

Guide to funding

Funding that supports the people, places
and projects making a difference in
Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty.





Good Neighbour - Fruit Picking

Our Story

Manawa, a name gifted by Ngāti Hangarau, means heart. It represents the life force that connects people, place and future.

Our story begins with the Ōmanawa River and Falls, where the region's first electricity generation began, creating an enduring connection between this organisation and the Western Bay of Plenty.

While Manawa Trust has evolved far beyond those origins, that connection remains. Today, our role is to enable people, strengthen communities and invest in the opportunities that will shape the region for generations to come.

Today, Manawa Trust strengthens the heartbeat behind the Western Bay of Plenty by protecting and growing our community investment fund, investing in the people, projects and opportunities that help the region thrive. As guardians of this fund, we think beyond today, ensuring its benefits continue to flow to future generations.

We believe the best ideas already exist within our communities. Our role is to enable them, removing barriers, unlocking potential and bringing together people, organisations and opportunities to turn ideas into lasting impact

Much of our work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is seen across the region. From grassroots initiatives to transformational projects, we support what matters most, helping create stronger communities and a thriving future.

Everything we do is guided by care, integrity and long-term thinking. We work alongside those we support, offering more than funding through partnership, connection and shared purpose.

Manawa Trust is the heartbeat behind a thriving Western Bay of Plenty, sustaining what matters, enabling what's possible and investing in generations to come.

About us

Our kaupapa is to nurture and build the prosperity of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty through unwavering support for local initiatives, events and facilities.

Together with the communities and organisations we support, our mahi enables significant and impactful change for our current and future generations.

Our funding is inclusive across a range of sectors, including arts, culture and heritage, education, environment, health and social services, youth development and sport and recreation.

Since 1993, our funding has contributed significantly to the growth of our rohe and it's people, bringing life to grassroots organisations and large-scale multi-million-dollar projects alike. Through responsibly managing our investments, we can effectively distribute funds for the long-term benefit of our community.

Our region's growing needs, whether physical or social, will always be met with unwavering dedication from Manawa Trust, as we continue to play an increasingly critical role in the growth and development of Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty.

Our Purpose

To make a significant impact on shaping the quality of life and wellbeing of current and future generations in the Western Bay of Plenty. We are part of the fabric of this region and are ambitious for the future of our community.

Our Vision

A thriving, caring and connected community here in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Our Mission

Responsibly manage our investments and effectively distribute funds for the long-term benefit of the community we serve.

Our region

Our region stretches from Waihi Beach in the north, through to Ōtamarākau in the east, covering the same regions administered by Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council.



We're on a mission to make a real difference in our community

Our funding works to support the people, places and projects making a difference in the Western Bay of Plenty.

We prioritise funding for initiatives that not only support those experiencing the greatest disadvantage, but also contribute to long lasting benefits for all.

Our Granting Strategy guides our decision making and focuses on housing, the natural environment and community infrastructure as focus areas we need to prioritise our funding into. We will also focus on supporting priority communities such as Māori, diverse ethnic communities, children and young people, and older people experiencing disadvantage.

To view our Granting Strategy and Funding Framework, visit manawa.trust.nz/our-granting-strategy



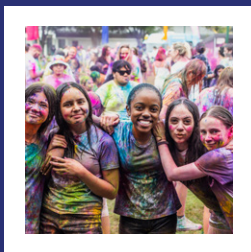
Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project Teams

Our Strategic Focus Areas:



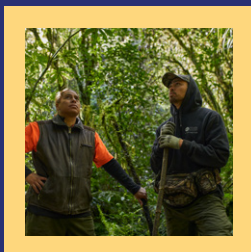
Built Environment

We will invest in local and regional amenities and facilities that support community connectedness, increase access to opportunities to participate in community activities and enhance the wellbeing and vibrancy of our communities. We will actively work with Councils in our region to support the development of amenities and facilities, as well as funding community-led projects.



Community Wellbeing & Vibrancy

We want Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty to be vibrant places where people, families and communities thrive. To support this, we will fund initiatives that promote social connection, inclusion and belonging, support whānau and community resilience, safety and wellbeing, enable participation in community activities, arts, culture, sports, recreation, build skills and provide opportunities for learning, and strengthen the impact and sustainability of community organisations.



Natural Environment

We will invest in the protection and regeneration of our region's natural environment and biodiversity, and support initiatives that address the implications of climate change. We will prioritise initiatives that achieve large scale transformational impact, bringing diverse stakeholders together and blending contemporary science with local knowledge, including mātauranga Māori, and are community-led and help to build community care of and connection with our environment.



Housing

We believe everyone in our region should have access to warm, healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate housing. To support this, we are focused on investing in initiatives that are community-led, and increase access to warm, healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate housing for communities experiencing the greatest barriers to secure housing.



Priority Communities

We will provide support to the communities in our region experiencing highest needs. Our focus is on achieving outcomes for Māori, diverse ethnic communities, children and young people, and older people experiencing disadvantage. We will fund initiatives that increase access to opportunities for priority communities, support priority communities to lead their own solutions, are strengths-based and enable community ambitions; and incorporate cultural knowledge or other practices relevant to priority communities.

Our funds

Each year, our grants programme makes funding available to community organisations and initiatives through the following funds:



Community Development Fund

Our Community Development Fund supports projects and initiatives that contribute to Tauranga and Western Bay to be a vibrant region where people, families and communities thrive. To support this, we will fund organisations that make a positive impact on our local communities across a range of sectors including arts, culture and heritage, education, environment, health and social services, youth development, iwi and marae, and sport and recreation. Examples include programme & operating costs, one-off projects and small asset purchases e.g. vehicle.

Application closing date is the first of every month. There is a monthly funding round every month, except for January.



Community Facilities Fund

The Community Facilities Fund supports the development of facilities in the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty region that provide benefit for current and future generations. Priority will be given to projects that most closely align with Manawa Trust's strategic objectives, are well planned, and there is clear evidence of organisational capability to deliver. Examples include new buildings, halls, sports centres and playgrounds. Smaller applications may be considered out of round, and please contact our team for details.

Application closing dates are 1 April or 1 September.



Community Events Fund

The Community Events Fund aims to support community events held in the Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty that deliver social and economic benefits to the community. Manawa Trust wishes to support a wide and varied portfolio of events and support event organisers to deliver quality events. Below are the ways we fund events. Please contact our team if you are unsure which fund suits your event best.

Manawa Trust Community Events Fund

Applications for events of national or international significance can be submitted directly to Manawa Trust on a monthly basis. Please contact our team, who will send you the link to the application form.

Applications close on a monthly basis.

Tauranga Western Bay Community Event Fund

Designed for small to medium community-led events that are community driven and enrich our communities through active participation and inclusion. This fund is a collaboration between Manawa Trust, Acorn Foundation, BayTrust, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council. This fund is managed by Manawa Trust on behalf of the fund partners. Learn more and apply at www.communityeventfund.nz

Application close quarterly.

Kaupapa Māori Event Fund

This fund supports iwi and hapū-led events that celebrate tangata whenua and tikanga Māori, while raising awareness of events of historical and cultural significance across our rohe. Examples include Matariki and Waitangi Day Celebrations. The fund is a collaboration between Manawa Trust, Acorn Foundation, BayTrust, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council. This fund is managed by Tauranga City Council on behalf of the fund partners. Visit www.tauranga.govt.nz/event-funding

Application by invitation only.



Catalyst for Change Fund

The intention of the Catalyst for Change Fund is to create significant positive change through supporting innovative projects and practices. Initiatives funded will include building capacity, learning and development. It is intended that the project will evolve over a number of years.

Application by invitation only.



Facilities of Regional Significance

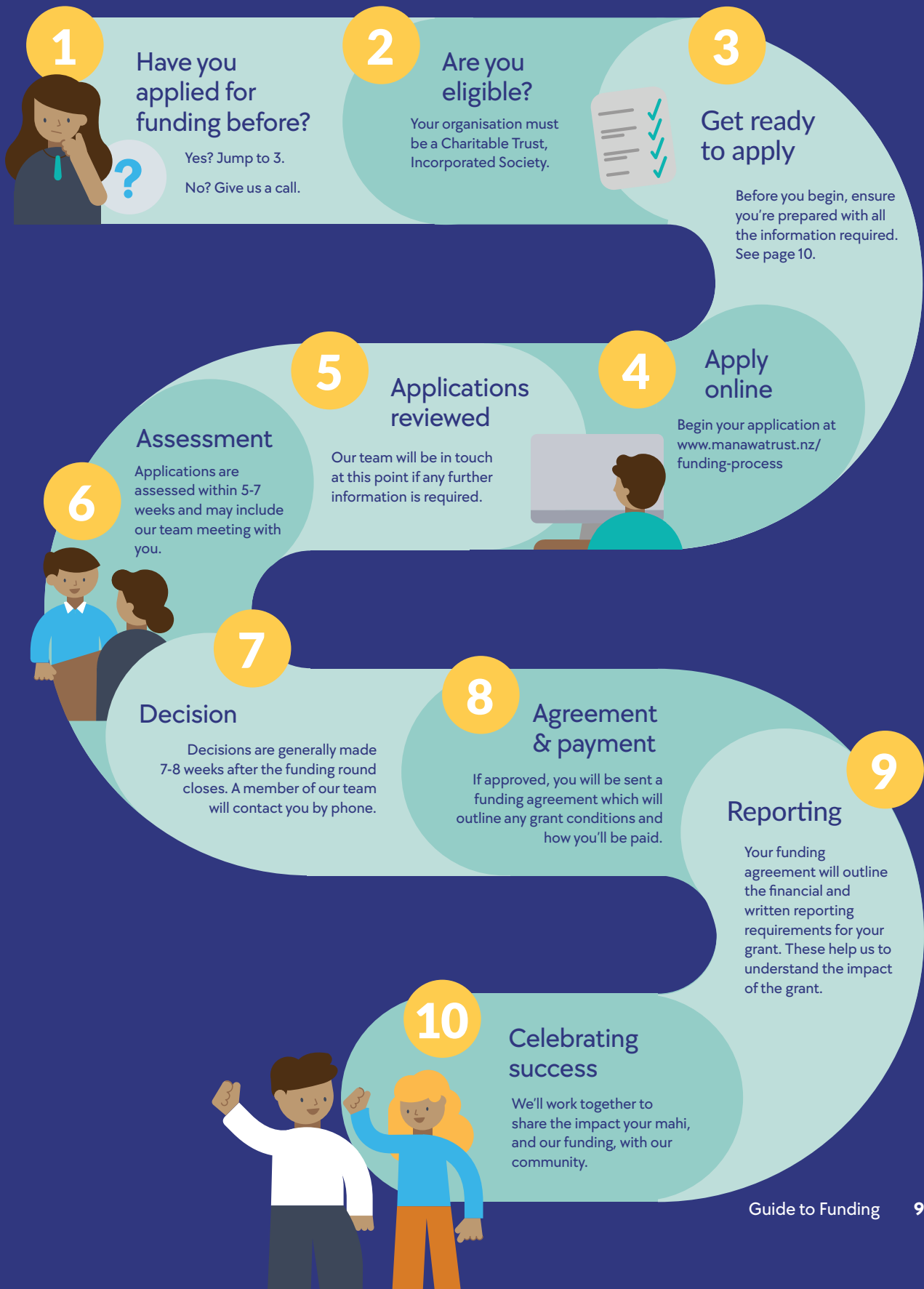
Manawa Trust is interested in being a pro-active, collaborator in funding significant projects which will create a direct positive impact on the economic and social wellbeing of our region. Projects may be significant in size/nature and will likely have intergenerational benefit, wide impact through improving social cohesion, enhancing community participation or are of regional significance.

Application by invitation only.

Our Annual Distribution Plan outlines the available funding each financial year. Find out more at www.manawatrust.nz/our-granting-strategy/



Our funding process



1

Have you applied for funding before?

If you are applying to Manawa Trust for the first time, or for something different than what you've been funded for previously, we recommend you contact our team to discuss before completing the application form.

If you're applying for event or facility funding we also suggest you contact our team before applying as funding rounds and timelines may differ from time to time.

2

Are you eligible?

There are a few things that determine an organisation's ability to apply for Manawa Trust funding:

- Your organisation must be a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) - such as a Charitable Trust, Incorporated Society or amateur sports organisation. We do not accept applications from individuals or informal organisations.
- Your purpose aligns with our strategic focus areas
- It has been more than 12 months since your last application, regardless of which funding scheme is being applied to.
- For more information visit www.manawatrust.nz/funding/
- For a list of exclusions, visit www.manawatrust.nz/funding-faqs/

If you are unsure about your eligibility, contact our team to discuss.



3

Get ready to apply

Before you begin your application, ensure you have the following ready:

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| • Know which fund you are applying for | • Charities or incorporated society number (if applicable) |
| • How much funding you are applying for | • Financial statements |
| • The purpose of your grant | • GST number |
| • How it aligns with Manawa Trust's granting strategy and focus areas | • Bank account information |
| • About your organisations core purpose and activities | • Quotes (two quotes are needed for items over \$5,000 for equipment or facility grants) |
| • Know your numbers - the number of staff, volunteers, clients, members, etc | • Budget |

4

Apply online

You can apply for our funding online at www.manawatrust.nz/funding/

We use the SmartyGrants online system for our application process. It's easy to register online and if you need any support with your application, please contact our team on 07 578 5094 or info@manawatrust.nz

Once your application has been submitted online, you will receive an email confirming that we have received it. It will include a unique application number. Please use this when contacting our team.

Please ensure applications are submitted at least three months prior to when you require a decision.

5

Applications reviewed

Once we have received your application, our team will undertake an initial review of your organisation and your application. If more information is required to process your application, we will reopen your application so you can add what's needed and resubmit it.

6

Assessment

As part of the assessment process, one of our team may visit or call you to discuss your application in more detail.

Applications are assessed on individual merits and the final number of successful applications are determined by the funds available and the alignment to our strategic priorities.

When considering your application we look at:

- Activities and outcomes
- Who within the community will benefit from your work
- Alignment to our strategic priorities
- What our funding will enable you to achieve
- Your finances, including your expenses and sources of revenue

7

Decision

Decisions are made by our Trustees at our monthly board meetings. This is generally 7-8 weeks after the funding round closes. One of our team will call you within a couple of days to advise whether your application has been successful or not.

8

Agreement

If your funding is approved, you will be sent a funding agreement which confirms the amount of the grant, the period the grant covers, how it will be paid and other funding conditions you will need to meet.

9

Reporting & payment

You must use approved Manawa Trust funding for the purpose it was given and meet any conditions. Funds are generally non-transferable to other events or projects.

Your funding agreement will outline any conditions, and the financial and written reporting required.

If there is any change to what was proposed in your application, or the timeline in which you will use your funding, please contact us to discuss how this affects your grant.

Please note, Manawa Trust reserves the right to terminate any funding where it considers the terms of the Funding Agreement have been breached. In this event, part or all of the funds may have to be repaid to us.

10

Celebrating success

We love sharing news about your mahi and the impact our funding has in the community. We would appreciate if you can recognise Manawa Trust in your marketing and communications, such as on your website, social media, signage and newsletters.

For ways you can acknowledge our support, including our logo files and Manawa Trust branded display equipment available to use, free of charge, visit www.manawatrust.nz/resources-for-funded-organisations/



Frequently asked questions

How much funding can you apply for?

This depends on the total project cost or operating budget and which fund you are applying to. Please talk to our team about what would be a realistic expectation. You can give us a call on 07 578 5094 or email us at info@manawatrust.nz

Looking at what we have previously funded will also give you an idea of the types of organisations and projects we fund, and the level of funding that has been granted. Visit www.manawatrust.nz/who-weve-funded/

When should you apply?

To ensure you receive a timely response, we recommend applying to Manawa Trust at least three months prior to when you need a funding decision.

Note: there is no funding round in January, so November 1st is the cutoff date for pre-Christmas decisions, otherwise you won't get an outcome until February/March.

What kind of things do we fund?

Find out more about the organisations we've funded at www.manawatrust.nz/who-weve-funded/

What don't we fund?

A full list of our exclusions can be found on our website, visit www.manawatrust.nz/funding-faqs/

For more FAQs visit www.manawatrust.nz/funding-faqs/

Not sure where to start?
Our team are very happy to work through the application with you. Please give us a call on 07 578 5094 or email us at info@manawatrust.nz

Zespri AIMS Games



MANAWA TRUST

Find us at The Kollektive, 145 17th Avenue, Tauranga

Phone 07 578 5094

Email info@manawatrust.nz

Visit www.manawatrust.nz

Follow us online

www.facebook.com/manawatrust

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Cover photo: 2026 Zespri AIMS Games

All information correct as of 25 September 2026.

For the latest version visit www.manawatrust.nz