

Introduction

In 2018 the Palmerston North City Council adopted five strategic goals to achieve its vision of Small City Benefits, Big City Ambition. The Council's Active Communities Plan; which falls out of *Goal 2: A Creative and Exciting City*, aims to create a city that has great places for all people, particularly families, and to have the most active community in New Zealand.

Sport Manawatu has a critical role to play in partnership with the Council which is to provide Sport and Recreation Leadership. Sport Manawatu's vision of Everyone Active is achieved by building stronger communities through quality sport and active recreation experiences. We aspire to get more kids, more adults, and more game makers involved in sport and active recreation through quality support and quality opportunities.

The concept of the Active Communities Fund has been made possible through the Palmerston North City Council, in order to help individuals, families, children and youth who might be financially disadvantaged to participate in their chosen sport or physical activity.

The Palmerston North City Council recognises that:

- Being physically active contributes to good physical health, and provides spiritual and mental health benefits;
- Everyone should have equal access to opportunities in order to be more physically active;
- Families, children and youth want to play sport and take part in regular physical activity however those that often miss out are families who cannot afford to participate;
- Children and youth should have opportunities to play sport and engage in physical activity however some are denied access through no fault of their own;
- Sport and physical activity helps to build vibrant and stimulating communities.

What is the Active Communities fund?

Established by the Palmerston North City Council, the Active Communities Fund aims to remove financial barriers to enable individuals, families, caregivers, children and youth the opportunity to be more active, more often.

The fund aims to remove barriers to participation through the provision of:

- Activity related costs;
- Activity related equipment not provided through a club, school or activity provider;
- Activity uniform, clothing or footwear;
- Facility fees or Event costs;

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- Access to one on one or small group coaching;
- Opportunities that support a life-long love of being physically active;
- Travel related costs to enable participation;
- Funding may be given retrospectively on a case by case basis.

Active Communities Fund Outcomes

The fund aims to:

- Create positive lifestyles and habits around sport and physical activity;
- Reduce financial barriers, and increase the number of families, children and youth undertaking regular sport and physical activity;
- Increase the social connectedness of families and community;
- Help develop self-confidence in children and youth.

Application Criteria

- Palmerston North City Residents;
- Families, caregivers or individuals who hold a Community Services Card;
- An individual, family, caregiver, child or youth unable to purchase the necessary equipment, clothing or activity-related costs to enable participation in sport or physical activity.

How to apply for funding

Please contact Brad Cassidy, Active Communities Manager at Sport Manawatu via this email bradc@sportmanawatu.org.nz

To verify the families/individuals situation, all applications must be endorsed by a designated Sponsor.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel in consultation with the applicants Sponsor.

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Successful applicants will receive a letter and details of their assistance through the Active Communities Fund.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive written notification of the outcome.

The approved grant will be paid directly to the supplier, club or organisation.

For more information please call Brad Cassidy on (027) 2583 426 or email bradc@sportmanawatu.org.nz

Frequently asked questions

How much can I apply for?

There is no set amount. The assessment panel will independently review each application, and will allocate funds on a case by case basis.

How often can I apply?

One application per family/individual in any annual period

Who can act as a Sponsor?

A Sponsor is an individual/agency representative able to answer background information to support the application. They can be one of the following:

- A non-relative
- A School Principal or Teacher
- Youth Worker
- Councilor
- Club Official

Disclaimer

Once approved, a level of commitment from the applicant will be agreed in order to evaluate the impact of the fund. This evidence will help the panel assess:

- Direct benefits of the fund on the recipient(s)
- The social or educational impact on the family/individual
- Identify and incidental outcomes from receiving the fund

Information will be collated by way of a diary, report or case study and fed back to the Palmerston North City Councils Sport and Recreation Committee.

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