

Media Release: Whanganui Community Foundation Announces New Fund to Help Combat the Housing Crisis in Whanganui, Rangitikei and Waimarino

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Whanganui Community Foundation Chair, Dr Mike Paki, this week announced the creation of a new Special Purposes Housing fund to assist organisations which help to provide suitable, safe and healthy housing for people in the WCF rohe. \$400,000 will be available in the first year to fund housing-related projects that will aid those most in need due to remoteness, deprivation, lack of infrastructure, or which are underserved by other providers. Applications will open on 21 March 2022 and will be accepted throughout the year.

“Our 2021 survey asked community organisations and local authorities to identify the most important social issue their community was facing. The resounding consensus was ‘Housing’”, notes Foundation Manager, Stephen Brandon.

“The Foundation welcomes the opportunity to respond directly to the expressed needs of communities across the rohe”, adds WCF Chair, Dr Mike Paki. “We can offer flexibility to fund solutions where other funders may struggle.”

According to the new fund’s policy, applications may be made for projects and purposes related to housing, such as, but not limited to: provision of emergency housing and support for people experiencing homelessness; supply, repair and maintenance of infrastructure such as electricity, water and sewage; house maintenance; and organisations providing legal support or access to financial services. This can include operational, capacity-building, project and/or capital costs. Special consideration will be given to organisations that show evidence of strong commitment to the community, community consultation, and cultural awareness, as well as to projects that are able to leverage the grant to raise further funding from government or other funders. Applications for any size of project up to \$250,000 will be considered.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Foundation Manager on 022-595-8700 before submitting an expression of interest. Subject to review, the fund is expected to be repeated annually.

Media Contact: Stephen Brandon | info@whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz

Policy Reference: <https://www.whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz/page/whanganui-community-foundation-criteria-for-funding/5/8/>

About Whanganui Community Foundation

Whanganui Community Foundation’s role is to help community organisations to carry out charitable, educational, cultural, philanthropic and recreational activities in the wider Whanganui area. We do this by making grants, providing professional development opportunities for community organisations and providing advisory services and other community development activities.