

Strengthening Communities Fund

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to support community focused organisations whose projects contribute to the strengthening of community wellbeing in the Christchurch City area.

Successful organisations will be those who can demonstrate that they are sustainable, strategic, community focused groups who have a significant presence within their community of benefit. Successful projects will also clearly demonstrate their contribution to the Council funding outcomes and priorities. Organisations must be able to demonstrate their ability to contribute towards their project(s) and not rely on Council funding as their sole source of funding.

This fund is available at both metropolitan and local levels.

Community Boards may access this fund to deliver activities and events to their local communities. This may include the establishment of a Youth Development Fund.

This fund covers:

- » Operational or project costs, incurred in the provision and delivery of the agreed initiative – for the twelve month period starting 1st September and ending 31st August
- » Small equipment purchases up to \$1,000 per item that will enable your organisation to take advantage of efficiency gains – with an overall maximum total expenditure of \$4,000 per annum for small equipment. (NB: All equipment or capital purchases must be noted in a schedule of equipment / capital purchases for accountability purposes)
- » Costs that support the recognition, contribution and retention of volunteers
- » Capital costs towards public artworks, up to a maximum of \$25,000

This fund will not cover:

- » Retrospective costs or project or purchase costs incurred or settled before the agreed commencement date of the funding agreement
- » Debt servicing or re-financing costs
- » Stock or capital market investment
- » Gambling or prize money
- » Entertainment costs (except for costs directly linked to volunteer recognition)
- » Funding of individuals (only non-profit organisations)
- » Payment of any legal expenditure, including costs or expenditures related to mediation disputes or ACC, Employment Tribunal, Small Claims Tribunal, Professional or Disciplinary Body hearings
- » Purchase of land and buildings
- » Building maintenance or facility design, development and renovation costs
- » Activities or initiatives where the primary purpose is to promote religious ministry, political objectives, commercial or profit-oriented interests
- » Fundraising or general income-growth purposes
- » Medical or healthcare costs – including treatment and insurance fees
- » Money which will be re-distributed as grant funding, sponsorship, donations, bequests, aid funding or aid to other recipients
- » Payment of fines, court costs, mediation costs, IRD penalties or retrospective tax payments

- » Costs to remedy, rectify, upgrade, retrofit or replace equipment, vehicles or premises as a result of action by central or local government departments or other agencies who hold regulatory or enforcement powers
- » Purchase of vehicles and any related ongoing maintenance, repair, overhead costs or road user charges
- » Social functions
- » Air travel, accommodation, hotel / motel expenses
- » Conference fees and costs
- » Projects which have received other Council funding in the same financial year
- » Projects that are considered to be the primary responsibility of:
 - » Central government
 - » Some other funding body
 - » A Council Unit (where funding should come from an internal budget)

Process

The closing date for applications is 31st March each year.

The preferred method of applying for funding is online via the Council's website www.ccc.govt.nz. If you do not wish to apply online, applications must be made on the Christchurch City Council's Community Grants Funding application form. Forms are available from all Service Centres, the Civic Office and Council Libraries. You can also download an application form from the Council's website above.

Applications will be categorised as either metropolitan (city-wide) or local projects. Metropolitan applications will be assessed by staff and referred to the Metropolitan Funding Committee for a decision.

Local applications will be assessed by staff and presented to the relevant Community Board for a decision.

You will be notified of the Council's/Community Board's decision in August.

Funding Period

Funding is for the period 1st September in the current year to 31st August the following year.

Accountability and Compliance

- » Funding received is to be spent by 31st August (the following year).
- » Any alterations to the use of the funding must be discussed with Council staff and agreed to or funding may be required to be returned.
- » An accountability form must be completed:
 - » six month progress report – Due 31st March
 - » end of project report – Due 30th September
 - » when funding is spent
 - » or when another funding application is lodged and there are still outstanding funds from previous funding.

Future funding can be withheld if accountability requirements are not met.