

Tender brief



Facilitator for 2025-2027 Shifting Cultural Perceptions of the Economy



Deadline for response: 1 November 2024

Guide price for the contract: £15,000 inclusive of VAT



Purpose of the brief

We are seeking a facilitator to work with us on an exciting new area of grant funding over the next three years. We will be exploring perceptions and mindsets that dominate how we think about the economy, and how we feel about the potential to change it. We are looking for individuals or organisations with expertise in facilitation to help guide and focus this work by leading a series of planned programme days.

Required outputs

- Programme days: Facilitation of nine programme days across three years to support one strand of funding. This will include preparing and leading sessions (including with guest presenters), asking questions, leading on the explorations of themes and helping to bring it back to the central questions for exploration.
- Learning: Programme learning will be led by a learning partner, however we would like the facilitator to contribute to conversations about how we measure success and work with us to look at progress collectively. They will also help us reflect on key themes, questions, and learning points that are emerging from the work.

Background and context

Friends Provident Foundation is an independent endowed charity with a vision of a fair economy and a better society. It works towards this through grants, social investments, mainstream investments and building networks and communications. The Foundation takes an integrated approach to its mission and capital base and alongside grantmaking uses its endowment as a tool for change, including through social investments and shareholder engagement.

In the autumn of 2024, we launched a new grants programme for the period 2024-2027, with a focus on three strands of funding within our wider mission:

- Shifting Cultural Perceptions of the Economy
- Transforming Financial Systems
- Supporting New Economy Infrastructure

You can find out more about our new grants strategy [here](#)

The Shifting Cultural Perceptions funding strand opened in September and will close to applications on 21 October. Grant awards will be made by December 2024, with work starting in January. The first programme day is expected to take place in March 2025.

Roles and responsibilities

The purpose of this role is to lead the programme days for our new strand of funding 'Shifting Cultural Perceptions of the Economy'. This funding will explore how we can begin to shift perceptions and beliefs about the economy. It will focus on how we can promote the idea that change to a fairer and more sustainable system is possible. Recognising the enormity of this challenge it will take the approach of an **action research set**, seeking to generate shared learning that will push thinking further. A cohort of six or seven organisations will be awarded grant funding to work with us on this. Alongside an advisory panel of seven members, and a small staff team, we will engage in three programme days year over to course of a three-year period, to share insights, hear from other experts and collectively reflect on the challenge of answering our central question for this theme:

'How can we begin to shift perceptions and beliefs about the economy, about what it is and what it could be?'

As well as delivering the programme days, we are looking for a facilitator who will engage fully with the topic, hold the thread of the conversations and enthusiastically explore this new theme with us.

What we are looking for

We are seeking people with a genuine interest in, and enthusiasm for this topic, and who will come to the group with an inquisitive and learning mindset. It is an exploration of a variety of methods coming together and is not expected to produce one right answer. In particular we would welcome:

- Experience of facilitating on big picture topics where issues can be complex and there are no clear answers
- Experience of working with foundations and third sector organisations
- A positive and inquisitive mindset, an enthusiasm and interest to learn alongside us in this work

Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

As we want to create a learning environment where successes and failures can be openly explored, we will apply Chatham House rules to the meetings and content shared where it relates to individual projects/organisations involved in the group. We encourage building connections and having wider conversations about the work but would expect the facilitator to seek permission from individual participants before sharing any information about their work that isn't publicly available.

Where a facilitator has connections and prior knowledge of applicants, they will declare any conflicts of interest at the start of their contract with us.

Budget

The facilitator role is expected to commence in January 2025 and conclude around September 2027. The guide price for this contract is £15,000 inclusive of VAT.

How to apply

To apply please send a proposal for the work that is relevant to the brief by 5pm on Friday 1 November 2024 to enquiries@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk. We will acknowledge receipt of your application.

If you would like a brief, informal discussion about the work, please contact Jo Wilce on joanne.wilce@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk

Timetable

Issue of tender: Monday 30 September

Close of tender: Friday 1 November

Discussions with shortlisted applicants: mid-November

Appointment: mid-late November

Commence: January 2025
