

CORE BELIEFS

DOES THE PROJECT PROMOTE
GREATER FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY?



Does the program develop **private sector solutions** to societal problems?



Does the project offer **solutions to the problems created by government and crony capitalist interventions** and does the project offer strategies for make such interventions unnecessary and unattractive going forward?



Does the project enhance individuals' capacities for **self-determination, individual choice, and peaceful, voluntary cooperation** in society?



Does the project discover methods to **teach freedom in new ways** to untapped audiences?

At Rising Tide Foundation, we believe the market economy, in concert with *limited government* and *rule of law*, holds the greatest promise of freedom and prosperity for all. Markets enhance individual flourishing by coordinating diverse interests through voluntary and peaceful exchange. The greatest advancements in human history result from such interactions between individuals who are free to act, exchange, and create value for themselves and others, not from the use of force or top-down planning of the state.

Poverty, in our opinion, cannot be “managed” by redistributing a perceived “finite” pie of wealth, nor by gaining control over limited resources. Instead, prosperity is when society respects the dignity of each person and his or her right to act as a *moral agent*. We seek to unleash this potential by supporting projects that open networks of productivity and exchange to the previously excluded. We believe that individuals in poverty must see themselves as active agents, not passive victims. They must seek and be given empowerment, not paternalistic protection as the key to prosperity.

Personal freedom and the free market economy, as ideals, are continuously threatened by the power of big-government and big-business, intervening to enhance “social justice”, “equity”, or “efficiency” in markets. But these efforts end up leading to the kind of *crony capitalism* that is so prevalent today – a system that claims to help everyone but benefits only the few at the expense of the many; it is a system that manages rather than solves poverty.

Our philanthropic strategy is to support projects that articulate and promote these core beliefs, projects that eliminate the obstacles which impede creative individuals, projects that give a “hand-up,” rather than just a “hand-out”.

We are interested in projects which go beyond theory, that apply these insights in the lives of real people and promote greater freedom and prosperity. Specifically, we seek to find projects that:



Develop private sector solutions to societal problems.



Offer solutions to the problems created by government and crony capitalist interventions. Projects that offer strategies for making such interventions unnecessary and unattractive going forward.



Design and implement programs that enhance individuals' capacities for self-determination, individual choice, and peaceful, voluntary cooperation in society.



Discover methods to teach freedom in new ways to untapped audiences.

Successful applicants will demonstrate a commitment to the core beliefs of this freedom philosophy. We envision that such entrepreneurial efforts will be the spark needed to ensure that one day all individuals might flourish in peace and prosperity.

CORE BELIEFS

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Limited Government is a precept of constitutionalism. It states that a government's power over its citizens has limitations. The governmental authority is prescribed, restricted, and limited by law or by the constitution. An individual's rights and liberties are protected against governmental power even if that power is exercised in the name of a majority of people. In a limited government, there exist minimal governmental intervention in personal liberties and the economy.

RULE OF LAW

Classical liberals believe that a spontaneous, cooperative, predictable, non-violent, stable and fair social order arises only by following rules that are general (without a bewildering mass of exceptions), universal (applying to everyone) and stable (not changing so often that people get confused about what they are). Since most of us could not explain the rules of grammar, never mind the rules of social life, it makes sense to keep things simple. Having rules that are general and stable means that everyone knows what is expected of them, making our actions more predictable, and allowing us to make plans with greater confidence. So do rules that are universal – with the further, crucial advantage that they make it impossible for particular people or groups to be favored or exploited. This is the rule of law, in contrast to the arbitrary rule of those in authority. Classical liberals stress that it prevents politicians, police, courts and other officials abusing their coercive power. It spares us from many common evils: arbitrary arrest, imprisonment without trial, double jeopardy (being tried multiple times for the same offence), unfair trials, biased judges, rigged elections and unjust legislation.

CRONY CAPITALISM

Cronyism, also known as corporatism, weakens the free market by using government influence to favor certain businesses over others. Lobbying, subsidies, tax breaks, regulations, and legislation are all tools used by corporations and government agencies to give unfair advantages to certain businesses while harming their rivals.

MORAL AGENT

A moral agent is a person who has the ability to discern right from wrong and to be held accountable for his or her own actions. Moral agents have a moral responsibility not to cause unjustified harm.