



Rural Community Hubs

Rural Community Hubs are intended to re-energise and empower community groups to respond to the challenges they face.

What is the purpose of the programme?

Rural Community Hubs help strengthen the resilience, connectedness and wellbeing of communities. The programme assists rural communities to:

- support their ability to adjust and respond positively to change;
- enhance social connections (build community cohesion);
- facilitate the pathway to employment (adult education, such as computer literacy training and driver education programmes);
- support improved access to government funded services (health, welfare assistance, other funding paths);
- build social and community support networks to enable them to take control and tackle challenges they face.

When was the initiative launched?

The first Hub funded through the programme was in Tikitiki on the East Cape in December 2019.

How many Hubs have already been funded?

Funding was allocated for four Hubs in the 2019-20 financial year. They were in Tikitiki, Taumarunui, Tuterumuri and Kekerengu.

What criteria does a community need to meet to be eligible for funding?

Communities seeking funding for a Hub should have:

- a motivated and committed group with strong leadership and the capability to drive the project;
- a plan to improve community connectedness/engagement and access to wellbeing services;
- a list of priority issues and problems in the community to address;
- a desire to seek additional support, including funding, grants, sponsorship or donations, to ensure the project's long-term sustainability.

Can a community apply to be part of the programme if it already has existing funding?

Yes. Communities that may have already been successful in receiving a grant from another source can apply for this funding. Rural Community Hubs are designed to build community resilience and could complement, for example, funding provided for economic development.

How does a community apply for funding for a Rural Community Hub?

The first step in the process is to write and submit a formal Expression of Interest. The EOI should include background about your community, its goals and aspirations for a Hub. It's important to outline what the funding will be used for and what it will achieve. The Rural Communities and Farming Support team is available to discuss how the Hub might be shaped, prior to a formal EOI being submitted.

How much funding is given to establish each Hub?

Community groups and organisations receive start-up funding to help establish each Hub. The money can be used to employ a part-time co-ordinator to assist with running activities and writing a work plan for the development of future initiatives or setting up appropriate support activities. Capacity in the community to do this is crucial, and a self-sustaining model over time will need creative, dedicated people from the community to lead the project.

