



# Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

Guidelines for the 2024-2027 funding round



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# About the grant

Auckland Council's Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant ("the grant") supports sub-regional or regional, non-council operated sport and recreation facilities that help increase Aucklanders' participation in sport and recreation.

The grant is a three-year funding commitment focusing on facilities that provide easy and affordable community access for populations with low participation rates in sports and recreation and require an operational subsidy to sustain and improve their on-going operations.

This guide outlines:

- Who and what is eligible for the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant
- How to apply for a Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant
- The process from application to result
- What successful applicants must do to meet our accountability requirements

Please read this guide carefully to ensure you fully understand the application process and our accountability requirements.

## Future funding rounds

This round will open on Monday 12 February 2024. Grant decisions will be confirmed in July 2024. The operating grant is a multi-year grant that allocates funding from the next three financial year's budget.

Current budgets indicate the following amounts available:

- FY 2025 - \$1,067,698\*
- FY 2026 - \$1,069,356\*
- FY 2027 - \$1,071,072\*

*\*Provisional budgets - subject to annual budget confirmation*

There is no minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for. Please be aware that council funding should not be regarded as the sole funding source to sustain the operations of your facility on an ongoing basis. Facilities are encouraged to develop long-term sustainable operations that are not reliant on council funds.

# Provisional timeline

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Date</b>
Applications open	12 Feb 2024, 9:00 am
Applications close	24 Mar 2024, 11:59 pm
Site visits and request further information (if required)	Mar – Apr 2024
*Mana Whenua and local board engagement	Apr - May 2024
Independent Assessment Panel review and recommendations	May 2024
Final analysis and recommendations	May 2024
*Governing body committee workshop (feedback on recommendations)	June 2024
Governing body committee business meeting (funding decision)	25 July 2024
Funding agreements developed with grant recipients	July - Aug 2024
Next funding round scheduled	Early 2027

*\*Subject to mana whenua and local board meeting schedules*

# Eligibility

## Organisations/Groups eligible for the grant

The following groups may be eligible to apply to the grant:

- community groups with a sport and/or recreation focus, e.g., sports clubs, community facility trusts, charitable trusts.
- national or regional sport and recreation organisations.
- iwi, schools, universities or religious organisations (providing community access to their sport and recreation facilities).
- commercial entities operating sport and recreation facilities that clearly and directly benefit the wider community.

Eligibility for Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grants will be guided by the Community Grant Policy Guidelines – for further details refer to page 20 of the [Community Grants Policy](#).

## Organisations/Groups not eligible for the grant

- local, stand-alone clubs and organisations that do not have a sub-regional or regionwide impact or reach
- high-performance sports facilities
- early childhood facilities
- political parties
- Auckland Council and/or Council Controlled Organisations
- organisations receiving statutory funding from Auckland Council via compulsory annual levies under the Regional Amenities Funding Act or comparable legislation
- other local authorities, government agencies or public-sector entities.

## Activities that are eligible for the grant

Organisations seeking an operational grant for regional or sub-regional sport and recreation facilities that encourage Aucklanders to be more active, more often.

You can apply for an operating grant for facilities that:

- are sub-regional with a catchment of 10km or more, attracting facility users from a wide geographical area. They are often of a larger scale and capacity.
- are regional, offering specialised facilities that serve the entire Auckland region. They will generally be large and have sufficient capacity to serve regional demand.
- require an operating subsidy to sustain and improve on-going operations including covering maintenance costs to deliver community access

The operating grant may be for example used to:

- fund unexpected one-off maintenance or repair costs
- ensure the facility breaks even financially
- set aside some funds for long-term maintenance
- offset revenue to sustain community access by reducing hire costs or user charges
- fund salaries for caretakers and cleaners

## **Activities that are not eligible for the grant**

The following activities are not eligible for the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant:

- programme, project or event costs
- physical works – e.g., improvements or development of new or existing facilities and community buildings
- public services that are the responsibility of central government e.g., core education, primary health care
- debt servicing or repayment
- legal expenses
- activities that promote religious ministry or political purposes
- medical expenses
- purchase of alcohol
- operating costs for local clubs

## **How to apply**










The Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant is a contestable grant. You must submit an application that will be assessed against the criteria and eligibility in these guidelines. The decision to award a grant will be made by Auckland Council's Planning, Environment and Parks Committee.







All application information must be submitted through Smartygrants – council's online grants portal. Register yourself or your organisation in the SmartyGrants system by going to <https://aucklandcouncil.smartygrants.com.au/>.

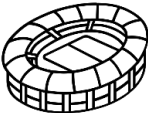
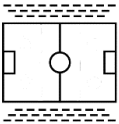
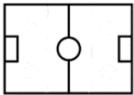



Links to the application forms will be available on the [Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant](#) webpage on the council website.

# Funding priorities




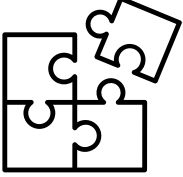
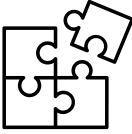
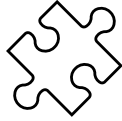
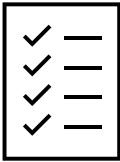
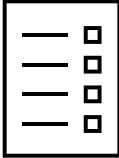
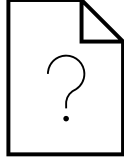
Multiple criteria will be considered to allow for a diverse range of facilities to present themselves through the application process. It is expected that facilities will present a mix of high medium and low priority characteristics, but successful applications will need to align with multiple high priority criteria within the tables below.

<b>People &amp; Community Priorities</b>		
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<p><b>Communities of greatest need</b> i.e., Communities who have limited capability to access social and economic resources and opportunities compared to the general population.</p> 	<p><b>Communities of some need</b> Communities who are able to access some social and economic resources and opportunities compared to the general population.</p> 	<p><b>Communities of least need</b> Communities who can readily access social and economic resources and opportunities compared to the general population.</p> 
<p><b>Strong benefit to Māori</b> Facilities led by Māori, strongly supported by Māori that will help Māori be more active.</p> 	<p><b>Some Māori outcomes</b> Facilities that help Māori be more active.</p> 	<p><b>No specific benefit to Māori</b> Facilities that deliver no specific benefit to Māori activity levels.</p> 
<p><b>Inactive Communities</b> Facilities that have a significant impact on insufficiently active communities (low participation in sport and recreation), including but not limited to high deprivation communities, females, tamariki and rangatahi and disability groups.</p> 	<p><b>Insufficiently active Communities</b> Facilities that have a moderate impact on inactive/low-participant communities.</p> 	<p><b>Highly Active Communities</b> Facilities serving highly active communities that have a limited impact on inactive/low-participant communities.</p> 

<p><b>High Participation</b> Facilities that cater to high participation sports or, emerging sports with high growth potential.</p> 	<p><b>Medium Participation</b> Facilities that cater to medium participation sports or, emerging sports with medium growth potential.</p> 	<p><b>Low Participation</b> Facilities that cater to low participation sports or, emerging sports with low growth potential.</p> 
<p><b>Partnerships</b> Facilities with partnerships between community groups with evidence of significant participation impact.</p> 	<p><b>Single Use</b> Single code or single use facilities with evidence of significant participation impact.</p> 	<p><b>Limited Access</b> Facilities that deliver private benefits or, have minimal participation impact.</p> 

<b>Infrastructure Priorities</b>		
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<p><b>Regional facility</b> Regional facilities offer specialised community sport and active recreation facilities serving the entire Auckland region. Usually, large facilities with sufficient capacity to serve regional demand.</p> 	<p><b>Sub-Regional facility</b> Sub-regional facilities serve a significant number of users from a catchment of 10km or more. Often well-known destination facilities in their area, and/or are the only facility of their type in the area.</p> 	<p><b>Local facility</b> Facilities that are primarily used by users within a catchment of 10km.</p> 
<p><b>Sustainable and low impact facility</b> The facility has put in place several ambitious measures to prevent or reduce impacts on climate and the environment across the whole lifecycle of the facility. The potential adverse effects of the facility are likely to be mostly mitigated.</p> 	<p><b>Sustainability of the facility could be improved</b> Measures to prevent or reduce impacts on climate and the environment do not cover all key areas of impact (or are not proportionate to the size of the impact) and the facility still results in adverse effects on the environment.</p> 	<p><b>Poor environmental performance</b> The facility has not considered their impact on climate and the environment or, there are limited or no mitigations in place.</p> 



<b>Strategic &amp; Financial Priorities</b>		
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<p><b>Strong Strategic Alignment</b> Facilities that have been identified as a key facility in national or regional strategies (e.g., local board plans, sport facility plans, etc.).</p> 	<p><b>Some Strategic Alignment</b> Facilities that are able to demonstrate significant potential impact where a key national or regional strategy does not exist.</p> 	<p><b>Little/No Strategic Alignment</b> Facilities that are not identified in key regional strategies (e.g., local board plans, sport facility plans, etc.).</p> 
<p><b>Significant network shortfall</b> Facility fills a significant and identified gap in facility provision in the network</p> 	<p><b>Moderate network shortfall</b> Facility fills a moderate gap in facility provision in the network</p> 	<p><b>Network surplus</b> Facility is in a location with sufficient provision</p> 
<p><b>Comprehensive facility and asset management plan</b> Facility has a comprehensive plan that outlines maintenance requirements, budget, timeline, depreciation, etc.</p> 	<p><b>Facility and asset management plan that needs improvement</b> Facility has a plan that only covers the minimum requirements and needs improvement.</p> 	<p><b>No facility and asset management</b> Facility has no asset management or maintenance plan in place</p> 

## Capability and track record

Applications for the grant will be assessed on their organisational capability to govern and operate a sport and recreation facility, including:

- fit-for-purpose governance and operating model
- experienced and successful operator
- a good track record in operating a sports facility and successfully delivering increased participation results for local/sub-regional communities
- successful engagement with and targeting low-participant communities.

# Information required

The application looks to capture the following information about your facility:

- General information
- About the facility
- Financial details
- Operating budget
- Community need (catchment, network provision)
- Benefits and outcomes
- Māori Outcomes
- Environmental Sustainability
- Facility and Asset Management Plan
- Supporting documentation

## Assessment approach and funding decision

Eligible applications are assessed by council staff against an assessment matrix that considers the funding priorities list and information provided (as shown above).

To ensure all investment is evidence-based applications are also assessed against the investment principles outlined in [Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039](#), including:

- Equity (40% of assessment): ensures equity of outcomes across the population regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status or location.
- Outcome-focused (30% of assessment): there is a clear 'line of sight' between the investment and the outcomes it delivers.
- Financial sustainability (20% of assessment): facilities need to be financially viable and affordable for the public.
- Accountability (10% of assessment): investment should be efficient, effective, transparent and consistent.

All applications will be assessed by Council staff and reviewed by an independent assessment panel (comprised of experienced and knowledgeable sports sector experts). Final recommendations will be presented at a Planning, Environment and Parks Committee workshop, before final funding allocation decisions are made at a business meeting.

All applicants are notified of the outcomes of their application by email. If your application is not successful, where possible, an explanation will be provided by council staff and suggestions provided for future grant applications.

Please note - Auckland Council reserves the right to share submitted proposals and/or key information with other appropriate sport sector investors and organisations as part of its grant analysis process.

# If your application is successful

## Funding agreement

Following a funding resolution by Planning, Environment and Parks Committee, council staff will work with grant recipients to develop funding agreements. A funding agreement is a formal document that outlines the conditions of the grant and our accountability reporting requirements. Grant recipients are required to sign these agreements and return to the council to receive funding.

Please note – copies of council’s Funding Agreement template is available. We recommend you familiarise yourself with the general terms and conditions. Please contact the Sport and Recreation team at [sportandrecreation@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:sportandrecreation@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to get a copy.

## Reporting requirements

Accountability and reporting obligations are specified in the funding agreement between council and the successful grant recipient.

The accountability and reporting obligations include:

- evidence of the facility’s financial performance
- a description of the activities delivered
- measures and outcomes achieved
- the likely long-term impact of the sport and recreation activities delivered by the facility
- evidence and findings of surveys, participant questionnaires, operating evaluations, challenges, highlights and learnings.

Grants will only be released once all reports have been reviewed and approved. Failure to meet these reporting requirements can result in your allocated funding being withdrawn.

## Other grants and investments

In addition to the Sport & Recreation Facilities Operating Grant, Auckland Council has allocated \$1 billion over the next ten years to sport and recreation investment and provides a variety of support to sport organisations through various grants and leases for council land and buildings.

The Sport & Recreation Facilities Operating Grant is one of three targeted regional sport and recreation grant programmes made available by Auckland Council. The grants collectively cover facility development, facility operations and programme delivery. The other two grants are:

- [Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund](#) – This fund supports the development of sport and recreation facilities that create opportunities for Aucklanders to get active
- [Regional Sport & Recreation Programming Grant](#) - This grant provides operational funding for a range of regional programmes that encourage Aucklanders to be more active, more often

Facilities that aren't considered eligible, or awarded funding through the Sport & Recreation Facilities Operating Grant, may be able to seek funding through [Local Board Grants](#) or [multi-board grants](#).

If you need more information about local board grants, contact:

[communityfunding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:communityfunding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Alternatively (particularly for grants over \$10,000) groups can contact their local board and seek a timeslot to present a deputation about their facility. Local Boards may consider requests to allocate annual discretionary budget. Please note local board budget planning starts in January and is confirmed in June each year, ready for the start of the financial year on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Sport New Zealand run a range of [targeted grant programmes](#) throughout the year such as Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa, Disability Inclusion Fund and Young Women's Activation Fund.

Sport New Zealand also have an external [funding portal](#) that is a good source of information to apply for philanthropic and class four gaming funding.

## Getting in touch

Contact [sportandrecreation@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:sportandrecreation@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to discuss your application with a Sport and Recreation Lead.

