

Todd Foundation Funding Strategy

2018–2022

OUR PURPOSE

We resource communities to create sustainable, long-term social change for children, young people and families.

OUR WAY

We fund co-ordinated,
**community-led
action for change**

We practise and
incentivise **collaboration**

We support
**community sector
capability**



OUR VISION

An inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand where all families,
children and young people can thrive and contribute.

*Whakawhāiti Aotearoa, hei oranga
wairua, oranga tāngata.*



OUR PURPOSE

We resource communities to create sustainable, long-term social change for the most excluded and disadvantaged children, young people and families. We're still learning about the best way to create this change, but some of the key ingredients we've identified are:

Collective and system-focused solutions

Complex and ongoing challenges don't have simple solutions, and can't be solved by individuals, organisations or initiatives working independently. Collective responses can make better use of all the resources available in communities, and genuine collaboration creates stronger and more sustainable solutions.

Genuine, inclusive community ownership and leadership

We believe that the most effective change initiatives actively involve community members at all stages of design and decision making. We're guided by the principles of community-led development and the precept "nothing about us without us". We don't want to pre-determine outcomes or impose solutions, but rather support communities to develop their own.

Evidence-informed models AND innovation

We're open to supporting initiatives which build on proven or evidence-informed models and those which are innovating "at the edge". We recognise the value of learning from what's already been done, but also that new ideas and energy can create a paradigm shift.

Measuring what matters, understanding what works

Social change is measurable - we know when people are better off. But it can take a long time to see results when challenges are deep rooted and solutions are complex. We believe that focussing on outcomes is important, but that measuring them in the short-term can be difficult. We aim to work with our partners to understand the outcomes which are important to them, and how they can capture results to iterate and improve.



OUR WAY

We want to support real change in communities, reduce compliance costs for organisations, and promote collaboration rather than competition. So we don't run grant rounds or accept pitches from individuals or organisations. Instead we pro-actively seek out communities, groups and collectives to partner with in our three main funding streams.



Change

We fund co-ordinated, community-led action for change in selected focus areas, following a five step process: Focus, Explore, Engage, Partner, Review.

Our current focus areas are:

- Youth employment
- Fairer futures for children and whānau

Within each focus area we provide funding for:

- Convening and collaboration across groups and communities
 - Organisations and initiatives working collectively to bring about change
 - Capability building
 - Research, evaluation and sharing learnings.
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Collaboration

We practise and incentivise collaboration through pro-active, strategic alliances with other funders.

We look for collaborations which:

- Involve opportunities to connect and learn
 - Employ the unique knowledge and resources of collaborating partners to create greater impact
 - Create new opportunities or initiatives which couldn't be achieved independently
 - Create leverage and influence to address issues of mutual concern.
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Capability

We fund key organisations providing important capability support to the community sector. In a small country, we recognise the value of national organisations who can assist and support local groups and communities in their work. We look for organisations who are responsive to community need, provide real value and work in partnership at a local level.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These principles provide a touch stone - they underlie and inform everything we do.

Reducing exclusion and disadvantage

We recognise that although everyone has equal value, not everyone has equal opportunities. Our funding aims to reduce this opportunity gap for those who are most disadvantaged by it.

Building inclusiveness

Addressing exclusion requires understanding, fostering empowerment and participation, building bridges between different communities and addressing attitudes, systems and structures that stand in the way.

Strengthening communities

We understand that strong relationships create thriving individuals and communities, that opportunities for reciprocity and contribution promote wellbeing, and that people working together are better able to achieve their aspirations.

Mana Māori

We recognise the unique status of Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa New Zealand, and aim to work with Māori in the spirit of partnership embodied in te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Respectful relationships

We acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our partners in the community sector - our vision can only be achieved through them. To support, rather than hinder, their work, we aim to keep our processes as simple as possible, the compliance costs of our funding low, and our relationships open and authentic.

Listening and learning

To understand how we can best support long-term social change, we recognise the need to learn from our community partners, to make decisions based on good evidence, to continually review and adapt our practice, and to share what we learn with others.