

Model 1: Street-to-Scale

Street-to-Scale was a grant-making initiative which was designed and delivered by the Plymouth Octopus Project, an organisation which connects and develops the Voluntary Community Sector across that city. It involved giving groups £1,000 on a prepaid bank card and trusting them to bring their ideas to life. The process had very few rules and there was no panel in place to decide on what ideas were 'worthy' - instead, the focus was on trusting communities to know what they needed to spend money on and letting them get on with it. All someone needed was an idea and a willingness to spend £1,000 in 8 weeks. The bank cards were given to one person in a group, who was designated as a 'responsible person' by POP.

Along with other work that Plymouth Octopus does, it was designed by a 'Network of Networks' which brought in people from across the city to feed into the design of the fund. They didn't ask for receipts and the evaluation was framed by applicants and looked at their experiences and what they had learned over the funding period.

Each group was assigned a member of staff and they used WhatsApp to talk through their ideas and ask questions of each other. Of 45 applications, PO say that almost all of them were felt to be successful by the applicants.

<https://www.plymouthoctopus.org/street-to-scale-press-release/>

<https://www.plymouthoctopus.org/esmee-fairbairn-2/street-to-scale/>

Model 2: Youthbank: Alternatives to Apathy

In the country of Georgia, the Europe Foundation set up YouthBank, which supports a youth-led grantmaking process for peer-proposed projects in communities across the country. There are 25 groups across the country, focussed on deprived and marginalised communities where there are few opportunities for young people.

Each year, 150 young people are drawn from the 25 groups to come together to develop skills and knowledge around grantmaking.

Without adult oversight, this group collaborates on bringing together their experiences to come up with ideas for what they want to tackle, as well as a way of assessing the needs of their communities.

They then go back home and make presentations in schools and other community venues about the problems they want to solve and encourage their peers to submit an idea in teams of three or four. Each branch then selects 5 ideas, awarding each one \$500 (£400). At the end of the project delivery, the group meets up again to evaluate and share learning. The process has been credited with bridging social and cultural divides across the country, bringing together people who would otherwise have never met and allowing them to share a common vision for their future.

<http://grantcraft.org/content/case-studies/alternatives-to-apathy-equipping-youth-to-help-themselves-by-helping-their/>

Model 3: FRIDA

FRIDA, or the Young Feminist Fund, is an example of grantmaking which involves applicants in the decision making process.

Each round of funding follows a pattern, but it is different each time. To start with, a panel of FRIDA staff members work with activist advisors to come up with criteria for grants.

Once applications are in, the panel filters out any applications which don't meet the criteria. They then anonymise the applications and send them all out to applicants for scoring and comments - you can't vote for your own application. After votes are tallied, staff and advisors carry out due diligence to confirm the accuracy of the application before announcing the successful applicants.

The grants of \$5,000 (£4,000) are given flexibly - they can be used to cover core costs or fund specific ideas. This is done to help develop the capacity of organisations and to trust that they are better placed to know how to serve their community. Grantees are checked in with after 6 months and 12 months, and are also invited to become advisors for future rounds of funding, helping to feed their knowledge and experience back into the wider feminist activist community

<https://youngfeministfund.org/>

https://youngfeministfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/FRIDA_GM_Report_FINAL.pdf

