



Community Action Fund 2026–2028

Information pack

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Fund Information

The purpose of this document is to provide information about the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund, the goal and key aims of the Fund, who can apply, available funding, what's in and out of scope, the preconditions, the criteria, the assessment tiers and the evaluation matrix that an evaluation panel will use to select successful applications.

What is the goal of the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund?

The overarching goal of the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund is to minimise gambling harm in communities across Aotearoa New Zealand. It does so by distributing funds to support locally led initiatives that promote nationally consistent gambling harm minimisation messages. Funding will be prioritised based on need, with a focus on populations disproportionately affected.

The Fund aims to reduce health inequities by prioritising funding for initiatives that support priority populations that are disproportionately impacted by gambling harm. These groups are Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian communities, rangatahi and young people, rainbow communities, disabled people and low-income communities. Additionally, the Fund focuses on enabling community-led initiatives that promote enduring and sustainable reach.

What are the key aims of the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund?

The Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund seeks to support locally led and culturally responsive initiatives that contribute to preventing and minimising gambling harm. Applications will be assessed against the criteria below, which reflect the Fund's key aims and intended outcomes.

Initiatives that:

Clearly demonstrate their plans to deliver on one (or more) of these strategic outcome areas:

1. Initiatives that shift perspectives through:
 - a. increasing understanding of gambling harms,
 - b. challenging stigma and the normalisation of gambling,
 - c. unified language and messaging that reframes stigma and gambling harms,
 - d. shifting blame associated with gambling harm away from the individual and towards harmful gambling products.
2. Initiatives that enable communities to develop resilience to gambling harm and reduce stigma related to gambling harm.
3. Initiatives that increase responses to gambling harm by enabling self-help options and early help seeking through the identification of early warning signs of gambling harm.
4. Initiatives that enable help-seeking and professional support services.

Clearly demonstrate their plans to deliver on all these criteria to meet the needs and aspirations of priority populations (Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian as well as rangatahi/youth, rainbow, disabled peoples and low-income communities):

5. Enabling priority populations disproportionately affected by gambling harm to lead in the development and delivery of initiatives.
6. Use culturally relevant methodologies, frameworks or paradigms to work competently and safely with priority populations including Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian, rangatahi/youth, rainbow and disabled, low-income communities.
7. Are underpinned by cultural or research methodology, intervention logic model, an evaluation framework, or best practice models.

Who can apply?

The Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund is open to:

- non-profit organisations and community organisations/groups that work closely with communities disproportionately impacted by gambling harm,
- gambling harm services within Aotearoa New Zealand's preventing and minimising gambling harm sector.

Joint applications are welcome however, only one application per initiative will be accepted.

Joint applications are also welcomed from the Minimising Gambling Harm sector in support of community groups with reach into priority populations disproportionately impacted by gambling harm.

What funding is available?

GST is **excluded** from all funding.

A total indicative funding pool of \$600,000 is available across two funding periods (2026-2027 and 2027-2028).

Respondents may apply for:

- up to **\$30,000** per initiative for delivery during either **Funding Period A** or **Funding Period B only**.
1. Up to **\$60,000** per initiative for delivery across **both**:
 - **Funding Period A:** November 2026 to 30 June 2027.
 - and**
 - **Funding Period B:** 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028.

Funding for both delivery periods forms part of a single funding process and will be assessed through a competitive evaluation procedure against the published assessment criteria.

Where respondents apply for funding across both delivery periods, funding allocations for Funding Periods A and B will be determined as part of the same assessment process. However, funding allocated to Funding Period B will not be released until that delivery period commences. Continued funding for activities delivered during Funding Period B will remain subject to satisfactory performance, compliance with the funding agreement, ongoing alignment with programme objectives, and the availability of approved funding.

The final allocation of funding, number of successful initiatives, and funding amounts awarded will be determined through the evaluation process, taking into account the quality of applications received, alignment with fund criteria, and the availability of funding within the approved funding envelope.

What is in scope and out of scope?

The table below defines what the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund will and will not fund

In Scope	Out of Scope
Community-led initiatives that: ○ Align to Community Action Fund criteria ○ Focus on prevention, early intervention, and harm reduction ○ Are culturally grounded and community driven Koha or fa'asoa to meet cultural protocols of reciprocity and/or collateral.	Commercial enterprises, Councils or Organisations that have any links to companies associated with the gambling, tobacco or alcohol industries, or food industries/products not aligned with the Eating and Activity Guidelines for New Zealand Adults - 2020
	Gambling Harm Awareness Week initiatives.

What are the Pre-Conditions?

All applications will be assessed to ensure they meet these preconditions. Applications that meet all the preconditions will progress through to assessment by an evaluation panel.

Applications that do not meet the preconditions will be notified of an unsuccessful outcome and will not progress further.

Eligible applications must meet all these pre-conditions:

#	Pre-conditions	Meets
1.	Applicants must be eligible to hold a New Zealand Business Number and be an NGO or not-for-profit organisation, or have the support of an eligible organisation that will act as fund-holder. Unincorporated groups may apply where an eligible organisation agrees to act as fund-holder.	[Yes/No]
2.	This proposal does not include retrospective funding for activities that have already taken place before it was submitted.	[Yes/No]
3.	This proposal does not include funding for capital items (e.g. building alterations vehicles, equipment, electronics, computers etc.).	[Yes/No]
4.	This proposal does not include funding for costs associated directly with the delivery of gambling harm clinical services or staff wages for public health services.	[Yes/No]
5.	The total value of this proposal is between \$30,000 and \$60,000 (excluding GST) depending on the proposed funding delivery period.	[Yes/No]

What is the Criteria?

The Criteria are the key aims of the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund and what will be used to assess the applications seeking funding. Each application will be assessed against these criteria.

The Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund is seeking to fund a variety of locally led and culturally responsive initiatives that contribute to the Fund's aim.

Initiatives that:

Clearly demonstrate their plans to deliver on one (or more) of these strategic outcome areas:

1. Initiatives that shift perspectives through
 - a. increasing understanding of gambling harms,
 - b. challenging stigma and the normalisation of gambling,
 - c. unify language and messaging that reframes stigma and gambling harms,
 - d. and shift blame associated with gambling harm away from the individual and towards harmful gambling products.
2. Initiatives that enable communities to develop resilience to gambling harm and reduce stigma related to gambling harm.
3. Initiatives that increase response to gambling harm through initiatives that enable self-help options and early help seeking through the identification of early warning signs of gambling harm.
4. Initiatives that enable help-seeking and professional support services.

Clearly demonstrate their plans to deliver on all these criteria to meet the needs and aspirations of priority populations (Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian as well as rangatahi/youth, rainbow, disabled peoples and low-income communities):

5. Enabling priority populations to lead in the development and delivery of initiatives.
6. Use culturally relevant methodologies, frameworks or paradigms to work competently and safely with priority populations including Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian, rangatahi/youth, rainbow and disabled, low-income communities.

7. Are underpinned by cultural or research methodology, intervention logic model, an evaluation framework, or best practice models.

What if I want more information?

The Health Promotion team will hold a series of online engagements to answer questions about the Fund. Please register for the webinars using the links below.

- Tuesday 29 September 2026, 12–1pm. Link here to register for [Webinar 1](#)
- Wednesday 7 October 2026, 6–7pm. Link here to register for [Webinar 2](#)
- Thursday 15 October 2026, 11am–12pm. Link here to register for [Webinar 3](#)

Evaluation Assessment

Who is on the evaluation panel?

Peti Waaka, Senior Advisor is the lead kaimahi for the Safer Gambling Aotearoa Community Action Fund. As the Chair of the Evaluation panel, their role is to coordinate and manage the Fund.

To maintain an open, fair and impartial decision-making procedure, the evaluation panel is confidential.

The evaluation panel is made up of staff within Health New Zealand's National Public Health Service that includes representatives from priority populations Māori, Pacific, and Asian. There will also be representatives of clinical public health programming expertise.

If you have any queries related to the Fund, you are welcome to contact Peti via info@safergambling.org.nz

How will applications be assessed?

The following table is what the evaluation panel will use to evaluate application responses, with a narrative evaluation option. All answers in Tier One will be required to answer Yes to progress to Tier Two Assessment.

Tier One Assessment	Y / N	Comments
Are all the preconditions met?	Y / N	
Does the funding request fit within the budget?	Y / N	
Does the application outlines a timeline of delivery within the relevant financial years: Funding Period A: November 2026 – 30 June 2027 And/or Funding Period B: 1 July 2027 – 30 June 2028	Y / N	
Is this application unique – there is not another application seeking funding for the same initiative?	Y / N	
<i>Must address at least 1 or more of the following:</i>		
Does the initiative shift perspectives through increasing understanding of gambling harms, challenge stigma and the normalisation of gambling, unify language and messaging that reframes gambling harms, and shift blame associated with gambling harm away from the individual and towards harmful gambling products?	Y / N	
Does the initiative enable communities to develop resilience to gambling harm and reduce stigma related to gambling harm?	Y / N	
Does the initiative increase response to gambling harm enabling self-help options and early help seeking through the identification of early warning signs of gambling harm?	Y / N	
Does the initiative enable help-seeking and access to professional support services?	Y / N	

Tier Two Assessment	Weighting %	Comments
Who is/are the priority population groups the initiative aims to prioritise? How well does the application aim to involve priority populations disproportionately affected by gambling harm to lead in the development and delivery of initiatives?	10%	
In relation to building communities capability to lead, design, develop and implement initiatives, how well does the application aim to involve community voice and leadership?	10%	
How comprehensive is the application aligned to meet one or more of the following strategic outcome areas: • Shift perspectives through increasing understanding of gambling harms, challenge stigma and the normalisation of gambling, unify language and messaging that reframes gambling harms, and shift blame associated with gambling harm away from the individual and towards harmful gambling products? • Enablement of communities to develop resilience to gambling harm and reduce stigma related to gambling harm? • Increase response to gambling harm enabling self-help options and early help seeking through the identification of early warning signs of gambling harm? • Enable help-seeking and access to professional support services?	30%	
Is the initiative underpinned by a: • cultural/research methodology, • intervention logic model, • an evaluation framework, or • best practice model? How well have they been implemented to design the initiative?	20%	

Does the application provide a detailed budget breakdown that demonstrates good use of public funds in relation to the proposed initiative?	20%	
How will your initiative provide economic benefits to Aotearoa New Zealand? This could include local employment, use of local suppliers, community capability building or other economic benefits.	10%	
Total:	100%	

Evaluation Rating Scale

How will evaluators rate each application?

The evaluators will score each response using the following Rating Scale. A table will be used to weight each score according to the weighting matrix of the Tier Two Assessment table.

Rating	Definition	Score
Significantly Exceeds	Significantly exceeds the requirement. The application identifies factors that will offer significant potential added value, with supporting evidence.	9-10
Exceeds	Exceeds the requirement in some respects. The application identifies minor additional benefits, with supporting evidence.	7-8
Meets Requirements	Respondent has shown an understanding of the requirement to a minimum level and has demonstrated the ability to provide the requirement to the minimum level, with supporting evidence.	5-6
Unsatisfactory – Minor Deficiency	Application is marginally deficient. There are minimal cost or scheduling impacts to address within the application. Minor negotiation may be required to achieve the requirement.	3-4
Unsatisfactory – Significant Deficiency	Requirement is only partially met. There would be an impact on costs or scheduling in order to achieve the requirement. Significant negotiation may be required to achieve the requirement.	1-2
Unsatisfactory – Critical Deficiency	Requirement is not met by the application. Includes nil responses or where the application has no supporting information or evidence provided.	0

Key dates

What is the timeline of key dates?

The following table provides an overview of key dates to support with planning, delivery and evaluation expectations. Please ensure that you understand the application procedure and the relevant key dates.

Application procedure	Date
Applications open for five weeks.	Monday 21 September 2026
Online public wānanga, Talanoa, or Fa’afeiloa’i for questions and answers. To ensure an open and transparent procedure, individual requests to meet will not be offered.	Tuesday 29 September 2026, 12–1pm Link here to register for Webinar 1 Wednesday 7 October 2026, 6–7pm Link here to register for Webinar 2 Thursday 15 October 2026, 11am–12pm Link here to register for Webinar 3
Applications close. To ensure an open and fair procedure, requests for extensions will not be offered.	Tuesday 27 October 2026, 12pm
Applicants notified of outcome.	Week commencing 9 November 2026

What if I have further questions?

Feel free to contact via email on info@safergambling.org.nz