

EMBARGOED UNTIL 18:00 HRS, 28 OCTOBER 2026

Quantedge Foundation sets out next-decade agenda, including plans for a dedicated space for social mobility in Singapore

Foundation commits an initial S\$50 million to scale social mobility solutions, strengthen evidence and expand opportunity for lower-income Singaporeans

- The **Quantedge Opportunity Lab**, opening in 2028, will provide a dedicated space to bring together key players across Singapore's social mobility ecosystem to foster greater collaboration and help proven solutions scale
- A **landmark longitudinal study** will follow more than 3,000 lower-income Singaporean households over 6 years to examine how social networks influence social mobility
- The **Philanthropreneur-in-Residence programme** will expand to better support changemakers and social innovators testing promising approaches to social mobility

Singapore, 28 October 2026 – Quantedge Foundation (Singapore) (QFS) today announced a new set of initiatives to advance social mobility in Singapore, backed by an initial S\$50 million commitment.

The commitment will bring together three mutually reinforcing areas of work: building a physical space for collaboration; generating stronger Singapore-specific evidence; and backing social innovators to test and grow promising approaches.

Singapore has made strong gains in absolute social mobility, with successive generations achieving higher living standards. The challenge ahead is to sustain relative mobility: ensuring that those who start with less can continue to move up relative to their peers, even as advantages in income, education and networks accumulate over time.

Xie Yao Quan, Chief Executive Officer, QFS, said: "For the past decade, our focus has been on giving more children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds a fair chance to rise. What we have learned is that expanding opportunity takes sustained effort: understanding where the gaps are, building evidence around what works, and being prepared to back promising approaches for the long term. As we enter our next chapter, we want to play a more active role in turning those lessons into action across the social mobility sector."

Desmond Lee, Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, said: "Education plays an important role in creating opportunities for Singaporeans. Our community and philanthropic partners complement government efforts by bringing valuable insights, resources and networks to support young people and families. QFS' continued commitment to research, innovation and partnerships contribute to our collective efforts to widen opportunities for Singaporeans."

The following initiatives were announced at an event marking QFS' 10th anniversary, held at ITE College Central and attended by Guest of Honour Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Education and Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration.

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A space to enable impact at scale for proven social mobility solutions

QFS will establish **Quantedge Opportunity Lab, or QOLab** (pronounced “collab”), a dedicated space designed to help promising early-stage non-profits working on social mobility innovate, grow and scale their impact.

Located at 300 Jalan Bukit Ho Swee, the former Jalan Bukit Ho Swee community centre – a state property managed by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) – will be adaptively reused as a base for these organisations. Scheduled to open in 2028, the three-storey building will provide dedicated workspace and shared facilities for up to 250 residents, including co-working and collaboration areas, meeting and training rooms, event spaces and a café. It will also house the QFS office.

When open, QOLab will support interaction, innovation and co-creation among organisations working across different stages of social mobility. Organisations based there will have opportunities to collaborate with a wider network of critical enablers of scale, including capability builders, research and evaluation partners, funders, and government partners.

“Social mobility is a societal challenge, and no single programme or organisation can address it alone. With QOLab, we want to give promising organisations the space to innovate, grow and scale, while helping them connect with the expertise, resources and partnerships they need to move beyond the pilot stage and achieve greater impact. Ultimately, our ambition is to enable more effective solutions to reach more people, and help expand meaningful pathways to lasting opportunity for Singaporeans,” added **Mr Xie**.

Building the evidence base for social mobility

QFS will launch the **Social Networks and Mobility Study**, a longitudinal study following more than 3,000 households in Singapore’s bottom 40 per cent income group over six years to examine how social networks influence social mobility.

By tracking the same households over six years, the study will build a substantial body of Singapore-specific evidence on social capital – the relationships, connections and networks people can draw on - and its role in shaping upward social mobility over time. The findings are intended to inform future programmes, funding approaches and policy interventions.

Backing social innovators to develop and scale solutions

QFS will expand its **Philanthropreneur-in-Residence (PIR) programme** over the next five years, appointing up to two new PIRs annually and making up to S\$2 million available over five years to each organisation founded by a PIR. PIRs will also receive support in strategy, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, and organisational development.

Launched in 2023, PIR supports exceptional individuals with the vision and drive to translate innovative ideas for social mobility into reality. The programme, initially established to support social sector innovation more broadly, will now focus on founders developing solutions that improve social mobility.

Current PIRs include **Marvin Kang and Wong Yi Fong**, co-founders of The Astronaut Collective, whose JumpStart initiative supports ITE students in the transition from school to work through mentoring and career preparation; and **Lin Shiyun**, founder of 3Pumpkins, whose Tak Takut Kids Club provides safe and inclusive spaces for children from low-income families to develop socio-emotional skills and build trusted relationships. The initiative supported close to 400 children and family members across Boon Lay and Lengkok Bahru sites in 2025.

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Piloting a town-level partnership model

QFS and two Social Service Offices (SSOs) are piloting a town-level partnership model in Ang Mo Kio and Geylang Serai to strengthen how funders, government agencies and social service organisations respond to unmet needs.

The model complements the existing funding resources for ComLink+ programmes; and enables funders to work with respective SSOs to respond to needs faced by individuals and households that fall outside of existing government support. Together, the SSOs, funders and social service agencies work to share insights and identify unmet needs and co-design programmes tailored to each town. They collectively define programme success and impact, giving funders the opportunity to contribute beyond financial support.

The pilot is expected to start in Q1 2027, with a practical guide for future partnerships between SSOs and donors in other towns to be developed.

Building on a decade of work and investment in social mobility

The new initiatives build on QFS' work since it became an Institution of a Public Character (IPC) in 2016. In the last 10 years, QFS has deployed close to **S\$40M** towards programmes, research and partnerships to advance social mobility in Singapore, with a focus on expanding opportunity for children and young people from lower-income backgrounds.

QFS' next decade will build on this foundation by connecting evidence, experimentation and collaboration more deliberately: identifying what helps people move up, supporting organisations that can deliver change, and strengthening the wider ecosystem so that effective approaches can reach more people.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.quantedge.org/>.

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About Quantedge Foundation (Singapore):

Quantedge Foundation (Singapore) (QFS) is a registered charity and Institution of a Public Character dedicated to improving upward social mobility for children, youth, and young adults from low-income or vulnerable backgrounds in Singapore. QFS works across two fronts: identifying the key levers that shape life outcomes at different stages, and strengthening the broader social service ecosystem to address gaps in access and opportunity. This means backing bold, innovative ideas, investing in evidence-building research to inform policy and practice, and deepening the capabilities and capacity of the social sector. QFS also actively shares insights, shapes dialogue, and rallies collective action across government, sector partners and the community to keep social mobility alive and strong in Singapore. For more information, visit www.quantedge.org.