

Rotorua Lakes Council manages public investment to enable the support of community-led projects and initiatives. The Community Funding Investment Policy supports this work and helps to ensure the allocations are fair and transparent.

We've reviewed the Policy and made some proposed changes. The updated Policy will help to simplify and streamline our community funding services, and future-proof the organisations community investment processes.

Please help us get these changes right. We want your feedback.

communityfunding@rotorualc.nz

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Community Funding Investment Policy?

The Policy outlines how community grants and funding are allocated and managed for the purpose of supporting the community to contribute to achieving Council's goals and priorities. It also provides guidance to those making decisions about grants and funding applications.

The Policy covers:

- Objectives of the policy
- Eligibility – who can apply
- Limitations
- Requirements
- Types of funding available
- How investment is determined

Why is council reviewing the Policy?

Policies must be reviewed regularly to make sure they are relevant and fit-for-purpose. This Policy was adopted in 2021 and now it's time to reassess. Council's Thriving and Communities team has reviewed the Policy and recommended a number of changes. Council is now looking for feedback from those communities that have received funding in the past – we want to know what works and what could be improved. All feedback will be considered and will help shape the final updated Policy that will go to Elected Members for adoption.

What are the main changes?

1. Policy name change to **Community Funding Policy**

Inclusion of:

2. Council's 2024-2034 Community Outcomes
3. Funding envelope as per the 2024-2034 LTP
4. Social Enterprises in *Eligible Applicants*
5. funding panel representation, conflicts of interest disclosure, intellectual property of applicants

New exclusions:

6. Te Rākau Tū Pakari fund
7. Building or resource consents or development contributions

8. Vehicles, travel and accommodation
9. Purchase of alcohol
10. Any costs associated with fundraising
11. Review reporting process to reflect community impact
12. Neighbourhood Matching Fund name changed to **Community Matching Fund**
13. Amend Neighbourhood Matching Fund food allowance from \$200 to \$500

Where does the money come from for community funding?

Grants are mainly funded through rates or can also take the form of council-owned property.

How do I know what funds are available or become available?

Information on council funding grant options is available at rotorualakescouncil.nz/grantsandfunding. This includes application opening and closing dates and guidelines for how to apply. Council also advertises funding rounds via its social media channels and fortnightly e-panui, as well as contacting previous grant recipients to advise of upcoming opportunities.

Under the new policy, can an organisation or group apply for multiple funds?

Yes, you can still apply for and receive funding from council grants provided your project meets all the outlined criteria including the project's purpose and specific priorities for that funding round. When applying for extra funding, you'll need to identify the previous funding or assistance received.

How do I fill out an application form and can I get help completing the forms?

All applications will be made using an online form on council's website. This is to ensure all information is streamlined and secure. Staff can be available to assist in completing the online forms. Applicants may also seek help through the Rotorua Library for access to the internet.

How much money is available for all the grant programmes?

The amount of funding available depends on a number of factors and can change from year to year. Council sets its funding budgets through the Long-term Plan or Annual Plan processes. You will see how much funding is available for each fund at rotorualakescouncil.nz/grantsandfunding.

How is this Policy reflected in the Long-term Plan?

Through the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan (LTP) Council has proposed a number of changes to the current grants and funds available. Residents can view and provide feedback on the proposals at www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/LTP.

As outlined above investment amounts are not determined through the Policy itself so this review is happening in parallel to the LTP process. Once Council has adopted the LTP and set the funding amounts, the Policy will be in place to direct how that investment is spent through grants and funding.

Can I give feedback after the consultation process is closed? If so, who do I send it to?

Yes. You can provide feedback and/or ask questions on how we manage the community funding programme at any time. The best way to do this is by emailing communityfunding@rotorualc.nz.

How will different funds be assessed?

Each fund has its own criteria and assessment process.

Community Grants and Partnership Agreements

Funding allocation panels will be appointed and consist of:

- 2 x RLC Councillors
- 1 x Te Tatau O Te Arawa/Te Arawa Representative
- 1 x Rural/Lakes Community Board Representative

Community Matching Fund (previously the Neighbourhood Matching Fund)

Smaller funds, under \$5000 will be assessed by three RLC staff including 2nd and 3rd Teir Managment to ensure transparency.

Large Community Matching Fund

Assessed by appointed funding panel and consist of:

- 1 x RLC Councillor
- 1 Te Tatau O Te Arawa/Te Arawa Representative
- 2 x Community Sector representatives

How often is the Policy reviewed?

The intention is to review the Policy every three years. However, if the funding environment changes dramatically or the Policy is no longer fit for purpose, an earlier review is possible.

Am I, or is my organisation eligible to apply for council funding if we already receive assistance from council?

Yes, you can still apply for grants or funding as long as all the specific criteria is met. This includes the funding purpose and any priorities for that funding round.

When apply for additional funding or assistance, you will need to identify it in your application.

Funding and grants are in high demand and unfortunately, council is not able to fund every project. If we're deciding between multiple funding applications from the same organisation or individual that all meet the required criteria, then preference could be given to project that has not already received funding or assistance.