



Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

**Local Economic
and Business
Grant
Programme
2025/2026**



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Hibiscus and Bays Local Board - Local Economic and Business Grant Programme 2025/2026

About the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board - Local Economic and Business Grant

The local economic and business grant funding is intended to provide business associations and other relevant organisations with an opportunity to seek funding through a contestable grant process to deliver on the local board's economic priorities.

In 2025/2026 eligibility has been extended to a broader range of organisations

Business associations play a vital role in providing the 'local' in local economic development. We also acknowledge that other organisations within the local board area may be well positioned to deliver programmes that demonstrate alignment with the desired outcomes and funding priorities for this grant.

Growing business is not just about doing more, it is about being smarter, future-proofing business, and supporting change to meet current and future needs. To achieve this, the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board – Local Economic and Business Grant could assist with:

- providing essential skills training for businesses and their staff to increase their business capability
- undertaking a needs analysis to identify issues and opportunities, actions, or initiatives, for business or business sectors
- developing resilience and recovery plans focused on individual businesses, strategic business clusters or sectors
- supporting programmes for business-to-business support using local service providers
- exploring strategic alliances and collaboration opportunities with other business associations or local business areas
- supporting youth employment, return to work initiatives, and increased workforce capability
- opportunities for increased local employment, local recruitment and local business supporting local business
- supporting safer, more vibrant and economically resilient town centres

The grant is open to business associations and other organisations in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area who can deliver programmes that demonstrate alignment with the grant's desired outcomes and funding priorities

Desired Outcomes and Funding Priorities

The Local Economic and Business Grant programme will support activities that meet the following Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2023 key initiatives

- Encourage local business associations to continue to support business development, to

- contribute to safer, more vibrant, and attractive town centres, that continue to meet the changing needs of our residents
- Support an enhanced sense of community through safer, vibrant and connected town centres and neighbourhoods

Examples of activities that have previously been successful

- data research
- business to business networking events
- business education
- safety improvements
- workshops
- mentoring/training
- programme coordination.

Funding Priorities

We welcome grant applications for projects and programmes that align to the following priorities:

- providing skills and training that support staff recruitment, upskilling and retention
- supporting youth employment
- opportunities for increased local employment and local recruitment and business supporting business
- focuses on local business resilience and developing plans that move towards economic prosperity
- local place-making that adds value to the experience of town centres with an emphasis on local businesses and experiences
- improving the environment of town centres to ensure patrons feel safe

Priority for eligibility

We will prioritise applications for the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Economic and Business grants that:

- can be upscaled, by leveraging from other funding or resources
- include partnerships and collaboration for example, between businesses, organisations, the community and business associations
- include a significant contribution from the applicant and collaborating organisations (financial, time, volunteers etc.)
- that clearly outline and state the economic benefit to the local business community

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Economic and Business Grant will not fund the following:

- applications that do not align with the grant outcomes and priorities
- business-as-usual activities for Business Associations
- public events that aren't specifically targeting the criteria of the grant
- applicants who have outstanding accountability reports for grants received from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and Auckland Council

Local Economic and Business Grant 2025/2026

Grant round:	Open date	Close date	Decision date	Projects to occur after:
Round One	9 February 2026	20 March 2026	26 May 2026	01 June 2026

There is a total of \$50,000 available for this grant round and there are no restrictions on the maximum or minimum amount of funding that can be applied for.

Obligations if you receive funding

In order to ensure that the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board grant achieves positive results, recipients will be obligated to provide evidence that the assistance has been used for the agreed purpose and the stated outcomes have been achieved. Obligations will be outlined in a funding agreement that the applicant will be required to enter into.

The following accountability measures are required:

- The completion and submission of accountability forms (including receipts), proving that grants have been used for the right purpose
- Any grant money that is unspent and not used for the project must be returned to the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board
- Recognition of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board's support of your initiative (e.g. using the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board logo on promotional material)

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