

Questions and Answers

Webinar 2: Wednesday 7 October 6–7pm

General questions

Q1: Have these grants been there before in the past, or is this a new initiative?

A1: The Fund has operated in previous years. The last funding round was in 2023/24, after which the Fund was paused while previous rounds were evaluated, and the approach was reviewed and refreshed for 2026–2028.

Q2: Can you please confirm if external contractor fees are eligible for the safer gambling fund 2026–2028?

A2: The Fund is not intended to fund costs associated directly with the delivery of gambling harm clinical services or staff wages for public health services.

Potentially, it will really depend on what the external contractor is being tasked to do, their specialist skill set and how that aligns to the initiative. Please make it clear in the proposal and budget how their specialist skills will be contributing to the initiative.

Types of initiatives

Q3: Are you prioritising direct intervention (counselling), early intervention, community education or workforce development in this round?

A3: The Fund is focused on prevention, early intervention and harm reduction. Community education can form part of an initiative where it contributes to these outcomes. Direct delivery of clinical gambling harm services is not eligible for funding through this Fund. Workforce development is not the focus of this funding round.

Q4: Is there scope for projects around monitoring the marketing of online casinos under the new regime? We are concerned about the amount of advertising that could occur and how the rules around advertising will be enforced.

A4: The Fund will not fund research, regulatory monitoring or enforcement activity.

Q5: Would the fund look at funding research looking at community experience of gambling harm within a TLA that spans both urban and rural communities. Looking at the wider impacts, both positive and negative to start conversations of gambling harm within communities.

A5: Again, the Fund will not fund research, regulatory monitoring or enforcement activity.

Q6: In our community, we currently use activities such as keno and raffles to raise money for community needs. We would like to reduce or stop these gambling-based fundraising activities and develop safer, non-gambling alternatives. We see this as a prevention and early-intervention approach to reduce the normalisation of gambling and potential gambling harm in our community. Would an initiative like this be eligible for the Community Action Fund? And if so, would the funding support the development and implementation of the safer alternatives, or is the funding limited to gambling-harm education and support activities?

A6: The Fund is not intended to replace income that an organisation may lose by moving away from gambling-based fundraising. However, an initiative that supports a community to understand gambling harm, challenge the normalisation of gambling and explore safer fundraising approaches could potentially align with the Fund criteria. The application

would need to clearly demonstrate the gambling harm prevention outcomes the initiative is intended to achieve.

Cultural related questions

Q7: How is cultural grounding defined and evaluated in the application scoring process?

A7: Cultural grounding means the initiative is informed by the values, worldviews, knowledge, practices and voices of the community it is intended to support. This might include recognised cultural health or well-being models, cultural methodologies, language, tikanga or community-led ways of working. For example, an initiative may draw on Te Whare Tapa Whā or Te Pae Māhutonga, Fonofale or Talanoa approaches, or the Asian Family Services Tree Model for Asian migrant communities or other frameworks relevant to the community. Applicants should explain how their chosen approach has informed the design and delivery of the initiative and support culturally safe and meaningful engagement.

Q8: Is this funding to cover cultural safety training for community to deliver safer gambling stuff?

A8: No, the Fund is not intended to fund standalone workforce or cultural safety training. The focus is on community-led prevention and early-intervention initiatives that directly contribute to the Fund outcomes. If cultural capability is a small, necessary component of delivering an eligible initiative, clearly explain this in your application and budget.

Organisational criteria

Q9: We support community perspectives and community action through public health work with community groups who aren't incorporated. They

would like to apply – but don't have NZBN. How can we support community action groups to apply.

A9: An eligible organisation with a New Zealand Business Number can act as a fund-holder for an unincorporated community group that cannot meet the organisational requirements itself. The application should clearly identify the fund-holder and explain the relationship between the organisations and how they will work together to deliver the initiative.

A fund-holder may also submit a separate application for its own, genuinely different initiative. Each initiative will be assessed separately.

Q10: If an organisation with an NZBN offers buddy or umbrella and action/community group without NZBN also submits their own application with an initiative, will the funding be shared or applications be approved together?

A10: Each unique initiative requires a separate application and will be assessed independently against the Fund criteria. If an eligible organisation acts as fund-holder for a community group, that arrangement applies only to that initiative. If the fund-holder also applies for a separate initiative of its own, the two applications will be assessed separately and one will not affect the assessment of the other.

Q11: How does this funding support grassroots or smaller community led groups that may have strong cultural grounding but less admin capacity for formal reporting?

A11: We want the Fund to be accessible to grassroots and smaller community-led groups. Groups that do not have the organisational or administrative capacity to apply independently can consider working with an eligible fund-holder or submitting a joint application. We are also working to make evaluation and reporting proportionate and flexible, recognising that communities may demonstrate success in different ways. In your application,

tell us how you would measure or demonstrate the success of your initiative in a way that is meaningful for your community.

Q12: Can a new organisation who have been registered as a charitable trust for five months apply?

A12: Yes, a newly established charitable trust can apply provided it meets the Fund's organisational eligibility requirements and all other preconditions. There is no minimum length of time an eligible organisation needs to have been operating.