



## **Community Funding available in response to COVID-19**

As part of the Government's response to COVID-19, new funding is being prioritised to support community efforts on the ground. We recognise there are community groups and individuals doing critical work in the fight against COVID-19. This funding will allow them to continue to support their communities and help them through challenges they may face in the coming months.

### **What is the Grant Fund for and who can apply?**

The Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant fund is available to Community based groups that are or will be providing essential community-led solutions to support local resilience and community wellbeing during the period of Covid-19 - Alert Level 4.

Grants allocated from the Fund will be one-off with priority being given to requests that support Maori, Pacific, older people, people with disabilities, people with current significant health considerations, migrant communities and people who are rurally isolated.

### **How much funding is available?**

The fund has an initial cap of up to \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) per request.

Requests that are more than the initial cap will be considered by exception and may require further documentation.

A total budget of \$4.8M (GST exclusive) is available for allocation.

### **Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant Fund eligibility criteria**

1. Must be a community-based group
2. Must provide details on:
  - how use of the grant will contribute towards the provision of essential community-led solutions to support local resilience and community wellbeing in relations to Covid-19
  - total grant amount and how the amount has been calculated
  - must have confidence that the capability and capacity requirements needed to provide the community-led solution can be met.

What we cannot fund:

- salaries or administration costs, activities that intend to generate profit, the promotion of commercial, political, or religious objectives, or the purchase of alcohol.
- wage subsidy or direct financial assistance.
- major changes in service demand on current services.
- grants are not to be for the sole benefit of one individual.

**For full details of the fund** <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/community-awareness-and-preparedness-grant-fund.html>

FINZ believes that many organisations are working to support community wellbeing in relations to COVID-19 and would be eligible for the funding on offer.

However, we would like to recommend that the funding not to be tightly restricted.

**FINZ believes there may be a case for** using the money to support salaries or administrations costs. This is because during the current level 4 status as set by the government charities have unusual costs. For example, everyone, including admin staff, is working from home which in some cases has meant subscribing for video conference facilities among other unbudgeted costs. Additionally, many normal charitable activities have to be delivered using other online solutions because traditional methods of delivering services are not possible.

In conjunction with other peak bodies in NZ, FINZ would like to present a case to government to as to why the current funding restrictions will not work for organisations who are supporting their communities during these times and ask them to reconsider the funding criteria.

If the fund is not fully allocated, it would be easy for the government to assume that there was no need in the community for the money, when in fact it was the criteria that were too difficult, and that there is a significant need in the community.

In order to provide support to our case, FINZ wants to compile a register of charities and non-profit organisations that would qualify for the funds, IF they were allowed to fund salaries and other administration costs.

If your charity meets the eligibility but needs the money for salaries or administration in order to deliver these solutions, please can you respond to this email to [admin@finz.org.nz](mailto:admin@finz.org.nz) with your name, your organisation and what specific project you are helping to support.

We may then talk with you further.

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