**Fair Economy, Better World**

**Building a 4-D Economy - Grants Programme**

Friends Provident Foundation’s main grant giving programme funds organisations and activities that support our mission to develop a fair and sustainable economy.

We believe that a fair and sustainable economy should be characterised by 4D’s – an economy that is Diversified, Decarbonised, Democratised and Decentralised.

An image that outlines the 4D's in detail

Diversified (or decolonised)  - we must dismantle structural inequities and systems of oppression that underpin our economic systems. We seek economic systems and institutions founded on principles of equity, solidarity and social justice 

Decarbonised - we must decarbonise the economy to tackle climate change, keep global heating below 1.5 degree Celsius, and ensure a planet that is habitable for future generations. 

Democratised - a democratised economy is one where communities and workers have power, ownership and control over the assets and businesses that sit at the heart of their economies

Decentralised - a fair and sustainable economy is a decentralised economy - one where people can create and retain value locally and focus on wellbeing for their community. 

**Our Funding Types**

We offer three main types of grants:

1. Project funding
2. Core funding
3. Small grants programme

**Our Funding Streams 2022-25**

Our grants focus on three main areas:

1. Supporting a strong and diverse movement for new economic thinking and acting in the UK. This movement challenges and seeks alternatives to the current dominant ‘neo-liberal’ model, which sees an economy based on free markets, competition and de-regulation as the answer, but neglects our social and environmental needs. This will include core and project funding.
2. Supporting ‘outsider voices’ in pushing for a fair transition to a 4D economy. This will offer project funding.
3. Transforming financial systems This will bring about change in and through capital markets, financial system policy and regulation. This will fund research activities through commissioned grants only (not an open strand).

**Our Funding Types**

Please note that organisations can only hold one grant at a time (apart from in exceptional circumstances where they may be part of coalition or be holding a grant on behalf of others). Please therefore select carefully the right grant type for you.

**Project Funding**

For work specifically focused on a particular project or activity, we offer project funding. This can include overhead costs (such as desk space, rent, utilities) but these must be related to the proposed work. Any organisation can apply for project support.

**Core Funding**

For organisations we have funded previously or which have a pre-existing relationship with the Foundation. Core funding is provided in support of an organisation’s vision and strategy and how it helps us meet our goals. This is usually unrestricted funding that can be used in pursuit of the organisation’s general mission.

**Small Grants Programme**

The small grants programme aims to support under-resourced or newer entrants to economic systems change work to develop their ideas for a 4D economy with grants of up to £10,000. This might include general support for new or emerging organisations or collaboratives with a focus on creating aspects of a 4D economy. It can also include specific project funding to test new ideas or develop new approaches which could contribute to the development of features of a 4D economy. These projects should strengthen and bring forward voices currently marginalised within the economy and in work to bring about economic change.

**Our Funding Streams**

**Stream One - Movement Building: supporting and building a strong and diverse movement for new economic thinking and acting (core funding and project funding)**

The UK has a creative, imaginative and growing movement of organisations who are working to develop new economic ideas and approaches and to push for and create the changes we need to create a better, fairer economic system. [Demos Helsinki](https://demoshelsinki.fi/julkaisut/an-emergent-economic-movement-in-europe/) who recently mapped out this movement in Europe, described the UK as *“a primary hotspot of new economic thinking*”.

Over the past 10 years Friends Provident Foundation has helped to fund this eco-system of organisations and we want to continue to support it to diversify and mature.

We want to work with organisations who are challenging the structural problems that are embedded in our current economy. We will support those who are working to envision and create a new economic system.

But we are also aware that this movement, as currently defined, doesn’t sufficiently recognise the wealth of work, knowledge and experience of finding new ways to organise economically from communities who are marginalised in our economy (and society). So, we are particularly keen to support new economic thinking and action led by marginalised groups working towards a new economy movement where a diverse range of voices and perspectives are recognised and centred.

**We are interested in**

* Core funding (grants) for organisations whose mission is to push for significant changes in the way in which the UK economy functions and/or to demonstrate alternative economic models.
* Project funding (grants) for organisations who support the infrastructure of the new economy movement – e.g. providing training, support or enabling collaboration.

**Stream Two - Supporting a Fair Transition to a 4D Economy (project funding)**

This stream involves projects and programmes that support a fair transition to a future economy. The shift to a 4D economy will require a number of transitions - including shifts as a result of the drive to decarbonise, demographic change, technological shifts and more. This strand of our funding will support work that seeks to adapt to these shifts mindfully, in a way that supports the fair creation of a 4D economy.

By fair we mean that the necessary changes to the economy should not happen at the expense of - and preferably should actively benefit - already disadvantaged geographies, groups or communities.

Our investment activities involve a lot of work with those ‘inside’ the economic and financial system towards this transition. Our grant work in this area will focus on those outside of it.

Currently, not everyone plays an equal part in influencing decisions that affect how the economy works, or in developing new economic approaches, even if they want to. Many of these people bear more of the risks of an economy, where income and wealth inequality, environmental damage, global heating and uneven regional development are accepted as the “natural” outcomes of economic growth. And these people are more likely to be impacted by the necessary changes our economy must go through in order to transition to a 4D economy such as the decarbonisation of jobs and industry. Our aim is to help find new solutions and synergies to increase the chances for change.

We want to change that in the following ways:

* Ensure that the push for a fair transition to a new 4D economy takes full account of and is led by the voices, experiences and interests of people furthest from economic decision-making.
* Support activities led by ‘outsider voices’ that demonstrate new ways of doing things.
* Support the strengthening of connections (information, data, resources) between those tackling the worst social inequities that result from how our economy currently works and those pushing for fairer transitions to a 4D economy.

**We are interested in:**

* Applications from organisations led by people who traditionally have not taken part in economic decision-making at local, regional or national levels. This might include: young people, people with disabilities, Black and Brown people, people who have recently arrived in the UK or who are otherwise economically marginalised or people living in areas that lack power and voice in our economic systems.
* Proposals framed in partnership with other organisations.
* Work that ensures a broad range of voices are heard in the debate and are leading action to make change. This should include the voices of those directly affected by an economy which does not distribute risks and rewards fairly and most likely to be impacted by future economic transitions.

**Stream Three: Transforming Financial Systems (commissioned research funding)**

This is our smallest grants strand and will be for commissioned work rather than open to general application.

We are interested in supporting activity to change the way our financial systems operate and the changes that are required to achieve a 4D economy. Work in this area will focus on:

* Addressing issues relating to the functioning of capital markets,
* Changing corporate behaviour, and
* Advocating for supportive policy and regulation.

**We are interested in:**

* Small research projects that might support our investment engagement work in this area.

**How to apply**

Please [visit our website](http://www.friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk/grants) for more information on our grants programme and to access our application form.

If you would like to speak to a member of our grants team please contact us at [grants@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk) or [book a meeting](https://calendly.com/grantsfpf/fpf-grants-team-applicants-check-in?month=2022-09&date=2022-09-21) with us via our web pages.