



# **Upper Harbour Local Board Community Grants Programme 2025/2026**



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# Upper Harbour Local Board

## Community Grants Programme 2025/2026

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

Our grants programme will be targeted towards supporting the following objectives, as outlined in the [Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2023](#).

Local Board Plan	Local Board Objectives - What your grant should achieve
<b>Our people</b> Our goal is to create an inclusive and connected community, adapting to the changing needs of our growing diverse population and ensuring everyone has a voice in decisions that affect them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our residents love living in Upper Harbour, feel part of a welcoming community, actively participate and their views are considered in decision making</li><li>• Our communities feel safe and supported and are resilient to adversity and change</li><li>• We have meaningful relationships with Māori and celebrate Māori culture and identity in Upper Harbour</li><li>• Our diverse communities are enabled to achieve their goals and aspirations</li></ul>
<b>Our environment</b> Upper Harbour is an area with unique natural landscapes. We will continue to work alongside our volunteers and community to enhance and protect our natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our indigenous and culturally valued biodiversity is improved and protected by preserving and enhancing the habitats that support it</li><li>• Our communities are resilient to climate change and care for their surrounding environment</li><li>• The lifeforce (mauri) of our harbour and waterways is respected and restored</li><li>• Our communities practice te ao Māori kaitiakitanga (guardianship) principles</li><li>• Our communities have opportunities to minimise their carbon emissions and waste</li></ul>
<b>Our community</b> Our commitment is to provide access to well-maintained sports fields, parks, coastal amenities, and community facilities for everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upper Harbour has a range of fit for purpose multi-use sports, recreation and community amenities that serve a growing and diverse community</li><li>• People of all abilities have access to well-maintained sports fields, parks, coastal and community facilities in Upper Harbour</li></ul>
<b>Our places</b> With better planning and appropriate infrastructure, we aspire to create an area that allows our residents to easily connect between each other and within their neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An accessible walking and cycling network within neighbourhoods</li><li>• Target transport investment to the most significant transport related challenges</li><li>• Albany is a vibrant destination where people want to live, visit, shop, work and connect</li></ul>
<b>Our economy</b> We will continue to support our local businesses and communities to create a thriving, resilient and sustainable economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our local businesses and industry are resilient and sustainable</li><li>• Our skilled workforce has ease of access to local quality employment opportunities</li><li>• Young people including rangatahi Māori have the skills and training needed for quality, sustainable employment</li></ul>

## Our priorities for contestable grants

The Upper Harbour Local Board welcomes grant applications that align with their local board plan objectives. All applications will be measured on their merits and consideration will be given to initiatives that contribute to (in no order of priority):

- **Community participation and wellbeing:** Initiatives that promote community engagement, participation, and wellbeing, bring communities together and creates a sense of identity and connection to place.
- **Environment:** Initiatives that restore, protect and enhance our natural environment, support reduction in pest animals and pest plants, promote sustainable land use practices, and reduce the community's carbon footprint
- **Families:** Initiatives that support families, promote healthy family relationships, and address the needs of families
- **Supporting Māori outcomes:** Initiatives that empower Māori voices and traditions
- **Newcomers:** Initiatives that promote cultural diversity, support local ethnic communities, and support newcomers to the Upper Harbour area
- **Sport and recreation:** Initiatives that promote physical activity and sport, support sports clubs and facilities, and promote active living for people of all ages and abilities
- **Underrepresented Communities:** Initiatives that advocate for accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunities, support individuals with disabilities in education, employment, community engagement, and promote awareness and acceptance of diverse abilities
- **Youth:** Initiatives that support the needs of young people, provide leadership and development opportunities, address youth mental health and wellbeing, and engage and empower young people.

## Lower priorities

- Salaries, wages and operational cost are deemed to be a low priority for funding.
- Schools and churches will only be funded if there is a significant community benefit.
- Application shows limited direct benefit to local board area.
- Applications for fundraising events or activities where the beneficiary is a third party (exceptions may be made if we determine the event has a wider community benefit beyond its primary purpose as a fundraiser).
- Requested large amounts where other funders haven't been approached.

## Eligibility

- Applicants with no legal structure applying for more than \$1,000 must nominate an umbrella organisation or apply to have their funding released upon receipt of a satisfactory accountability report.
- Initiatives must fit with at least one of the board's objectives as stipulated in the [Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2023](#).
- Preference will be given to initiatives which take place in the Upper Harbour Local Board area and/or are of benefit to Upper Harbour Local Board residents.

## Exclusions

A range of activities are excluded from consideration of funding by Auckland Council's overarching [Community Grants Policy](#).

These exclusions are:

- debt servicing or repayment
- legal expenses
- activities that promote religious ministry or political purposes
- medical expenses
- public services that are the responsibility of central government (e.g. core education, primary health care)
- physical works – e.g. improvements to community buildings that require consents or permits, prior to the necessary consents or permits being obtained (grants may be awarded in principle, but funds will not be released until all conditions are satisfied)
- purchase of alcohol

**In addition to the eligibility criteria outlined in the Community Grants Policy, the Upper Harbour Local Board will not fund:**

- initiatives that have already taken place before the board has the opportunity to consider the application (unless the board accepts there are genuine mitigating circumstances)
- applicants that have outstanding accountability obligations from previous council grants
- applications for the same projects more than once in a financial year
- applications for capital work on council owned buildings
- activities that do not relate to one or more of the local board plan outcomes
- projects taking place outside of local board area (unless significant direct benefit to local board area is shown).

## Obligations if you receive funding

To ensure that the Upper Harbour Local Board grant achieves positive results, recipients will be obligated to provide evidence that the assistance has been used for the agreed purpose and the stated outcomes have been achieved. Obligations will be outlined in a funding agreement that the applicant will be required to enter into.

The following accountability measures are required:

- Complete and submit accountability report, within two months of the completion of the project, proving that the grant has been used to deliver the set outcomes and objectives.
- Any grant money that is unspent and not used for the project must be returned to the Upper Harbour Local Board.
- The contribution of the board is to be clearly acknowledged in all publicity and signage using Upper Harbour Local Board branding whenever appropriate in accordance with Council's brand guidelines (Supplied with Funding Agreement and can be provided on request).

- Extend an invitation to the local board members for any event or function funded.
- Successful applicants to be available to work with Council staff on media coverage and their project/activity shared as a good news story if applicable.

## Grants approach and application dates

The Upper Harbour Local Board has allocated budget within a limited funding envelope to support the communities needs through their grants programme. Communities are encouraged to consider all funding opportunities from a variety of funding agencies available to them.

### Grant rounds for the 2025/2026 financial 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 due to local board elections in October 2025 that the decision date for 2026 may change.*

	Opens	Closes	Decision made	Projects to occur after
Local Grant Round one	1 September 2025	19 October 2025	4 December 2025	15 December 2025
Local Grant Round Two	19 January 2026	20 March 2026	28 May 2026	1 June 2026