

FundingNavigator

Turn a 120-page PDF into the right funding match in seconds

What is it about?

FundingNavigator is an intelligent matching tool for social workers, individuals in financial distress, and nonprofits. Based on just a few questions, it identifies tailored funding opportunities from foundations, public programs, and alternative financing sources. It transforms a static directory into an interactive solution—fast, targeted, and comprehensive—delivering a complete funding plan, not just a single match.

Why is it important?

Each year, foundations in Switzerland are flooded with mismatched applications—wasting time and resources. For people in financial crisis, every rejection means critical delays in getting help. At the same time, social workers spend hours manually searching for suitable funding instead of supporting clients. FundingNavigator addresses both problems: it connects the right applicants with the right funding faster and reduces administrative burden. Built to scale, it paves the way for a nationwide solution for social funding navigation.

What resources will we provide?

Data: The complete ZHAW “Fonds- und Stiftungsverzeichnis 2024/25”—covering 180 foundations with structured information on purpose, target groups, eligibility, application processes, decision timelines, and contacts.

Plus: Additional data on crowdfunding platforms, sharing economy resources, and public support programs—enabling a comprehensive view of all available funding options.



CASES

01 Single mother with urgent dental bill URGENT

Individual | Emergency relief | High urgency

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Who is asking?**
Individual, Swiss citizen, residing in Winterthur, single mother with 2 children.
- What is needed?**
CHF 3,200 for urgent dental treatment. Health insurance covers only a portion, no savings available.
- How urgent?**
Very urgent — invoice is already overdue, debt collection notice imminent.

RESULT: 3 MATCHES

98% match

Hilfsgesellschaft in Zürich
Purpose: One-time assistance for health costs for individuals in financial distress in Canton ZH. Decision: rolling (2-3 weeks). Direct applications accepted.

91% match

Stiftung für Familien in Not
Purpose: Support for single parents with children. Decision: monthly. Application via social services recommended.

74% match

Alternative: Crowdfunding via lokalhelden.ch
For the remaining gap — a campaign can be launched within days.

02 Social worker seeking education funding MEDIUM

Professional agency | Education grant | Medium urgency

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Who is asking?**
Professional agency (municipal social services, Uster) on behalf of a client: 22-year-old Eritrean man with residence permit B, living in Switzerland for 5 years.
- What is needed?**
CHF 8,500 for a vocational training program (EBA logistics). Cantonal scholarship office has approved partial funding — CHF 3,200 still missing for materials and living costs.
- How urgent?**
Medium urgency — training starts in 3 months.

RESULT: 4 MATCHES

95% match

Stiftung Bildung und Entwicklung
Purpose: Education funding for young migrants. Non-Swiss applicants explicitly welcome. Decision: quarterly. Application via agency.

89% match

Stiftung Solidarität
Purpose: Support for young adults in vocational training. Decision: monthly. No nationality restrictions.

72% match

Cantonal scholarship office (supplementary)
System hint: Already partially funded — a supplementary request for the remaining amount is possible.

65% match

Alternative: Crowdfunding via wemakeit
Education stories achieve above-average success rates on the platform.

Concept Initiator

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03 NGO seeking project funding PLANNED

Organization | Project grant | Long-term planning

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Who is asking?**
Nonprofit association “Brückenbauer Zürich” — integration programs for refugee youth in the Canton of Zurich.
- What is needed?**
CHF 25,000 for a 12-month mentoring program: training costs, room rental, materials.
- How urgent?**
Planned — project launch in 6 months, funding acquisition starts now.

RESULT: BLENDED FUNDING PLAN

93% match

Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
Purpose: Youth integration projects. Grants up to CHF 50,000. Decision: biannual — next submission deadline fits the timeline.

87% match

Christoph Merian Stiftung
Purpose: Social integration and education. Project proposals require budget and impact measurement plan.

78% match

Recommendation: Blended financing
Foundation grant (CHF 15,000) + crowdfunding campaign (CHF 5,000) + municipal integration credit (CHF 5,000). The system generates a complete funding plan.

04 Refugee family setting up a new home URGENT

Individual via agency | Material + financial aid | High urgency

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Who is asking?**
Social worker (Caritas Zurich) on behalf of a Syrian family of 5 with provisional admission (permit F), recently assigned their first independent apartment in Dietikon.
- What is needed?**
Basic household furnishings (beds, table, kitchen equipment) estimated at CHF 4,500, plus CHF 800 for a rental deposit gap not covered by social assistance. The family has no savings and no support network in Switzerland.
- How urgent?**
High urgency — the family must move in within 3 weeks. Children (ages 4, 8, 11) are starting school immediately after.

RESULT: BLENDED FUNDING + MATERIAL HELP

96% match

Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz — Kantonalverband Zürich
Purpose: Emergency support for refugees and provisionally admitted persons. Covers household setup costs. Decision: rolling (1-2 weeks). Application via Caritas accepted.

90% match

Stiftung Flüchtlingshilfe
Purpose: Integration support for families with children. Covers furniture, school supplies, and deposit gaps. Non-Swiss explicitly welcome. Decision: monthly.

85% match

Sharing Economy: Free-to-collect furniture
The system found 12 matching offers on tutti.ch and Ricardo (free category) within 15km: 2 beds, a kitchen table, a sofa, and children's furniture. Direct pickup links provided.

72% match

Alternative: Brockenhaus Zürich (material donation)
Partner program for social services: free household starter kits for families referred by recognized agencies. Contact number and referral form generated.

