

# How the Ford Foundation's Grant Making Works

Every year, the Ford Foundation makes about 1,400 grants to organizations around the globe that serve the public good. Learn about how proposals are reviewed and how grants are made and monitored.

## **Transcript begins.**

[Simple animated graphics support the narrative throughout.]

Each and every year, the Ford Foundation makes approximately 1,400 grants to organizations all over the world that serve the public good. We fund a broad range of issues, but at the heart of our work is the belief that all people deserve the opportunity to fulfil their potential, contribute to society, and have their voices heard. Our grant making tackles the systems and structures that keep those opportunities out of reach for many communities. Each of our areas of work, from education to human rights to economic fairness, is overseen by teams of program officers. These teams are experts in their fields, with years of experience and deep ties to the communities with which they work.

How do grants get made?

Based on their extensive knowledge of the most pressing issues in their fields, program teams seek out people and organizations with bold ideas and scalable solutions. The teams work with prospective grantees to create grant proposals to support those solutions. Grant applications may also be submitted through the Ford Foundation website. But in a typical year, less than one percent of unsolicited applications receive a grant.

How are proposals reviewed?

Once a proposal is selected for funding, it goes through a thorough review, which ensures we comply with all legal requirements for charitable giving. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability. The foundation then formally approves a grant and issues an official grant letter.

How are grants monitored?

Through visits, convenings, and written reports. Program teams maintain close communication with the people and organizations they support, learning about their progress and challenges. It is a privilege to work on the frontlines of social change with these visionary leaders and organizations. And it is our mission to support them transparently and responsibly.

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

**End of transcript.**

To learn more, see [“How We Make Grants”](#) on the [Ford Foundation website](#).