



Minors Trust Fund



FAQs

❖ How do I check my Minors Fund balance?

You can log onto the online portal at www.usicg.com to view fund balance and investment results. The website also provides the quarterly statements you used to receive in the mail. Instructions for setting up your account are at [USI Account Registration Instructions](#).

❖ Why do I have to apply for a disbursement from Minors Fund but not to receive per capita?

Any disbursement from the Minors Trust Fund requires an application because no participant is required to take a disbursement at any given time. An applicant may choose to leave their fund invested up to age 25. There is no penalty, and the fund may earn more interest during this time. Meanwhile, at age 18, per capita payments begin automatically, but the first payment depends on birthdate.

❖ I have Direct Deposit for my per capita, will my Minors Fund be direct deposited as well?

Per capita and Minors Fund are managed separately. The direct deposit form for Minors Fund is on the application and you must complete the direct deposit form for Minors Trust Fund if you want Direct Deposit – including a letter from your bank or a voided check.

❖ I used my Minors Fund for a school trip in 10th grade, can I take another education disbursement?

The EBCI Investment Committee recently voted to allow Minors Fund participants up to two disbursements for an educational trip, but only one per year. For example, you can take a trip in 10th grade, then again in 11th or 12th grade. The maximum amount distributed is \$6,000 and you will receive a 1099-Misc. tax form for this disbursement if the disbursement is more than \$600.

❖ Can I use my Minors Fund to pay for college?

You are welcome to apply for an Education Disbursement; your application will be reviewed by the EBCI Investment Committee. However, it is discouraged because the EBCI Higher Education program will fund your college tuition and pay for other school costs. Visit [Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - Higher Education and Training \(ebcihighered.com\)](http://ebcihighered.com) for more information. If you have an unmet need after you have applied to the Higher Education department, you should apply for an education disbursement.

❖ Why is my Minors Fund invested? Isn't that risky?

The Minors Trust Fund is invested, and the principal (the per capita payments) is indemnified by Tribal Council. That means there is no risk to the participant of losing any principal because Tribal Council guarantees each participant will receive all the principal at a minimum.

The fund is invested, and the participant keeps all the interest. The EBCI Investment Committee is charged with oversight of the fund as an investment.

All statements are created in real time and account balances change daily. If you receive a statement with negative interest, know that all your per capita contributions are guaranteed and while the interest earnings increase and decrease with market conditions, the next statement will be different.