



# Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant

2025/2026 Funding Round Guidelines



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# About the grant

Auckland Council's Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant supports sport and recreation sector organisations in their efforts to inspire and encourage Aucklanders to be more active more often.

The grant focuses primarily on enabling children, young people and inactive communities affordable access to sport and recreation activities.

These guidelines outline:

- who and what is eligible for the Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant
- how to apply for the Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant
- the funding priorities of the grant
- the process from application to result
- what successful applicants must do to meet our accountability requirements

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

## Future funding rounds

This round will open on Monday 10 March 2025, with applications closing on Sunday 6 April 2025. Grant decisions will be confirmed in July 2025.

Current budgets indicate the following amounts available:

- FY 2026 - \$508,000 (this current round)
- FY 2027 - \$508,000\*
- FY 2028 - \$508,000\*

*\*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 for your programme i.e., we recommend that you do not apply for 100% of the cost of the programme.

# Provisional timeline

Stage	Date
Applications open	10 March 2025, 9:00 am
Applications close	6 April 2025, 11:59 pm
Assessments of applications and recommendations	April/May 2025
Governing body committee feedback	June/July 2025
Governing body committee business meeting (funding decision)	29 July 2025
*Funding agreements developed with grant recipients	August - Sep 2025
Next funding round scheduled	2026

# Eligibility

## Organisations/Groups eligible for the grant

Applications are usually accepted from community groups, including not-for-profit, charitable and voluntary organisations. Eligibility for Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant will be guided by the Community Grant Policy Guidelines – for further details refer to page 20 of the [Community Grants Policy](#).

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

- play, recreation and sport ‘umbrella organisations’ with a region-wide mandate
- regional federations or groupings of local or sub-regional sports code organisations
- sport and recreation providers or advocacy groups
- iwi and other Māori organisations active in the sport and recreation sector.

If you have an existing grant you can apply for further funding for another programme. Payment of new funds will be dependent on completion of currently funded work and meeting our accountability requirements.

## Organisations/Groups not eligible for the grant

- Auckland Council council-controlled organisations
- organisations receiving statutory funding from Auckland Council via compulsory annual levies under the Regional Amenities Funding Act or comparable legislation
- political parties
- other local authorities, government agencies or public-sector entities.

## Activities that are eligible for the grant

Grants are available to organisations seeking operational funding for programmes that encourage Aucklanders to be more active, more often. Costs need to be associated directly with the expenses of running a programme.

You can apply for programmes that:

- provide affordable and accessible options for participation in informal physical activity, recreation and sport
- ensure our diverse communities enjoy healthy and active lifestyles
- enable children and young people to develop skills to help them have lifelong participation in sport and recreation
- address regionally determined priorities
- are regional in terms of scale and/or significance (local programmes may be considered if they are significant in terms of scale, impact and reach).

For example, the programme may be used for:

- sport coaching sessions for school-aged students delivered at multiple sites across Auckland
- swimming lessons for children from schools in high deprivation areas/communities of greatest need
- developing physical activity hubs for children with disabilities across Auckland
- coaching coaches and youth leadership programmes

## Activities that are not eligible for the grant

The following activities are not eligible for the Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant:

- programmes outside of our region
- retrospective funding i.e., programmes that have already been delivered
- physical works – e.g., improvements or development of new or existing facilities and community buildings
- a grant that is exclusively for staff wages
- 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

# How to apply







The Sport and Recreation Regional Programme 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 Community 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/>.

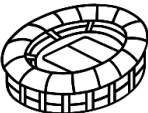
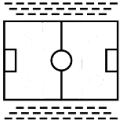
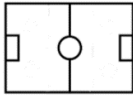



Links to the application forms will be available on the [Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant](#) webpage on the council website.

# Funding priorities




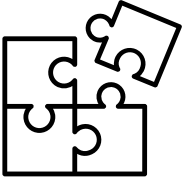
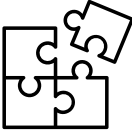
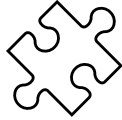
Multiple criteria will be considered to allow for a diverse range of programmes to present themselves through the application process. Successful applications will need to align with multiple high priority criteria within the tables below.

People & Community Priorities		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<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> Programmes led by Māori, strongly supported by Māori that will help Māori be more active.</p> 	<p><b>Some Māori outcomes</b> Programmes that help Māori be more active.</p> 	<p><b>No specific benefit to Māori</b> Programmes that deliver no specific benefit to Māori activity levels.</p> 

<p><b>Inactive Communities</b> Programmes 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> Programmes that have a moderate impact on inactive/low-participant communities.</p> 	<p><b>Highly Active Communities</b> Programmes serving highly active communities that have a limited impact on inactive/low-participant communities.</p> 
<p><b>High Participation</b> Programmes involving a high number of people in physical activity, recreation or sport.</p> 	<p><b>Medium Participation</b> Programmes involving a medium number of people in physical activity, recreation or sport.</p> 	<p><b>Low Participation</b> Programmes involving a low number of people in physical activity, recreation or sport.</p> 

<b>Outcome-focused Priorities</b>		
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<p><b>Regional programme</b> Programmes are regional in terms of scale, significance, impact and reach.</p> 	<p><b>Sub-Regional programme</b> Programmes are sub-regional in terms of scale, significance, impact and reach.</p> 	<p><b>Local programme</b> Programmes are local however, they must be significant in terms of scale, impact and reach.</p> 
<p><b>Sustainable and low impact programme</b> The programme has significant initiatives or measures in place to minimise the environmental impact</p> 	<p><b>Sustainability could be improved</b> The programme has some initiatives or measures in place to minimise the environmental impact but could be improved.</p> 	<p><b>Poor environmental performance</b> The programme has a negative impact on the environment and there are 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> Programmes have been identified in regionally determined priorities.</p> 	<p><b>Some Strategic Alignment</b> Programmes 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> Programmes that are not identified in key regional strategies.</p> 
<p><b>Network provision shortfall</b> Programme fills a significant gap in the network</p> 	<p><b>Moderate network provision</b> Programme fills a moderate gap in provision in the network</p> 	<p><b>Network provision surplus</b> Programme is in a location with sufficient provision</p> 

## Capability and track record

Applications for the grant will be assessed on their organisational capability to deliver sport and recreation programmes, including:

- fit-for-purpose governance and operating model
- experienced and successful programme delivery team
- a good track record in successfully delivering programmes that increase participation
- successful engagement with low-participant communities.

# Information required

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

- Applicant details
- Programme information
- Community need (catchment/scale, network provision)
- Funding priorities (Māori Outcomes, Inactive Communities, Environmental Sustainability, Strategic Alignment)
- Financial information

## Assessment approach and funding decision

Eligible applications are assessed against an assessment matrix which 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): programmes 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 with final recommendations being 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 the Community 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 are 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 programme’s financial and non-financial inputs and outputs
- a description of the activities delivered
- measures and outcomes achieved
- the likely long term impact of the programme
- financial summary of programme costs and income,
- evidence and findings of surveys, participant questionnaires and project 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 and Recreation Regional Programme 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 and Recreation Regional Programme 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
- [Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant](#) – This grant provides operational funding to facilities that increase Aucklanders participation in sport and recreation.

Potential applications which do not meet the criteria for regional funding may meet the criteria for [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)

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.

