

Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund - Strengthening Ākonga Resilience to Achieve Better Education Outcomes Frequently Asked Questions

1. SECTION: BACKGROUND

	Question	Answer
1.1	What is the purpose of the Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (the Fund)?	To support ākonga (aged 12 to 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic to stay engaged in their education journey.
1.2	Why is the Fund needed?	We know there are ākonga who have had their learning impacted as a result of COVID-19 (including Alert Level changes) and are either already disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging, from their education.
1.3	How does this Fund align to the Youth Plan?	The Youth Plan sets out the actions that government will take, in partnership with others, to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 for rangatahi. In line with the Youth Plan, the Fund will also have a particular focus on the following groups of young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangatahi Māori • Pacific young people • Rainbow young people • Disabled young people.
1.4	How will the Fund do this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Fund will support community-based programmes that will help ākonga to re-engage in their learning journey. • The community-based programmes we are seeking are those that use a strength-based youth development approach, providing holistic support to ākonga and, working with their whānau, and the wider community, including education providers.
1.5	Who is administering the Fund?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will administer the Fund. • This Fund is a partnership initiative between the MYD and the Ministry of Education (MoE).
1.6	When does the Request for Proposal (RFP) open?	The RFP will be available on the Government Electronic Tender System (GETS) from Monday 16 November 2020.
1.7	When can a response to the RFP be submitted?	SmartyGrants will open for responses to the RFP on Monday 23 November 2020.
1.8	When does the RFP close?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RFP will close 12 noon, Tuesday 12 January 2021. • All responses must be completed on SmartyGrants. • Incomplete or late responses will not be accepted.

2. SECTION: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

	Question	Answer
2.1	Who is this Fund for?	To support Iwi and community-based youth development programmes delivered outside of traditional education settings (e.g. schools/kura) to support ākonga (aged 12 to 21

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		years) who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to stay engaged in their education journey.
2.2	What outcomes will this Fund achieve?	<p>Ākonga who participate in the programmes supported through this Fund will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an increased level of engagement in their learning and aspiration for their future or will have transitioned to further training or employment • have stronger connections with their community (e.g. youth and support services).
		<p>However, the measure of success for ākonga will be different and dependent on the level of support needed, their engagement in the programme, and their aspirations.</p>
2.3	Who should consider applying?	<p>Responses are being sought from Iwi and community-based youth development providers who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a proven history of national/regional/local programme delivery to at risk communities • are skilled at connecting with disengaged ākonga and/or ākonga at risk of disengaging, and their whānau • can identify the needs of local ākonga who are at risk of disengaging from education, due to the impact of COVID-19 and provide a way to address these needs.
		<p>Collaborative applications from community and education providers/practitioners are encouraged to ensure ākonga and their whānau build positive relationships with community and education providers/practitioners, and receive the right information and support to help them on their education journey.</p>
2.4	Are there any pre-conditions that must be met?	Yes. Iwi and community-based youth development providers must be legally recognised organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand.
2.5	What programmes are eligible for funding?	<p>Programmes (including programme delivery) must satisfy all the points below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>be no less than ten weeks per year, and</u> • <u>commence in Term 1 of the 2021 academic year,</u> and • <u>satisfy 1 to 3 below.</u>
		<p>1. Include holistic support to ākonga through building self-esteem, belonging and identity, mental wellbeing and healthy relationships, all of which support ākonga to engage in their education. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support ākonga who have shown increases in anxiety, mental distress, verbal and/or physically

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		<p>aggressive and or challenging (violent, truant or anti-social) behaviour since lockdown, and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop pathways for ākonga to re-enter into education due to high levels of anxiety as a result of COVID-19. <p>2. Work with ākonga, their whānau, and the wider community, including education providers (including education providers e.g. schools, alternative education, education training providers, kura) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify additional engagement barriers for individual ākonga, and • help build/strengthen the following protective factors for individual ākonga: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ quality relationships (ākonga engaged for at least ten weeks) and/or ○ support ākonga to develop/learn skills and experience success with aspirational goals and/or ○ strengthen community connections, mana and sense of identity for ākonga. <p>3. Support ākonga through a strengths-based youth development approach to stay in education and/or support transitions to further training or employment to leverage off other initiatives that support the All of Government recovery response to COVID-19.</p>
2.6	<p>What other things will you take into consideration?</p>	<p>Due consideration will be given to programmes that satisfy one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovative in the approach used to meet local needs of ākonga who are engaged or at risk of disengaging as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (e.g. collaborative partnerships, programme design and delivery, new programme or component meets an existing gap and need within the community etc.) • readily available, or able to start operating or expand quickly to ensure that ākonga receive the support as soon as possible to meet immediate demand • have the ability to connect to other government-funded initiatives to support ākonga (aged 16 to 21 years) to transition to further training and or employment • are being delivered in areas where the numbers of ākonga who are disengaged and/or at risk of disengaging are high as a result of the impact of COVID-19 • targeted at rangatahi Maori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people and disabled young people.

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		Funding is time limited.
2.7	How much funding is available?	A total of approximately \$7.8 million will be distributed through the Fund to support delivery for two academic years only (i.e. 2021 and 2022).
		Depending on the scale and reach of each programme, a range of 50% to 100% of programme costs will be considered.
2.8	Is there a template for this RFP?	There is no programme design and delivery template. A response to the RFP must be provided through SmartyGrants (please see FAQs section 4). SmartyGrants will open for responses to the RFP on Monday 23 November 2020. The link will be available on the Ministry of Youth Development website http://myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html
2.9	Is a provider able to provide both holistic supports plus educational opportunity/environment if suitably qualified to do so?	We are seeking proposals from suitably competent and experienced community-based providers that demonstrate a strengths-based youth development approach (see Section 1 of the FAQs and the RFP).
2.10	Are you able to advise what measurable KPI's you have in mind, as well as the volume/numbers of Ākonga requiring assistance in each region?	The outcomes for this fund are described in section 2 of the FAQs. There are no formal KPIs. The measure of success for ākonga will be different and dependent on the level of support needed, their engagement in the programme, and their aspirations. Respondents to the RFP are expected to be able to identify local ākonga at risk of disengaging from education, due to the impact of COVID-19.
2.11	What is the no. of ākonga that MYD would consider as 'a minimum number' to participate in a development programme per year?	There are no set numbers of ākonga per programme per year. The number of ākonga will vary from locality to locality and depend on identified needs, evidence and programme costs (see also Section 2.3 of the FAQs).
2.12	Are we able to access data from the Ministry of Education that highlights the ākonga population size and the region where ākonga have been most impacted?	The Ministry of Education website (https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/home) has a wide range of statistical information and reports about education and learning, including regional profiles. Local and regional services (e.g. local schools and education providers, iwi, social services, government agencies) will also have some information that can help inform local evidence-gathering.
2.13	How much funding is available?	A total of approximately \$7.8 million will be distributed through the Fund to support delivery for two academic years only (i.e. 2021 and 2022).

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		<p><u>Point of clarification for the above answer:</u></p> <p>This means a total of approximately \$3.9 million per year will be distributed to successful respondents via two-year contracts.</p>
2.14	We are a national organisation with independent regional entities. Do we have to put in one proposal for the National funding category or can each branch apply separately?	Independent legal entities can submit one proposal for the Fund.
2.15	Is there support available to help providers to apply for the Fund? Similar to what was offered through the Provincial Growth Fund?	MYD is providing a series of regional Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund hui and Zoom hui (zhui) over two weeks to give all interested providers an opportunity to seek clarification or additional information.
2.16	How does this Fund intend to address equity?	The Fund was established as a targeted support for ākonga who have had their learning adversely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 to stay engaged in their education journey.
2.17	Is there a cap on how much you can apply for?	No. However, depending on the scale and reach of each programme, a range of 50% to 100% of programme costs will be considered.
2.18	We are a group of separate legal entities with reach in more than two regions. Can we apply through the National funding category?	Yes. Collaborative proposals that meet the requirements of the RFP are encouraged. Collaborative proposals must be led by one provider adhering to the funding categories conditions.
2.19	Our organisation has two programmes that we think meet the requirements of the RFP. Can we put in two proposals?	No. Respondents can only submit one Proposal.
2.20	Is the premise behind the new Fund to create new programmes that align with the funding guidelines or to support programmes that are already making an impact and engage young people in the community/nationwide?	<p>The purpose of the Fund is to support ākonga (aged 12 to 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19, to support them to stay engaged in their education journey.</p> <p>We are seeking innovative community-based programmes that will help ākonga to re-engage in their learning journey. Collaborative partnerships, new components or programme design and delivery changes may all meet this need.</p>
2.21	How often do you need to report on this funding? Can this be built into the reporting timeline that your organisation already adheres to? Most charities have multiple funders and reporting is an	The RFP (available on GETS and on the MYD website) includes an indicative Outcomes Agreement to ensure all interested respondents are aware of the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

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	onerous part of the job which is not the main reason we do what we do.	
2.22	Why are NEETs excluded from this Fund?	Not all NEETs are excluded from the Fund. Ākonga who are enrolled in the Ministry of Social Development Youth Service NEET programmes are already receiving support and funding.
2.23	The RFP says that “successful proposals must have, or are applying for, Level 3, 2 or 1 Social Service Accreditation (SSA) prior to being contracted”. Are providers without Level 3 ineligible?	<p>Programmes contracted under the Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund need to begin in Term 1, 2021. To do this they will need to have SSA accreditation at Level 3, 2 or 1.</p> <p>Organisations without SSA and considering submitting a Proposal may wish to consider the advantages of a collaborative proposal with a lead provider who has the requisite SSA.</p> <p>The Ministry will not enter into negotiations with any lead providers who do not have Level 3, 2, or 1 Social Service Accreditation at the time of contracting.</p>
2.24	Is flexibility intended by the statement “programmes must be of at least 10 weeks duration each year”?	The programme that you intend to deliver must be at least 10 weeks in duration. How this looks in practice is dependent on the evidence and data you have about what is best practice for disengaged ākonga in your community.

3. SECTION: POST-ASSESSMENT

	Question	Answer
3.1	Who will assess the proposals?	A joint MYD and MoE assessment panel will be established to assess the open tender contestable fund.
3.2	When will I know if my proposal has been successful?	A decision regarding successful proposals will be made no later than February 2021.
		Successful proposals will be negotiated no later than February 2021 and delivery must commence in Term 1 of the 2021 Academic year.
		Successful proposals must have, or are applying for, Level 3, 2 or 1 Social Service Accreditation prior to be contracted.
3.3	When will the funding be available?	All successful proposals must have the appropriate level of Social Service Accreditation prior to being contracted.
		On completion of a signed contract.

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3.4	When will I be able to access information about successful proposals?	A list of successful applicants, including funding amount will be posted on the MYD and/or MoE website/s following completion of the open tender contestable funding round no later than March 2021.
3.5	If my application is unsuccessful in this round, will there be other funding rounds?	The fund is time limited.
		If the fund is not fully committed, MYD may undertake a further funding round in March 2021.
3.6	When will we know if we are successful?	A decision regarding successful proposals will be made no later than February 2021 (see FAQs).
		Unsuccessful respondents will be notified no later than March 2021 (see RFP).

4. SECTION: SMARTYGRANTS

	Question	Answer
4.1	What is SmartyGrants?	SmartyGrants is an online platform. MYD uses SmartyGrants to support responses/applications for any contestable funding rounds that it administers.
4.2	How do I access SmartyGrants?	SmartyGrants will open for responses to the RFP on Monday 23 November 2020 . A link and further instructions will be available on the MYD website.
4.3	Who can help me if I have any problems with SmartyGrants?	If you need help, please email Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz
4.4	How can I make sure SmartyGrants understands I am submitting a Proposal as a single legal entity?	Please make sure that you: 1. tick the appropriate single legal entity box under 'Funding Category'. 2. write, <i>N.A. Single entity proposal</i> , under 'Collaborative organisation names' 3. tick, as a single entity lead provider, the compulsory fields - 'I confirm the named collaborating organisations above have agreed to be part of this Proposal Response Form; and I confirm I have the authority on behalf of the collaborative organisations to complete this Proposal Response Form' 4. write, <i>N.A. Single entity proposal</i> , in the section 'If this is a collaborative proposal, clearly describe each collaborating organisation's size, structure and annual operating budget.' 5. tick, as a single entity lead provider, the compulsory field - 'I confirm on behalf of the collaborating organisations that collectively

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		we have the capacity to deliver the proposed Solution in full, on time and budget, with the outcomes proposed.'
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5. SECTION: GENERAL

	Question	Answer
5.1	Who can I contact for help?	Please email Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz if you need help.
5.2	Are there any Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)?	Yes. A set of FAQs will be posted along with the Request for Proposal document and draft Outcomes Agreement on GETS.
		Updated FAQs will be posted on the MYD website: http://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html
5.3	What if I have a question?	You can send your question/s to Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz . We will endeavour to respond to all questions within 48 hours of receipt.
		Alternatively, you can attend an information hui/zhui. Details will be posted on the MYD website: http://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html .
5.4	Can I send my response in via email or hard copy?	No. Responses will only be accepted through SmartyGrants.