

Community Matching Fund

The Community Matching Fund is an initiative which supports not-for-profit organisations within the Whakatāne District that are working for the benefit of our communities.

How it works:

Organisations can apply for the dollar value of donations and contributions they have received from the community, and, if successful Whakatāne District Council will “match” these contributions with a grant. It’s a 50/50 share - Council’s half is cash, and the organisation’s half can be any combination of:

- Volunteer labour that has been donated by individuals (valued at \$23.50 per hour)
- Donated professional services valued at up to \$65 per hour
- Equipment and materials donated to your organisation
- Funding, grants, and other monetary donations to your organisation.

We will also consider other types of donations and contributions not listed here.

This fund is to acknowledge the support our community provides to not-for-profit organisations.

Guidelines:

- These donations you ask us to match must have been received within the last year, or will be received within six months
- We prefer to match contributions that do not come from national government programmes
- You will be asked to show you will be using any funding you receive in your application
- We recommend the amount of funding you apply for is less than \$10,000. Applications for amounts higher than that may be considered on a case basis.

How to make an application:

Application forms are completed online through our partner, Smarty Grants. If you need help with your application, or you are unable to complete an application online, please contact the Community Funding Advisor at grants@whakatane.govt.nz for help.

You will find the link to the application form on our website. To complete your application form, you will need evidence of the costs of your project/activity (quotes or invoices). You will also need an annual report or financial statement if you are applying for an organisation.

What we do fund:

We fund projects, programmes, and activities that that benefit the Whakatāne District, its residents, and its communities. Applicants must be active in the Whakatāne District to be eligible.

In addition, we prefer to fund applicants that:

- Have a clear plan in their application, identify exactly how funding will be used, and provide a budget for the project/activity
- Demonstrate that there is a community need and/or community support for the project/activity
- Support vulnerable and marginalized people and groups in our community

- Align with Whakatāne District Council's values.

What we don't fund:

- Salaries
- Projects and activities that do not directly benefit Whakatāne District's residents and communities
- Applications more suited to funding by other organisations
- Programmes that duplicate existing initiatives
- Funding for projects that have already taken place.

Whakatāne District Council does not usually fund commercial or private organisations, and activities that promote religious or political purposes. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Council also does not fund legal expenses, medical expenses, debt repayment, statutory functions and public services (e.g. education and health care), purchase or promotion of alcohol and tobacco, and physical works (e.g., improvements to community buildings) that do not have permits prior to application.

How are decisions made

Applications are assessed based on how they will benefit the Whakatāne District's residents and communities. This includes factors like how many people your project/activity would reach, and how it would improve the lives of those people.

Applications are also assessed based on how well they meet the guidelines and criteria, and how much information is provided in the application.

Application review and assessment

We'll carry out an initial check of your application to make sure you're eligible. If there is any more information we need, we'll be in contact.

The Community Funding Committee then will meet to discuss applications and allocate funding to applicants. After this meeting, you will be notified of the outcome of your application via email.

The Committee may require some conditions to be met for funding they allocate to be released. For example, providing information or clarification, paying outstanding bills, or filing outstanding reports. If this happens, you will be notified when you are told your application has been successful.

The total amount of funding requested often exceeds the amount of funding we have to distribute. Successful applicants may receive less funding than they request.

Advice and support

If you have any questions, or you need advice and support, contact the Community Funding Advisor at grants@whakatane.govt.nz