The Family Fund’s Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Family Fund?
The Family Fund, University of South Carolina’s annual faculty and staff campaign, allows University employees to become more engaged in their professional roles. Since its inception 38 years ago, the Family Fund has generated more than $44 million in support of students, our campuses, programs and initiatives, and so much more. Gifts from faculty, staff, and retirees support an array of scholarships and departmental initiatives, as well as the University’s most vital and emerging needs.

Why should I support the Family Fund?
Giving is a personal decision and each person who gives to Carolina has their own answer to that question. In addition to your daily contributions, a financial contribution is a different and important way to demonstrate your investment in Carolina and its students. The number of reasons for giving is diverse but all reflect a sincere belief in the work being done here at Carolina. Ultimately, your participation in the Family Fund is a vote of confidence in the University and its future. Any gift you make will contribute to a sense of partnership and pride across campus …and beyond.

How much should I give?
You determine the size, and designation, of your gift according to your own charitable interests, your personal willingness to give, and your financial capacity. Whether your gift is $1 per pay period or a one-time gift of $100, the University family is grateful for your commitment as every gift makes a difference. It is not the size of your gift—it is your participation that counts!

What can I give to?
Carolina has more than 5,000 available funds and it’s up to you to support the academic area that means most to you. You can choose to support a specific department or program, technology improvements, the library, one of the many scholarships that are available to Carolina students, and so much more.

How can I give?
Below are four simple ways to make a gift:
- Payroll Deduction
- Check (payable to the USC Foundation)
- Debit/Credit Card
- EFT—Electronic Funds Transfer

How does payroll deduction work?
Payroll deduction is one of the fastest, easiest and most convenient ways to make a gift. By completing the payroll deduction section on the Family Fund pledge form, you specify the amount you would like automatically deducted each pay period, the start date, and where your support should be designated. You can have an amount deducted for a specified number of months. You can download the Family Fund gift form here.

Who will know about my gift?
Participation in the campaign is your choice. You will receive a receipt but the amount of your gift will remain confidential to others. If you wish to keep your gift entirely anonymous, you can indicate so on the Family Fund pledge form.

Can my spouse’s employer match my contribution?
Your spouse may work for one of the many corporations who match the gifts of their employees. Some double or triple each dollar contributed. To discover if your spouse’s employer will match your gift, please visit www.matchinggifts.com/sc/. The company’s human resources office can provide details and the matching gift form.

Can I make a gift jointly with my spouse?
Of course! A number of USC employees have spouses who work at the University, or the spouse is an alumnus but not a Carolina employee. It is your choice whether to make your gift as an individual or as a couple.

As an employee of Carolina, who do I contact with questions about giving to the Family Fund?
You can contact Brandon Cochran, Assistant Director of Annual Giving, at (803) 777-4647 or jcochran@mailbox.sc.edu.