



Questions and answers: Strategic Priority Grants

Strategic Priority Grants provide multi-year funding for community-led projects, activities or services. They're designed to encourage community leadership and ownership of programmes that seek solutions to local social, environmental and cultural issues.

What is the “proportionality principle”?

Council is committed to working in a way that acknowledges the integrity of community organisations, while balancing its statutory responsibility to ensure the lawful and prudent expenditure of public funds. Council's expectations will be proportionate to the scale of what is being proposed or funded.

Has the application process been streamlined?

We are requesting significantly less information initially, and the information requested is tailored to the organisation. We will not require you to submit information that is publicly available, e.g. via Charities Services.

We will need less initial information about your capability, capacity, and experience if you have a proven track record or existing relationship with Council.

Assessors will have an opportunity to ask you specific questions as part of the assessment process. This avoids applicants having to spend time submitting initial information that isn't needed to assess the application.

Applications are also submitted online, saving time, and reducing our environmental impact.

Why do we have to apply online?

It saves both Council and grant recipients time and resources, allowing us to focus on getting the best outcomes for our community. It also ensures we can easily hand over information and preserve it for the future.

Can our organisation be funded for more than one priority?

Proposals can be for multiple priorities. Strong applications will clearly show how your proposed project, activity or service directly contributes to the selected priorities, rather than connecting multiple priorities based on the flow-on effects of your work. It is recommended that you select only the funding priorities that align most closely with your core mission.

Why are some of the priorities listed in the Eco-City Strategy not included as funding priorities?

Priorities 4, 5 and 7 of the Eco-City Strategy are not included as funding priorities. This is because the actions under those priorities are focussed on infrastructure and legislative powers of Council, and not the responsibility partner organisations.

Who can I talk to before submitting my application?

You can attend one of our weekly drop-in sessions, or contact Cindy Nguyen on 06 356 8199 or email communityfunding@pncc.govt.nz

Can a social enterprise apply for funding?

Council welcomes funding applications from social enterprises delivering outcomes for our communities. There are a variety of legal structures which social enterprises can adopt. To be classed as a social enterprise you need to demonstrate three elements:

- a social, cultural or environmental mission;
- a substantial portion of its income derived from trade; and
- the majority of its profits/surplus is reinvested in the fulfilment of its mission.

What is Results Based Accountability™?

Results Based Accountability™ (RBA) is a simple evaluation framework that balances accountability with flexibility, and data collection with real-life outcomes. It will already be familiar to many community organisations, especially if they receive a central government grant or if they received a Strategic Priority Grant in 2019. See the Ministry of Health website for a quick introduction to RBA.

RBA allows funded organisations to see how their work is contributing to Council's goals and shows that the reporting is both useful and being used. It forms the basis of a mutual understanding of the outcomes we are both working towards.

We will provide training and use simple, co-designed measures that align with what organisations are already measuring.

Can we make joint applications?

Yes. The Council is seeking to maximise the resources available across the community sector where groups with common interests and goals are working effectively together. Collaborative proposals can be through a single application that includes a breakdown of costs for each partner to deliver the proposed service.

How will the allocation decisions be made?

Council officers will make the funding decisions. The decisions are based on the assessment criteria outlined in the Community Funding Policy 2018.

An organisation may fit the criteria for funding; however, decisions will be affected by budget constraints. The available funding may be awarded to one organisation or split between several. Programmes will be judged on merit and against each other.

Council also reserves the right to negotiate with an organisation where programmes are identified as having merit, but Council wishes the scale to be larger or smaller.

Council officers are required to adhere to the Council's policy pertaining to conflicts of interest.

Can we apply if we already have a Strategic Priority Grants agreement with Council?

Yes, existing Strategic Priority Grants providers can apply for a Strategic Priority Grant. If successful, the grant will begin at the end of your existing Strategic Priority Grants agreement.

Can Council-Controlled Organisations apply?

Council-Controlled Organisations are funded separately by Council, so are not eligible for this funding. They also may not act as umbrella organisations for unregistered groups.

How often will we need to report progress?

Accountability requirements will be dependent on the amount of funding received, the expected outcomes and the level of risk that the project carries.

The level and types of reporting will be agreed as part of the funding agreement. We currently ask our Strategic Priority Grant groups to submit a report every 6 months. Ongoing engagement with Council staff will form part of the agreement.

Is other external funding essential?

In most cases, Council will be one of several sources of funding for the project, activity, or service rather than the sole funder, and this should be reflected in the budget.

What about organisations delivering services regionally?

This is Palmerston North ratepayer funding so the proposals must demonstrate benefits to these ratepayers through contributing to the Community Funding Outcomes.

For more information, visit <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/council-city/community-funding/strategic-priority-grants/>