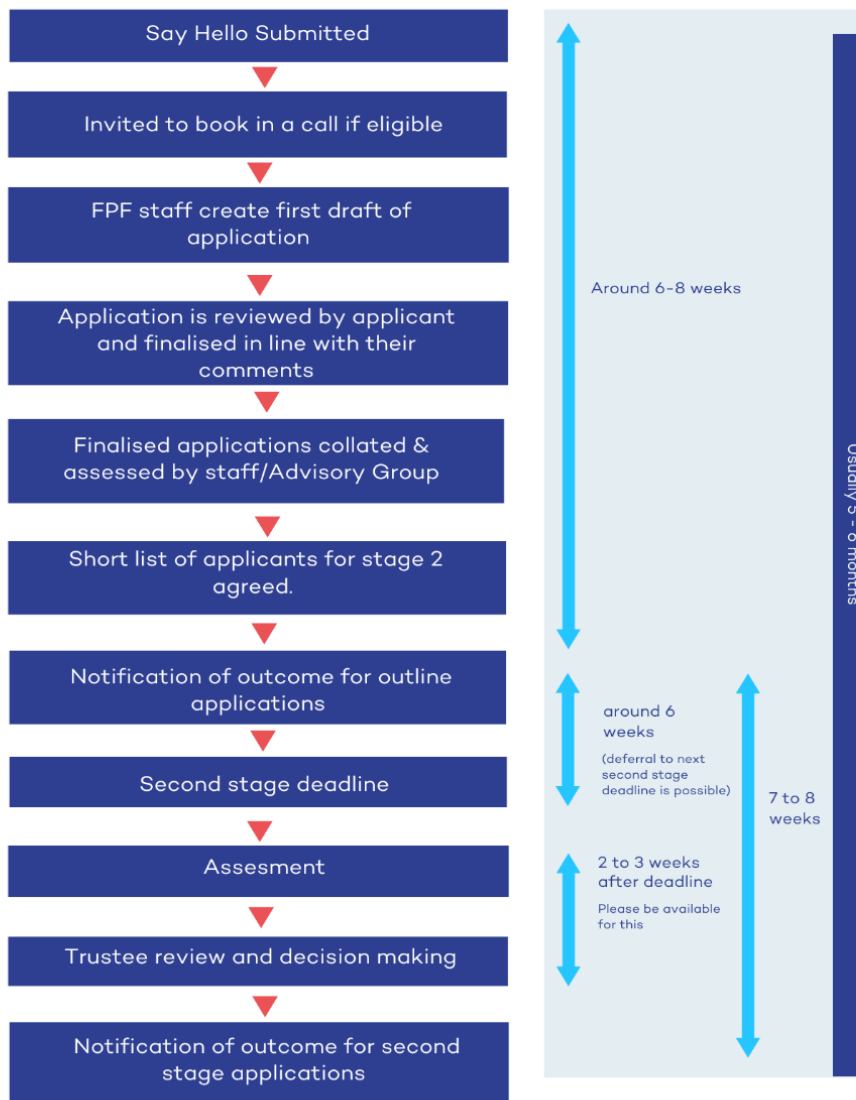


Friends Provident Foundation Stage One Application Process Explained

As part of the 2024-2027 grants programme FPF are using a conversation-based first stage application process. The process is as follows:

Grant application process for external audiences

Usual decision making process takes 5 - 6 months



Each stage is described in more detail below.

Say Hello

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself and your work to us. We hope that this process will allow us to reduce rejection rates by giving more help to potential applicants to work out if we are the right funder.

You can do this in three main ways:

- Send us a quick written message outlining your work
- Leave us a voice note with your thoughts
- Upload a video explaining what you want to talk to us about

We are not looking for lengthy or professional submissions at this point and we certainly wouldn't encourage you to make anything specially for us. If you have previous submissions or overviews you can share that is encouraged. At this stage this is more about allowing you to connect with us in the way that best suits you.

These messages will be reviewed by our staff, and we will let you know if we think this is something worth discussing in more depth or if we don't feel it is a good fit with our programme. If the answer is a no, we will explain why this is the case.

If it is a possible fit, we will invite you to book in a meeting with us.

Online meeting with FPF team member

a) Exploratory chat (20-30 mins)

If we are unclear from your Say Hello form whether or not your work would be a suitable fit for our funding programme but we think it might be, we will invite you to an initial exploratory chat where we talk to you about your work to get a better understanding of what you do, what you intend to do with the funding, how this relates to our funding programme, and how you perceive it is capable of seeding transformative change within the economy or finance system. After the conversation, we'll reach a decision within our team about whether your work would be a good fit and stand a chance of success compared to other applications in the strand. We will then provide you with feedback and a recommendation about whether or not to proceed with an application conversation.

Questions we will ask you:

- About your organisation and why you're the right people to be doing the work
- What the most important issues are that you're working on and why they matter
- What you'd do with this funding and your theory of change (i.e. how your proposed work would ladder up to economic or financial systems transformation)

If we think your work could be a good fit, we will invite you to an application conversation.

b) Application conversation (~50 mins)

This conversation will usually involve two stages.

1. Detailed eligibility check

Sometimes the information provided in your Say Hello may not allow us to fully understand whether your application is eligible. We will use the first part of our conversation to talk to you about your work and get a sense of this. If we feel that your work isn't a fit, we'll talk to you about this. It may be that we decide together that an application isn't appropriate at this point.

2. Application creation

If the project feels like it is a viable proposal for our programme, we will use this conversation to start to complete your stage one application. This is not an assessment conversation, it is about working together to make sure that we have the right information to represent your work well.

Our new process shifts more of the burden of this part of the process from you onto our team. We will try to complete as much of this as we can in this conversation, but we may ask you to come back to us with specific details or further bits of information. Once we are happy that we have all that we need we will send you a first draft of the completed first stage application.

Questions we will ask you:

- About your organisation and why you're the right people to be doing the work
- What the most important issues are that you're working on and why they matter
- What you'd do with this funding and your theory of change (i.e. how your work would ladder up to economic or financial systems transformation)
- What you want to achieve over the next couple of years
- What success would look like
- Who you collaborate with and how your work fits into a movement for change
- How much you're asking for as a contribution to your work and for how long

Application review and finalisation

We will ask you to review the application and let us know if it feels accurate and framed in a way that feels right for you. We will make changes in line with your feedback. You will be sent a final version of the application which you can use to create further applications elsewhere if helpful.

FPF assessment and decision making

Your application will be grouped together with other applications received at the same time and these will be assessed against each other by an internal panel of FPF staff (and for the Transforming Financial Systems strand by an Advisory Group of expert partners). We always receive far more applications than we can fund so those that are felt to have the best chance of success at stage two will be invited to submit a second stage application.

All applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application and feedback as to why the decision was made.

Those invited to stage two will be sent information on how to complete this second stage application.