## Community Development Fund - Priority Services Questions and Answers

**1. Where do I find out about Manawatū District Council Grants?**

Via our website on [www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding](www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding)

**2. How do I apply for funding?**

Via our website using an online forum called SmartyGrants which you will need to register for. Go to [www.mdc.smartygrants.com.au](www.mdc.smartygrants.com.au)

**3. Can I complete a paper application?**

No. All applications must be completed online. If you need assistance or support, please email us on [community.development@mdc.govt.nz](community.development@mdc.govt.nz)

**4. How long will it take me to complete the application form?**

Between 2-6 hours depending on your level of experience making applications, familiarity with the SmartyGrants system, and how organised you are with the required documentation. We **strongly advise** starting your application **early** in the application period to ensure you have enough time to complete the form well and ask questions as necessary.

**5. What is Priority Funding?**

Priority Funding is specifically for the delivery of Priority Services from the Community Development Fund. This is designed to fund over consecutive years and is different from funding that we give for single service projects. Please find out more here. [www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding/community-development-fund](www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding/community-development-fund). If you are unsure after reading this whether you meet the Priority Funding Criteria please email us on community.development@mdc.govt.nz

**6. When does the Priority Funding round take place?**

Every three years. The current application period is from 1st-30th October 2024.

**7. How often can I apply?**

Once every three years.

**8. How many years of funding can I apply for?**

The fund is a multi- year fund. You can apply for up to three years of funding.

**9. When does the term of funding commence for the 2024 application?**

Successful applications to the 2024 fund will start their contract from 1st July 2025 i.e. the new financial year.

**10. How much can I apply for?**

There is a limited pool of funding available. Funding can generally be within the $5,000- $30,000 range.

**11. What geographical region does the funding focus on?**

Funding is for initiatives that take place within the Manawatū District.

**12. My organisation is based outside the district, but has projects and work within the district- can I apply?**

Yes. But you need to show clear, strong evidence of your work, impact and outcomes within the district to be considered for funding. Organisations whose work is solely based in Palmerston North will not be considered.

**13. Do I have to submit an accountability report?**

Yes. You will need to submit an accountability report every six months for the term of the contract. This is one of the conditions of funding. Organisations who do not submit accountability reports will not be eligible for further funding.

**14. Priority Grants use a Result Based Accountability (RBA) framework? What is this?**

RBA is a tool that helps us measure outcomes. You decide largely what these measures are and how you will account for your service/initiative. It asks:

a. '**How Much?**' This is focused on quantity. E.g. how many clients will benefit from your service, how many classes delivered, how many volunteers?

b. '**How Well?**' this is about the satisfaction of the people you quantified in the 'How Much' measure.

c. '**Is Anyone Better Off?**' There are 2 parts to this question. The first is to select outcomes. We have prepopulated these to link directly to indicators in our Community Development Strategy, which you can find here: www.mdc.govt.nz/documents/strategies/community-development-strategy.
You are then asked to decide which of these measures you want to focus your reporting on.

**15. Why is the RBA framework being used?**

RBA is used by many councils and organisations as a framework that helps organisations/communities focus on results/outcomes to make positive change for their communities. It's a way of quantifying and measuring outcomes.

**16. Do you accept late applications?**

No. Applications are due at 11:59pm on the given date. The SmartyGrants system will no longer accept them after this point.

**17. How is the grant assessed?**

The grant is assessed by a panel that includes Councillors and Council Staff.

**Will I need to talk to council in support of my application?**

Yes. You will be given the opportunity to speck to the panel about your application as part of the assessment process.

**18. When can I expect to hear the outcome of my application?**

Outcomes will be communicated by early 2025.

**19. Who can I contact if I need help?**

You can email us on [community.development@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:community.development@mdc.govt.nz)

**20. Where can I find out about other funding opportunities in the region?**

By using the Manawatū Grant Finder! We have joined forces with one of New Zealand and Australia's most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal. The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available. It also provides advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding. You can access it here: [www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding/manawatu-grant-finder](http://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/community-funding/manawatu-grant-finder)