

Memo

9 March 2017

To: Members of the Community Development and Safety Committee
From: Christine Olsen, Manager Community Empowerment Unit
cc: Ian Maxwell, Director, Community Services
Graham Bodman, General Manager, Arts, Community and Events Department
Liz Civil, Manager, Community Policy

Subject: Update on the allocation process for 2016/2017 Regional Community Development Grants.

Background

The Regional community development grants programme was established in 2015 as one of six regional grants programmes. The [Community Grants Policy](#) sets out the purpose, objectives and principles of the grants programme, as well as eligibility requirements and assessment and prioritisation considerations.

The Regional community development grants programme (the grants programme) enables the community and voluntary sector to work with council to deliver the six transformational shifts outlined in the Auckland Plan. Projects delivered through the grants programme are intended to support the implementation of “Thriving Communities: Social and Community Development Strategic Action Plan”.

The Long-term Plan 2015-2025 allocated \$175,000 annually to the Regional community development grants programme.

Role of the Community Development and Safety Committee

The Community Development and Safety Committee has delegated responsibility for allocating Regional Community Development grants.

The role of the committee, as per the policy, is to:

- draw on relevant regional strategic documents to set funding priorities
- consider staff assessments of grant applications and their recommendations for which proposals to fund
- award grants
- receive reports to understand how their grants have benefited Auckland and Aucklanders.

The Community Grants Policy: Schedule Two (p.183) outlines how grants will be allocated:

Potential applicants for project grants will complete an application form. Council staff will assess these applications and present their recommendations for the committee’s consideration. The committee will make allocation decisions and set any grant conditions.

Eligibility requirements

To be considered ‘regional’ for the purposes of the Community Grants Policy, applicants must be able to show that their service, project or activity displays the following characteristics:

- primarily addresses regionally determined priorities and/or
- their service, project or activity is regional in terms of scale and/or significance and/or
- their service, project or activity is regional in terms of impact and/or reach.

Process for 2016/2017 Regional community development grants

A memo was provided to members of the Community Development and Safety Committee (2013-2016 term) in August 2016 outlining the process for implementing the 2016/2017 Regional community development grants programme (Attachment One).

As described in the memo, the funding round was open for applications for six weeks, from 1 November 2016 to 10 December 2016 and the maximum grant available was \$40,000.

Advertising of the round was on the Auckland Council website, Generosity New Zealand (a funding database website) and publicity through regional community networks and an email to previous applicants. Staff worked with sector organisations and networks to broaden the reach of the fund to ensure under-represented communities were aware of the fund, and invited to apply.

The memo confirmed that applications would be assessed against the funding criteria by staff from the Community Empowerment Unit and the Grants Operations Team and recommendations reported to the committee in February 2017.

Assessment

In line with the Community Grants Policy, applications were invited from organisations that met the criteria for regional funding, and one or more of the following:

- Regionally significant community development organisations
- Organisations which facilitate regional collaboration through shared delivery
- Organisations whose activities are unique enough that they fulfil a regional niche
- Organisations which deliver on Auckland Council's vision for the community and voluntary sector as outlined in Thriving Communities
- Organisations which prioritise and actively contribute to the achievement of Māori outcomes
- Organisations which provide strategic leadership within the community and/or sector
- Organisations which focus on the provision of capacity and capability building support
- Organisations which seek to develop enabling infrastructure and supportive conditions for the development of social innovation
- Organisations which promote transformative social change for target populations.

All projects were assessed against the funding criteria and the following focus areas of the empowered communities approach:

- increase diverse community participation
- build community capacity to do things for themselves
- develop and support community-led place-making initiatives
- respond to Māori aspirations in practical and effective ways.

Applications were assessed as being 'aligned', demonstrating 'limited alignment' or 'not aligned'.

Thirty-five applications met the policy criteria and at least one of the empowered communities approach focus areas. Of these applications eight were assessed as the most aligned to the policy

and the empowered communities approach. They represented a wide coverage geographically and across key demographic groups including Māori, migrant and youth communities.

The following table outlines applications received and requested amounts:

	Number of applications	Total funding requested
Total applications	46	\$1,326,763
Eligible	35	\$1,135,586
- Aligned	- 14*	- \$453,249
- Limited alignment	- 21	- \$683,337
Ineligible	11	\$191,177

*of the 14 eligible and aligned applications, 8 applications were recommended and approved for funding by the Committee at its February 2017 meeting, at a total budget of \$175,000.

Due to the substantial over-subscription to the grants programme, staff assessed which organisations could be part funded without jeopardising project viability. This included considering the scalability of each project, funding only part of a project and considering whether it was possible for users of the service to be charged a portion of the cost. Part funding organisations is the same approach used in the previous year and enables grant funding to have a wider reach.

Recipient accountability

All recipients of funding through the Regional Community Development grants programme are required to comply with accountability requirements, which includes providing a grant accountability report which provides a breakdown of expenditure and an outline of how the funding has benefitted the community. Staff routinely review accountability reporting to ensure that money has been spent for the purposes requested and to assess project success.

Next steps

In April 2017 staff will seek direction from the committee on the 2017/2018 Regional Community Development grants priorities and process.

Memo

26 August 2016

To: Members of the Community Development and Safety Committee
cc: Christine Olsen, Manager Community Empowerment
From: Graham Bodman, Manager Arts, Community and Events Department

Subject: Implementation of the 2016/2017 Regional community development grants programme

Purpose

To inform Community Development and Safety Committee members of the process for implementing the 2016/2017 Regional community development grants programme.

Background

The Community Development and Safety Committee has delegated responsibility for allocating Regional community development grants.

The Regional community development grants programme was established in 2015 as one of six regional grants programmes. The Community Grants Policy sets out the regional grants programme as a tool the governing body can use to implement their vision for the region. Grants provide a tangible way of supporting Aucklanders' aspirations for their city and responding to regional needs and opportunities.

The Regional community development grants programme is designed to encourage the community and voluntary sector to help council deliver the six transformational shifts outlined in the Auckland Plan, and contribute to the goal of making Auckland the world's most liveable city. Grants delivered through this programme will support the implementation of "Thriving Communities": Social and Community Development Strategic Action Plan.

The annual funding budget for the Regional community development grants programme is \$175,000.

Funding Criteria 2016/2017

Applications will be welcomed from projects that meet one or more of the following criteria as well as aligning with the empowered communities approach:

- deliver on Auckland Council's vision for the community and voluntary sector as outlined in "Thriving Communities": Social and Community Development Action Plan
- focus on the provision of capacity and capability building support
- facilitate regional collaboration through shared delivery
- prioritise and actively contribute to the achievement of Maori outcomes
- promote transformative social change for target populations
- are regionally significant or are a unique activity and fulfil a regional niche
- provide strategic leadership within the community and/or sector

- seek to develop enabling infrastructure and supportive conditions for the development of social innovation

The maximum grant available in 2016/2017 is \$40,000. This is consistent with the 2015/2016 funding round.

Process

The funding round will be open for applications for six weeks, from 1 November 2016 to 10 December 2016.

Advertising of the round will be on the Auckland Council website, Generosity New Zealand, (a funding database website) and publicity through regional community networks and an email to previous applicants. Staff will work with sector organisations and networks to broaden the reach of the fund to ensure under-represented communities are aware of the fund, and invited to apply.

Applications will be assessed against the funding criteria by staff from the Community Empowerment Unit and the Grants Operations Team.

In February 2017, a report will be presented to the appropriate committee with recommendations for the allocation of the \$175,000 Regional community development grants programme.

If you have any questions, please contact Manu Pihama on 021 701 257 or manu.pihama@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.