

Friends Provident Foundation

Giving programme 2013–18



Friends Provident Foundation is an independent grant-making charity working to support greater economic resilience through building knowledge and taking action at the strategic and local levels. We are particularly interested in supporting the development of economic and financial systems that are designed to include those who are most vulnerable to market failure.



Building Resilient Economies

Friends Provident Foundation's main grant-giving and investment programme, Building Resilient Economies, was launched in 2013. Our aim is to build a more resilient economic system – one that distributes **social and economic goods and services** more fairly, and balances short-term and long-term needs more effectively.

The Foundation is working on two levels:

1. **Systems change** – We aim to support disruptive innovation that will actually change the current financial system. We want to explore and inform changes and innovation in regulation, policy and ways of working that will contribute to a more resilient economic system.

Systems change will require strong **analysis** from a range of perspectives. We wish to support work that can help to transform corporate behaviour, and to stimulate **feasible new ideas** and scaleable, practical examples.

2. **Building local economic resilience** – Our work at the local level will focus on testing and reviewing local or small-scale initiatives that build economic resilience through **diversity, flexibility** and **building capabilities**.

We wish to see the development of local economic resilience. We seek to support projects that share learning about effective ways for communities to create more sustainable economic systems and retain more of their value. This might include creating **community assets** or new approaches to **local finance**.

We seek to build **partnerships** with other organisations that are also funding work at the local level, to learn from and share learning between local initiatives.

The Right Use of Money

How can **financial systems** create and sustain **social harmony**, and at the same time deliver economic goods and services? This **question** forms the basis of the Foundation's work, and reflects ground-breaking work to develop ethical funds carried out by our original donor, Friends Provident, over 30 years ago.

The Foundation continues to explore these issues through its main grant-making programme as well as supporting a small number of projects to explore aspects of the ethics of the financial systems that underpin our society.



How the Foundation plans to reach its goals

The Foundation is working in three ways:

1. Encouraging thinking about how economic resilience might be enhanced.
2. Supporting practical projects to build economic resilience at the local and systemic levels, balancing social and economic benefits, alleviating disharmony and addressing inequality.
3. Using our assets, including financial and human capital, to pioneer new ways of thinking about how money is used to solve social problems.

Trustees will consider applications for grants, loans, underwriting or other forms of financial support. The Foundation has a developed social investment policy and we will consider proposals for investment that fit with our programme aims.

For more information go to our website at **www.friendsprovidentfoundation.org**

About Friends Provident Foundation

Friends Provident Foundation is a grant-making charity controlled by its Trustees and independent of its original donor, the Friends Provident group of companies. The Foundation was established in 2001 as part of the demutualisation of Friends Provident Life Office and the public listing of the company. It was endowed with unclaimed shares for the purpose of pursuing general charitable objectives.

The Foundation provides grants and social investment in support of its objectives as well as actively engaging in policy and practice initiatives to bring about change in its fields of interest. The Foundation disseminates its findings widely through meetings and seminars with policy makers and practitioners, media work, publications and the Internet.



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Foundation**

For more information about our work go to
www.friendsprovidentfoundation.org

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