
REPORT 1
(1215/52/03/IM)

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL GENERAL GRANTS

1. Purpose of Report

This report:

1. Provides recommendations for the distribution of the Council's General Grants pools.
2. Provides recommendations for the distribution of the Council's Community Preparedness Grants.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Grants Subcommittee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to fund the applicants as listed in Appendix 4.*

3. Background

The Council provides grants to assist community groups to undertake projects that meet community needs. Grants are also a mechanism for achieving the Council's objectives and strategic priorities, especially those priorities that rely on community organisations carrying out specific activities.

The general grants scheme provides funding for projects from community organisations that meet general and specific criteria (Appendix 1). Organisations and projects are funded through contracts and annual grants pools that provide grants that are discretionary, short term and project based in nature.

The Community Preparedness Grant fund was launched earlier this year with the aim of strengthening local community preparedness through local community activities and projects. Applications from organisations must meet the general and specific criteria for these grants (Appendix 1).

4. Discussion

The amount available in the general grants pools is set through the long term plan and the funds are allocated either through 3 year funding agreements or as grants for projects allocated through 3 grant rounds each year.

The total annual funding available for each pool is; \$294,924 for the cultural pool, \$471,767 for the social pool, \$50,000 for the economic pool and \$60,000 for the environmental pool. \$2,838,808 is allocated to 52 contracts that deliver across the social, cultural and environmental pools.

This is the second grant round for the 2011/2012 financial year and funds available for allocation in this round are: \$104,000 for the Social Pool, \$91,641 for the Cultural Pool, \$20,000 for the Environmental pool and \$10,000 for the Economic pool.

There are 31 applications to the social pool requesting a total of \$331,724. The cultural pool has shown an increase in applications with 36 this round asking for \$268,156, up from 30 applications in the previous round (July 2011).

\$100,000 is available for the 2011/12 financial year for Community Preparedness Grants, with \$50,000 available in this first round. This new fund was promoted through a launch event, face to face promotion by Officers and a marketing campaign during September and October. 25 applications were received, requesting a total of \$97,850. The next funding round will close on 31 March 2012.

4.1 Application Assessment

Officer's recommendations (Appendix 4) are based on evidence of need, alignment with the Council's strategic goals, the grants criteria (Appendix 1), agreed focus areas (Appendix 2) and the effectiveness of funding these projects. Officers also take into account the management of previous funding (through reports).

The assessment process may include consultation with; the applicant, persons or organisations referred to in the application, Council officers, and persons operating or knowledgeable about similar services to that of the applicant. Applicants are given ten working days where possible to respond to a request for more information, so some recommendations may be subject to change depending on responses received after this report has been written.

The original information provided by applicants has been forwarded to subcommittee members in a separate book. An additional application which was omitted from the Cultural book sent to Councillors from Ngakau Toa Ltd is included (Appendix 3).

In general, applicants have been grouped into the pool they have chosen on their application form. Some applications show a strategic fit to more than one

pool. Flexibility will be required in deciding which pool to fund from as a number of applications clearly fit the strategic aims of more than one pool.

The recommendation sheets (Appendix 4) gives each applicant's organisation name, which funding pool they have applied to, a brief project description, the total project cost, amount requested and general comments from the Grants Team

To ensure funds are used appropriately, tags may be suggested in certain circumstances should funding be approved. This is usually in cases where applicants need to use funds for a specific aspect of their budget or they are awaiting confirmation of sufficient funds from other sources to proceed.

The level of funding recommended takes into account:

- the amount needed for the activity to proceed
- an amount in line with past precedents
- an amount in line with suggested funding alternatives
- an amount that reflects the level of fit with general and strategic criteria

If members of the Subcommittee require more information on applications prior to the grants meeting, they can contact the Grants Team, who will do their best to get this ready in time for the meeting.

5. Conclusion

The Subcommittee is asked to consider the applications received for the General Grants Pool and Community Preparedness Grants and decide whether or not it is appropriate to fund the applicants, and at what level.

Contact Officer: *Mark Farrar, Grants Team Leader*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

WCC General Grants are allocated to support outcomes from the cultural, social, economic and environmental strategic areas.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The Cultural grants come under project C661, Environmental grants under project C652, Social & Recreational grants and Community Preparedness Grants under C678 and the Economic grants under project C647.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Any grants application that could have implications for Maori are referred to WCC Treaty Relations Office for recommendations. The Treaty Relations Office is sent the full list of applicants and projects for comments.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

N/A

6) Legal Implications

N/A

7) Consistency with existing policy

The grant pools have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy.

APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1: Grants Criteria

Generic Grants Criteria:

1. Project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council's Strategic Outcomes and Points of Difference as listed in the Council's current Annual Plan.
2. Project is Wellington based and primarily benefits the people of Wellington (exceptions may be made for projects based elsewhere in the region but which significantly benefit residents of Wellington City).
3. Applicant is a legally constituted community group or organisation, not an individual or individuals.
4. Applicant group provides evidence of (or, if a new group, systems for): sound financial management, good employment practice (where applicable), clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, demonstrated ability to report back on past funding as appropriate.
5. Projects will not be funded for the same purpose more than once in any financial year.
6. Failure to report adequately on past Council funding can result in a group being considered ineligible for future funding.
7. Project is physically and financially accessible either by a wide range of persons or by the intended users.
8. Project shows evidence of community support, collaboration and building partnerships with other organisations (e.g. letters of support from other organisations/leaders).
9. Applicant must demonstrate that the project expands the capacity, range or level of similar types of services in the community and that there was user input into identifying the need for the project.
10. The principal intent of the project is not for private or commercial pecuniary gain, though it may be that such gains occur as a side effect of the project.
11. Application demonstrates an awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi, in particular when involving Mana whenua and Taura Here.

Specific criteria relating to Residents Associations:

- The applicant organisation is registered with the Wellington City Council as a Residents Association.
- The applicant organisation has a committee.
- The applicant organisation has an active membership of 10 or more, excluding the committee and the membership list is available for public inspection.
- The applicant organisation meets at least twice a year and keeps minutes of such meetings.
- The applicant organisation keeps accurate and detailed accounts.
- The applicant organisation agrees to make their accounts and minutes available to the Wellington City Council on request.

Specific criteria relating to Community Preparedness Grants:

- The project is a local neighbourhood initiative that impacts upon at least 15 homes or involves all the households in a defined area such as on walkways or in an apartment building.
- The project strengthens that particular community in a way that is sustainable and has an ongoing benefit to the neighbourhood.
- The project increases community resilience and means neighbours are more likely to pull together and help each other in an emergency.
- The project is open to the whole neighbourhood.
- The project improves the wellbeing of people in the community.
- The project improves how safe people feel in their community.

Appendix 2: Focus Areas

Cultural Grants

The focus areas and associated criteria recognise the importance of sense of place, diversity, partnerships with arts organisations, festival groups and youth participation in arts and cultural activities.

Focus areas	Specific criteria
Grassroots organisations (particularly those with a focus on youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage or increases youth participation in the arts ▪ Acknowledge community diversity and civic pride
For specific projects, exhibitions or other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve and enhance Wellington's role as arts and cultural capital of New Zealand ▪ Attract visitors to Wellington and has a positive economic benefit for the city ▪ Be a specific project for an exhibition or event
Maori art	Demonstrate an emphasis on traditional or contemporary Maori cultural influences
Significant community festivals and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group is based in a geographic community (such as a suburb) or a community of interest (such as an ethnicity) and proposes a festival or event that reflects a community need

Environmental Grants

Focus areas reflect the current priorities which include delivering on the Climate Change Action Plan and promoting opportunities for initiatives that promote the city's natural environment.

Focus areas	Specific criteria
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage composting of organic waste ▪ Facilitate and support recycling, composting and waste reduction
Energy and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support reduced energy consumption and/or promotion of renewable energy ▪ Encourage change in travel behaviour ▪ Improve energy efficiency and conservation
Biodiversity and stream protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore and protect natural biodiversity ▪ Increase awareness of biodiversity stream protection ▪ Support clean ups that have a direct impact on biodiversity value
Water	Encourage reduced water consumption, increased water efficiency / resilience

APPENDIX 2

Economic Grants

Focus areas support the development projects of economic benefit to Wellington. The projects must benefit the wider community (local or city wide) not individuals or businesses. Applicants should not be government agencies

Focus areas	Specific criteria
Retain core economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support local economic development activity and capacity building ▪ Feature strong partnerships with tertiary education institutions ▪ Attract and retain skilled migrants ▪ Strengthen the city's status as a centre of creativity, ideas and innovation
Growth of local emerging business and local economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote new ideas, businesses, products or partnerships –including creative/digital, clean technologies, innovative design and tourism

Social Grants

The focus areas recognise the importance of strong, sustainable communities and the need for building capacity in the community

Focus area	Specific criteria
Capability and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage growth of communities and participation in community life ▪ Strengthen the local community, address local issues, strengthen and contribute to social wellbeing ▪ Encourage and support volunteers and foster skill development and training for the community
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build a safe community and/or environment ▪ Promote personal safety
Physically active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and support health and wellbeing ▪ Target communities of interest, including youth and seniors
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve young people in the development and delivery of the project ▪ Encourage constructive use of leisure time ▪ Help young people gain a better understanding of community, an increased sense of belonging as active citizens and positive contributors to society ▪ Promote volunteer opportunities for young people