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Sponsor/Group:	Strategy and Environment



COMMUNITY FUNDING ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK 2024

PURPOSE

This document accompanies the Community Funding Policy 2024. The purpose of this document is to:

1. Set out Council's priorities when assessing the eligibility of funding applications and when disbursing funds under the community funding programme.
2. Provide applicants with clear and consistent eligibility criteria when applying for funds through the community funding programme.
3. Provide the assessment framework decision-makers will use when vetting applications and disbursing funds to funding applicants.

REVOCATIONS

4. The Taupō District Council Community Grants Eligibility and Criteria (2021) is revoked when this document comes into force on **DATE 2024**.

SCOPE

5. The Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework set out in this document applies to community funding provided by Taupō District Council through the following (*definitions below*):
 - a) Community Grant Fund
 - b) Accelerator Fund
 - c) Strategic Partnership Fund

DEFINITIONS

6. For the purpose of this document, the following terms and definitions apply:

Accelerator Fund	<p>A contestable, multi-year fund that can be accessed by eligible organisations to support community aspirations and contribute to community wellbeing.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated by a Committee or Panel who have been delegated authority to disburse community funds on behalf of Council.</p>
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	<p>Agreements under this fund are for three years and the organisation cannot reapply under this fund.</p>
Community grant fund	<p>A contestable fund that can be accessed by an individual or community group or organisation. Funding is provided for community events, projects and initiatives that benefit the community.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated by Committees of Council under three main areas of the district, namely Taupō township and East Rural areas, Mangakino Pouakani, and Tūrangi Tongariro.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated once per year.</p>
Community groups or organisations	<p>A not-for-profit, charitable organisation that is established with the primary purpose of providing a benefit to communities in the Taupō district. For the purposes of the community funding programme, local schools meet this definition.</p>
Strategic Partnership Fund	<p>A contestable, multi-year fund accessed by community groups or organisations who deliver a service that supports Council to achieve core strategic outcomes.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated by a Committee or Panel who have been delegated to disburse community funds on behalf of Council.</p> <p>Agreements under this fund are for three years and eligible for renewal following the long-term planning process.</p>

FUNDING PRIORITIES

7. Council's vision for the Taupō District is to be ***“a district of connected communities who thrive and embrace opportunities”***.
8. This vision is accompanied by five community outcomes aimed at improving the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of our community.
9. Council will prioritise funding towards projects, events or initiatives that contribute towards one or more of these community outcomes.
10. The funding allocated towards the community funding programme is set through the long-term planning process and approved by Council.
11. A prospective funding applicant needs to demonstrate how the project, event or initiative meets one or more of the Community Outcomes as set out in the following table.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME	GUIDANCE
Tangata whenua are acknowledged and respected	We want to fund initiatives, projects or activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet the needs and aspirations of hapū and iwi - Promote the cultural heritage of Māori - Celebrate Māori identity - Improve knowledge of tikanga and te reo
Vibrant places and connected communities	We want to fund initiatives, projects or activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrate our people, history or culture - Support arts, culture, Ngā toi and sporting activities - Connect people for shared experiences
Resilient communities working in partnership	We want to fund initiatives, projects or activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the ability of whanau and communities to meet their needs - Establish safe places that offer support to vulnerable people in our community - Promote collaboration within the community and foster a spirit of working together - Enhance social and economic resiliency in our communities
Innovative, thriving economy	We want to fund initiatives, projects or activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance the image of our district - Support vibrancy and attractiveness of our public places
Flourishing environment	We want to fund initiatives, projects or activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the state of our natural environment and conservation efforts - Promote sustainable outcomes - Champion activities that emphasize the principles of reuse, reduction, or recycling of waste

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Eligibility Criteria

12. These criteria determine whether an individual, group or organisation is eligible **to apply** for funding under the community funding programme.
13. These criteria vary depending on the type of fund that the applicant is requesting funding from:
 - **Strategic Partnership Fund:** the applicant must be a not-for-profit, charitable organisation who will use the funds to benefit the local community (irrespective of where the organisation is based). An applicant who has previously received funding from Council must have fulfilled all its obligations and requirement under the previous funding agreement.
 - **Accelerator Fund:** the applicant must be a not-for-profit, charitable organisation who will use the funds to benefit the local community (irrespective of where the organisation is based). An applicant who has previously received funding from Council must have fulfilled all its obligations and requirement under the previous funding agreement.
 - **Community Grant Funds:** the applicant must be a not-for-profit, charitable organisation or an individual who will use the funds to benefit the local community (irrespective of where

the organisation or individual is based or resides). The applicant must also use the funds contribute to one or more of our community outcomes. An applicant who has previously received funding from Council must have fulfilled all its obligations and requirement under the previous funding agreement.

14. Eligibility is not a guarantee that the applicant will be granted funding. This is determined through the Assessment Framework (see below).

Assessment Framework

15. Council will assess whether a prospective applicant is granted funds by applying a scoring scale based on how well the applicant meets the assessment criteria set out below.
16. Council officers will make a recommendation to standing Committees or Panels.
17. The scoring scale ranges from 1 – 5 with 5 being the highest score and funding will be disbursed to prospective applicants starting from the highest score to the lowest score, until funds are fully allocated.
18. Council will determine eligibility of applications and assess applications against the following criteria:
 - **Project Purpose:** Has the applicant clearly defined the purpose and expected community outcomes of the project, activity or service? What is the need that is being met and why is this important?
 - **Capacity and Experience:** Does the applicant have the capability, capacity and experience to deliver the project, activity or service to an appropriate standard? Is this evidenced by a relevant track record of successful delivery?
 - **Evidence-Based Budget:** Does the application present a realistic, evidence-based budget for the project, activity or service? Does this budget include all elements of the project? Has the applicant identified how the grant will be spent?
 - **Success Evaluation:** Has the applicant identified how the success of the project, activity, or service will be evaluated? For example, will any information be collected on the number of people benefitting from the initiative?
 - **Project Benefit:** Has the applicant identified who the project, activity or service will benefit and where in the Taupō District, these people reside?
 - **Community Support:** Has the applicant provided evidence of community support, collaboration or involvement in the project, activity, or service e.g., volunteer hours or donated goods/services? Has the applicant provided evidence of support from the recognised regional or national body (where relevant)?