

Funding Eligibility Criteria

Geographic Location

In general, organisations eligible for grants must operate in the Trust area, which includes Gisborne Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, Manawatū, Tararua, Horowhenua, Wairarapa.

Preference is given to local branches. If there is no local branch, then a national organisation will be considered for grants to the extent that they provide benefit to the Trust's region. Those organisations that fall slightly outside the boundaries of the region will also be considered to the extent that they provide benefit to the Trust's region.

Type of Organisation

In general, organisations eligible for grants must:

- be a legal entity or registered charity with a charitable or community focus,
- have a written constitution or set of rules that states that the organisations resources will only be applied to public/ community purposes, rather than private/ individual purposes
- have their own bank account.

Legal Entity-/ Registered Charity Clarifications

1. Grassroots Fund (participation or development pathways)

ECCT will consider applications from non-legal entities/ unregistered charities in these pathways if:

- a. the groups are working towards becoming a legal entity or registered charity status (this must be achieved within two years of first grant in order to re-apply), or
- b. the group is a volunteer-run, small-scale group, with a focus on local or neighbourhood activities and an annual turn-over of less than \$10,000, or,
- c. The group is part of an ECCT pilot project used to test new initiatives and allow for the development or implementation of current or future Funding Strategies (e.g., Youth-led Funding initiative linked to the development of a Rangatahi Strategy).

Grants to non-legal entities or unregistered charities will not be made for capital items or exceed \$10,000.

2. CAFF (Capital Assets and Facilities Fund)

Groups must be a legal entity to receive a capital works grant from this fund. Grants will not be made to groups that only hold Registered Charities status.

Government Organisations – Local, Central

ECCT may fund projects and organisations in partnership with central and local government organisations and will consider projects sponsored or coordinated by local or central government agencies.

ECCT does not wish to take over areas that are clearly the responsibility of central or local government. The following questions will be considered when deliberating on such applications:

- Would a reasonable person expect central and local government to fund this project?

- Can the organisation afford to fund the project itself?
- Will the organisation's members directly benefit from the project?
- Is there a more general community well-being benefit from the project?
- Given all the circumstances, will the project make a real difference in the organisation and/or community?
- Is it fully funded?
- How have community been involved in the project?

At times, the Trust will consider moving into areas which would traditionally be considered the responsibility of local or central government. However, any such applications will be treated cautiously and on the merits of the application.

Speak to us for further information about central government eligibility requirements for the CAFF Fund.

Individuals eligible for grants

Eastern & Central Community Trust will only consider applications from individuals applying for capacity development under the Development pathway of the Grassroots Fund. It will not consider any other applications for individuals.

Leasees/ Tenants

ECCT will consider applications on a case-by-case basis from groups that want to improve an asset that they do not own or do not have full control over. Groups that do not own the building or land they are seeking funding for must have a formal agreement for long-term access in place with the owner before applying. This must be in writing e.g., lease, Memorandum of Understanding, etc. Sometimes, a letter of permission from the owner for the specific project is also required.

ECCT will consider applications from tenants for improvements related to their private use of the building e.g., fit-out, interior maintenance, equipment, heating, digital technology, fencing, etc. These improvements relate to the specific requirements of the tenant in providing their day-to-day activities.

ECCT believes that property owners should be responsible for certain repairs, even if a lease says something different. It will not fund projects that it considers should be the responsibility of the property owner or where the benefits of improvements may be transferred to private individuals.

For clarity, ECCT will not make grants to tenants for these activities:

- improvements to the exterior of the building (e.g., roofing, guttering, windows, doors, cladding, painting, etc.)
- strengthening and other structural improvements
- plumbing, pipes, drainage
- connections to key infrastructure (e.g., water, electricity, gas)
- maintaining or improving the outside areas which are not privately / solely used by the leasee (e.g., public areas, parking, pathways, fencing)
- building warrant of fitness, compliance obligations.

National Organisations

ECCT prefers to fund the local branch rather than the national organisation.

However, for clarity the applicant should be the group which is the legal entity or registered charity. For assets, this will be the entity with the asset on its books.

Where a national organisation applies on behalf of its branch – the funds must be committed to the region covered by the Trust.

The applicant must also supply the local accounts / operating statements or a budget for delivery of activities in ECCT's area in addition to their own (national-level or consolidated) accounts. Branches which are not legal entities or registered charities in their own right can apply themselves if formal delegated authority permissions are in place from their national/ regional organisation (which is the legal/ charitable entity). Evidence of the Delegated Authority must be provided with the application. Local accounts and the consolidated accounts of the national organisation must also be provided. See also Geographic Location.

Political Groups

The Trust will not fund groups that have a political activity as its main focus.

Schools

Schools (including Parent Teacher Associations) must make applications through their Board of Trustees.

Service organisations

ECCT may consider applications from community-focused service organisations (e.g., Rotary, Zonta, Lions) for the projects their volunteers coordinate on behalf of the community.

Social Enterprises

ECCT will not fund purely-for-profit groups. It will consider social enterprise initiatives and applications from not-for-profit groups that have an aim of supporting the community through enhanced economic activity.

Social enterprises or business must have clear written arrangements in place outlining community benefits and split of funds between the business and the social purposes.