere intention to maintain their legacy gift to the Foundation.

Disclaimer: We advise consulting a financial or tax advisor regarding the tax efficiencies of your specific gift.

What if I want to make a legacy gift right now instead of waiting for my will?

We welcome lifetime giving. If you prefer to see the impacts of your philanthropy during your lifetime, the same 5% matching incentives applies to all two-year pledges of $100,000 or more made directly to a permanent Field of Interest Fund using cash, appreciated stock, or Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your IRA.

If my lifetime gift is less than $100,000, do you still want to know my intention?

Absolutely. It is helpful for the Foundation to know what your intentions are. We are grateful for your gift.

What are the fees charged by Field of Interest endowments?

The Juneau Community Foundation charges an annual administrative fee on assets held in Field of Interest funds. We use a tiered schedule based on the total amount in the Fund.

- Up to 1,000,000: 1.00%
- $1,000,001 to $2,000,000: 0.85%
- $2,000,001 to $4,000,000: 0.75%
- $4,000,001 and above: 0.65%

Disclaimer: We advise consulting a financial or tax advisor regarding the tax efficiencies of your specific gift.

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