



Community Development Funding Policy



Introduction

Definition

Community development is a means for Council to partner with community groups and not for profit organisations to encourage these groups to strengthen the interests and values of our district's residents by encouraging active citizenship in identifying the issues they want to deal with and to generate local solutions that will deliver economic, social, ecological and cultural wellbeing of our District.

Council does this by way of a grant or contract to provide a service, activity or event that meets the community development definition stated above.

Community development has been identified as a key contributor to achieving Council's vision and outcomes and is part of the District Development activity within Council's Long Term Plan.

Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of the **Community Development Funding Policy** is to provide guidelines as to how funding should be allocated to best meet Council's vision and outcomes in line with the purpose of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment 2012 which is to:

"Meet the current and future needs of our communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses."

The policy also provides a transparent framework to ensure good stewardship of public funds.

Areas funded by Council under this Policy

- Community Development
- Partnership

Application process

Applicants for Community Development or Partnership funding are to complete the application form and provide supporting documentation.

Applications for the Community Development funding can be made within one of the three funding rounds closing 30 March, 30 June and 30 September. Applications for Partnership funding are generally allocated at the beginning of each financial year or the beginning of the Long Term Plan. However, an organisation that has identified a community need can apply during a financial year.

The Community Funding Committee has delegated authority to allocate funding in line with its existing delegations, with funding recommendations above the delegated amount being referred to Council.

Eligibility

In allocating the Community Development funding, Council will prioritise against themes reflecting its own Vision and Outcomes and the Regional Development Strategy. This comprises:

- Activities that support sport and recreation.
- Activities that will attract and retain residents.
- Activities that will improve the natural environment.
- Activities that will encourage the arts and contribute to a vibrant, thriving Manawatu.

Applications will also be assessed against:

- Opportunity for participation/accessibility to Manawatu District residents
- Financial sustainability of applying organisation or body
- Impact and relevance of proposed activity
- Environmental sustainability
- Compliance with previous reporting requirements

Community Development Funding

The purpose of community development funding is to assist those community groups and not for profit organisations who wish to provide specific programmes, events or projects, at a local level, that:

- foster a sense of pride and belonging;
- are innovative;
- encourage people to take initiative to add value; and
- celebrate the heart of our region.

Criteria

Those applying for this fund will demonstrate that they are either:

- A not-for-profit organisation based in the Manawatu District; or
- A legally incorporated society or charitable trust that is registered with the Charities Commission; or
- A partnership between organisations for the delivery of services or a project.

Those applying for this fund will demonstrate how their proposal:

- Adds value to the sense of economic, social, ecological and cultural wellbeing within the community.
- Resolves a local issue facing the community.
- Encourages active citizenship through participation and accessibility.
- Underpins their proposal with a sound financial proposition.

Conditions of funding

- Receiving funding in any year does not guarantee any ongoing funding.
- The organisation needs to be able to demonstrate sound financial practice.



- Funding received from Council must be acknowledged as a separate entry within the organisation's accounts or in a note in the organisation's annual report.
- All community development funding remains at the discretion of the Community Funding Committee – meeting the criteria is not a guarantee of funding or support.
- All recipients of funding agree to provide an accountability report to the Community Funding Committee.
- Funding will be made upon receipt of invoices and/or receipts that detail the agreed goods/services specified by the Community Funding Committee's funding approval.

Council will not fund:

- Programmes, events or services that Council considers should be funded by Central Government or other agencies.
- Where it is considered applicants are subsidising ongoing organisation activities such as:
 - fundraising (see note below)
 - subscriptions
 - entry fees
 - insurance
 - reducing debt servicing
 - administration and or operating costs
 - wages/salaries
 - prizes/trophies
 - maintenance of equipment or facilities

(Note: where a community event or project has a fundraising element or purpose the Community Funding Committee will exercise its discretion as to whether fundraising is their primary or secondary objective.)

Partnership Funding

The purpose of partnership funding is to identify and partner with community organisations within the Manawatu District Council's rating area who add the most value to our community through the provision of services that deliver economic, social, ecological or cultural wellbeing.

Criteria

Those applying for this fund will demonstrate that they are either:

- A not-for-profit organisation based in the Manawatu District; or
- A legally incorporated society or charitable trust that is registered with the Charities Commission; or
- A partnership between organisations for the delivery of services or a project.

In assessing partnership funding applications, the Community Funding Committee will consider whether:

- there is evidence of a need from the community for the proposed service which is not already being provided
- the proposal can demonstrate increased, sustained or long-term value for the community
- the outcome of the service demonstrates support for Council's vision, outcomes and Community Development



Those applying for this fund will demonstrate how their proposal:

- Adds value to economic, social, ecological and cultural wellbeing within the community.
- Encourages active citizenship through participation and accessibility.
- Is underpinned by a sound financial proposition.

Conditions of funding

- Receiving funding in any year does not guarantee ongoing funding.
- The organisation needs to be able to demonstrate sound financial and accounting practice through the organisation's most recent annual accounts.
- Funding received from Council must be acknowledged as a separate entry within the organisation's accounts or in a note in the organisation's annual report.
- Funding will be made upon receipt of invoices and/or receipts which detail the agreed service(s) specified by the Community Funding Committee's funding approval.
- Where appropriate, the Council will negotiate a contract specifying the service(s) that Council is funding; which include the period of the agreement (up to three years) and monitoring and reporting requirements.
- All recipients of funding agree to provide a 12-month report (including financial statements) which should include detail on the progress of the organisation in achieving the outcomes and expectations outlined in the agreement for funding.

All partnership funding remains at the discretion of the Community Funding Committee. Additional funding pools administered by Council are:

- Representative Grants
- Remission of Rates Charged to Community, Sporting and Other Organisations
- Robert Dickson Education Trust
- Creative New Zealand – Creative Communities Scheme

Description, criteria, guidelines and application forms are available online at www.mdc.govt.nz.

