

Stage One Application Guidance Notes

Before starting your application please make sure that it is:

- Charitable in its nature. Your organisation doesn't have to be a charity, but the nature of the activity you wish to carry out does. If you are not sure please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charitable-purposes/charitable-purposes>
- A good fit with our programme – last year 20% of applications were unsuccessful because they did not fit with our programme. Please make sure you have really reviewed our programme information before deciding to apply.
- Based on a clear theory of change – we need to be able to understand how the activity you propose will address the problem you have identified. Explain why the solution you propose is the right one.
- Clear and intelligible to a non-expert. Our programme covers a broad range of areas. When writing your application assume we are well-informed, but not expert in your policy area, and fully explain what you intend to do and how. The outline application is an opportunity to describe simply what you want to do, why and how it relates to a fair economy. Using the 5w's (what, who, where, when, why) should help structure your thinking and express the logic behind your proposal.
- Has potential for a broader impact – beyond the immediate area/group focused on or creates a new method or approach that would be replicable elsewhere.

The Programme

Please make sure that you make it clear how the proposed work will make a contribution to the **overall programme aim** of establishing a fair and sustainable economic system that serves people and planet.

In doing so, please explain how you plan to achieve your chosen **outcome**, i.e. 'systems change' or 'local economies'. In some instances, your project may fit into both categories – if this is the case please select the one that feels the best fit.

a) Systems Change

This part of the programme involves a radical assessment of how 'disruptive innovation' might change the way in which the economy is organised.

Projects under this outcome should explore and inform how change at a regulatory, policy or other systemic level might contribute to an economy that is more equitable and uses resources sustainably.

We know that systems change will need strong analysis from a range of perspectives. So, we'd like to support work that can influence decision-making by different groups in the economy, with the aim of stimulating feasible new ideas and practical examples that can be scaled up.

b) Local Economies

For most people, their experience of economic forces and their understanding of their own place within that is at a local level, whether that be sub-region, city, neighbourhood or community.

Projects applying under this outcome should aim to support the development of fair and healthy local economies, building on thinking and approaches that assist localities to create economic wellbeing and retain value in the community. This could be relating to community assets, building local capacity to manage economic change, and other local resources.

Focus Areas

In addition to the main outcomes of Systems Change and Local Economies there are two 'focus areas' of current interest to the Foundation. Your application does not have to fall into either of these areas and we strongly advise applicants not to try to 'force' an application into these categories that doesn't naturally fit. Beyond these areas we retain a broad interest in and will continue to fund projects that cover all parts of the economy.

The following focus areas however are areas that are currently under-represented in our grants portfolio or are seen as key to the changes we wish to see in the economy.

1. Diversity, equity and inclusion

Unless inequities in the current system are addressed by policy and practical interventions designed to build a new economic system, those sources of unfairness will be replicated. We are looking for projects that will help to identify and address structural inequalities and discrimination relating to characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, class and the interplay of these factors in people's lives. The Foundation will seek to integrate questions about equity, diversity and inclusion in its assessment processes as well as inviting new thinking about how it might be addressed.

2. A Fair Transition

We wish to support a range of new thinking and practical projects considering how to ensure that rapid shifts in the economy distribute risks and benefits more equitably. Such shifts may be driven by the transition to a zero-carbon economy, other technological changes such as the move to renewable energy or the development of artificial intelligence. We are interested in projects that include people who may be 'stranded' in terms of skills and economic utility in a time of change.

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