



Ōtara- Papatoetoe Local Board Grants Programme 2025/2026



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Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Grants Programme

Our Local Grants Programme aims to provide contestable community grants to local communities.

Our priorities for grants

Below is a selection of priorities from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Plan. When you apply for a grant, you will choose one of these that your project must align with to be funded:

- [Te ao Māori](#), Māori culture and the values of [mātauranga](#) Māori are visible and integrated in all areas of life
- A socially cohesive community that is proud of and celebrates its diversity
- Our people are active, learning and shaping community life
- Support whānau, rangatahi and tamariki to thrive
- Communities leading on sustainability and climate action
- Increased greenspace and tree canopy cover
- Restored biodiversity and improved water quality locally
- Support community projects that follow a zero waste approach and support positive climate action
- A transition to a low-carbon and green economy with sustainable business practices
- Diverse, locally led programmes that enhance the liveability and are age-friendly, meet diverse needs and are whānau-centred
- Our community has access to high-quality and well-maintained facilities
- Active recreation through local parks and reserves is available to all
- Attractive and welcoming spaces or neighbourhoods that are well-used, safe, and sustainable
- Residents are highly skilled with many employment opportunities
- Manukau is a destination for national and international visitors
- Thriving small businesses and safe town centres

Higher Priority

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board will prioritise applications that align to the healthy environment principles and Māori outcomes including:

- Promoting safe neighbourhoods, active living in family friendly places and events that are:
 - smoke and vape free, alcohol and drug free
 - zero-waste
 - promoting healthy options for food and drink, including water as the first choice
 - promotion of active lifestyles
- Applications from residents and community groups residing in, or where there are large numbers of the members of organisations who are from /based in Ōtara-Papatoetoe

- Applications that prioritise positive outcomes for mana whenua
- Projects or activities which reduce and address the impact of climate change
- Projects that align with the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Play Plan and promote play for all ages in all spaces

Lower Priorities

The below may still be funded, however the board will view them as a lower priority that will not be funded in over-subscribed rounds:

- Ticketed events, commercial events or events that promote a brand or company
- The purchase of assets, gear and equipment with limited future use or wider benefit to the community
- Feasibility studies, need analysis, project plan development.
- Applicant is not making any financial contribution of their own to the project
- Applicant has not considered other sources of funding for their project
- Applicant has the capacity to access funding from other sources
- In principle, salaries are not funded, however the board may consider project facilitator fees as one-off costs subject to the purpose of the project and grant programme priorities
- Applications for projects that have already been funded during the current financial year

Ineligible

In addition to the eligibility criteria outlined in the [Community Grants Policy](#) the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board will not fund:

- Applicants who failed to provide accountability report from a previous funding allocation
- Applicants who provided unsatisfactory accountability forms from a previous funding allocation
- Costs to start up new businesses
- Requests for facilitation costs, wages or salaries for more than four days of time

Investment approach

Please note that we are removing the Quick Response round and reducing the limit on the local grants so groups have more opportunities to apply for small projects. If you have any feedback, please get in touch.

Each round has a minimum and a maximum amount you can apply for. You can see the limits below:

- Local Grants:
 - Minimum amount per grant: \$500
 - Maximum amount per grant: No limit
- Excellence Grants:
 - Minimum amount per grant: \$500

- Maximum amount per grant: \$2,000

Accountability measures

Two months after your project is completed, you will need to submit an accountability report, it can be accessed on the Smarty Grants portal and requires the following information:

- provide information on how the project contributed to local board priorities and outcomes
- extend to the local board chairperson an invitation to the funded project, programme, activity or event where appropriate
- meet council standard financial accountability requirements

Application Dates

Below are the dates for the grants rounds that happen throughout the year.

- Between the *Opens* and *Closes* date you will be able to apply on the Auckland Council website for the grant. Applications close at 10pm and late submissions are not allowed
- The *Decision Made* date is when the board officially decides on your application, you can expect to be emailed a few days after this and payment should be made by the *Project to Occur After* date, assuming no issues with your bank information
- All applications must start after the *Project to Occur After* date, as this is when payment will likely be made by. Having a date before this will result in reduced funding or being declined

Please note that with the local elections in October 2025 dates after this may shift.

	Opens	Closes	Decision Made	Project to Occur After
Round one	7 July 2025	8 August 2025	16 September 2025	1 October 2025
Round two	15 September 2025	24 October 2025	9 December 2025	15 December 2025
Round three	26 January 2026	6 March 2026	21 April 2026	1 May 2026
Round four	23 March 2026	1 May 2026	16 June 2026	1 July 2026

Excellence Award

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board set up the Pursuit of Excellence Award to support individuals that have shown outstanding achievement in their area of expertise and need funding to take it further or to represent Ōtara-Papatoetoe.

Individuals will be funded up to \$2,000. If you are in a group with multiple people applying for a single event, please apply to the Local Grant round instead.

You can apply anytime within the grant year, though certain times of the year there may be delays (over the Christmas holidays, between financial years and during the local elections).

This grant aims to:

- support local residents and organisations who will represent the area to demonstrate their outstanding achievements in their chosen field

- recognise and celebrate the contributions of the local applicants
- increase the profile and image of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area
- assist applicants to build their capacity in serving the community
- promote diverse participation in local government and civic life
- foster the development of a sustainable workforce for local industry and surrounds
- strengthen the development of community unity in Ōtara-Papatoetoe

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