

### What is the Regional Covid Hardship Fund?

Sport NZ has developed a recovery package to help support play, active recreation and sport organisations in the Northland, Auckland and Waikato regions to get back on their feet following the time spent at Alert Level 3 and 4 lockdowns during 2021.

The Regional Covid Hardship Fund aims to provide financial support to organisations that have experienced financial hardship as a result of time spent at Alert Level 3 and 4 during the period 17 August to 30 November 2021.

### Who is the Regional Covid Hardship Fund for?

The Regional Covid Hardship Fund aims to provide financial support to organisations based in the Northland, Auckland and Waikato regions who deliver play, active recreation and sport opportunities that have experienced financial hardship as a result of extended time at Alert Levels 3 and 4 in the period 17 August to 30 November 2021.

### What does the Regional Covid Hardship Fund cover?

This Fund is intended to help cover **fixed administration and operating costs** that relate to providing play, active recreation and sport experiences, for organisations that are experiencing financial hardship (through loss of revenue) caused by the impact of time Auckland spent at Alert Levels 3 and 4 (**17 August – 30 November 2021**).

Examples of what is covered by the fund:

Rent

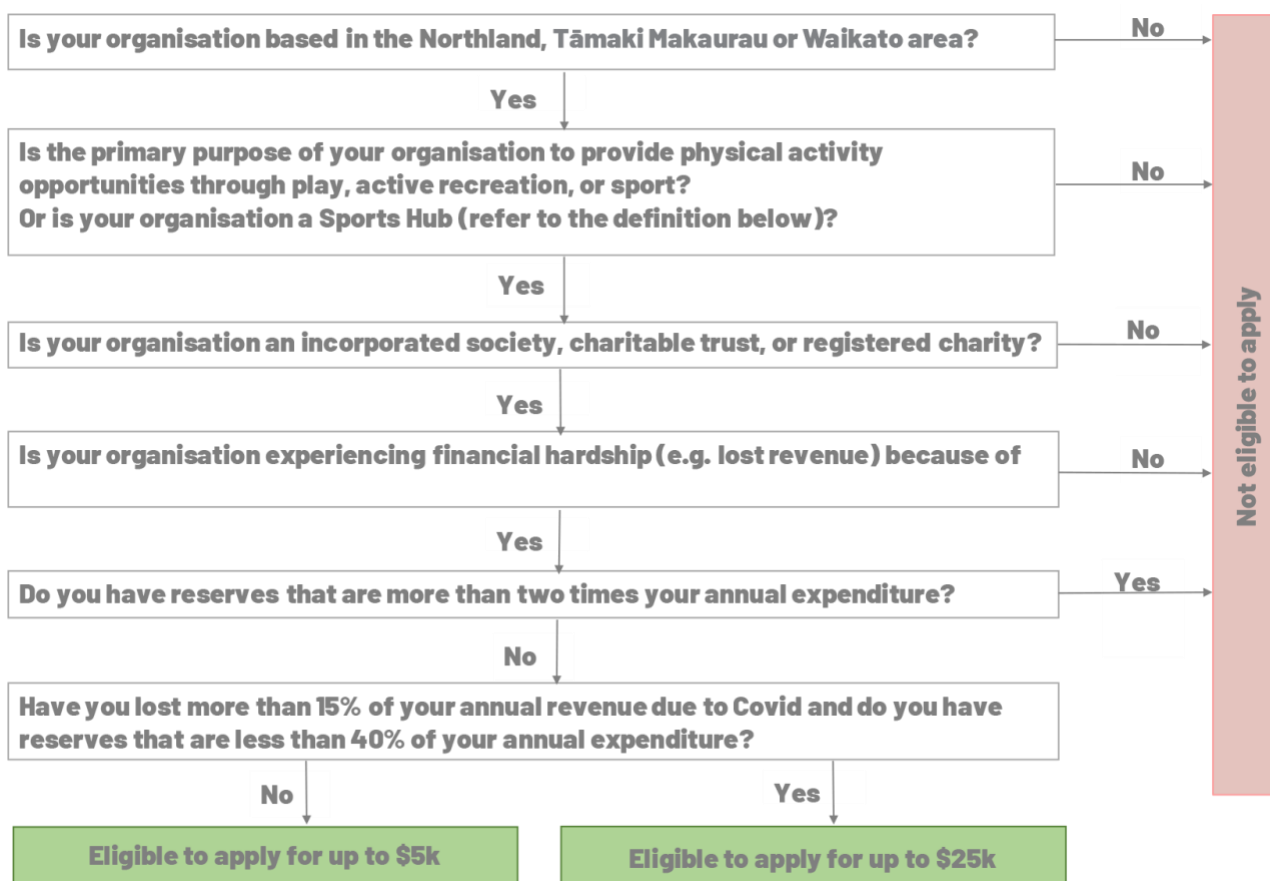
Power, Internet, Phone costs

Bank Fees, Payroll Expenses

There are a few costs that may not have been incurred during to the time spent at Alert Levels 3 and 4 (**17 August – 30 November 2021**) that can be covered, they are Insurance, Audit fees, Rent and Rates. These costs can be pro-rated. This means you can claim the portion of the cost that relate to the time spent at Alert Levels 3 and 4 (**17 August – 30 November 2021**) ie  $106 \text{ days} / 365 = 29\%$  of your annual charge.

### Can we confirm that our organisation is eligible before we begin an application?

Yes. You can use the diagram below to test your eligibility. Please also read the [Regional Covid Hardship Fund guidelines](#) before you begin your application. This includes a description of the types of organisations that are eligible.



**Definition of Sport Hub:**

A Sports Hub is a partnership where organisations co-locate or share facilities and/or services strategically, sometimes via an independently governed group, within a defined geographical area, to provide sustainable, quality sport and recreation experiences.

To be an eligible Sports Hub, you must be:

- an established operating sports hub with two or more sports clubs that are affiliated to their relevant Regional Sport Organisation (RSO) or National Sport Organisation (NSO).
- able to demonstrate that there is wider community engagement, availability and use of hub facilities and services to the wider community.
- able to demonstrate that you are delivering initiatives on behalf of members and wider community interests to improve rates of community participation in play, active recreation and sport.

**What do you mean by active recreation?**

Active recreation is the term we use to describe ‘generally non-competitive physical activities for the purpose of wellbeing and enjoyment’.

It includes activities that:

- occur in built, landscaped and natural environments (including outdoor recreation, fitness/exercise, community recreation, aquatics, informal activity and play)
- are undertaken both by individuals and by groups
- occur both with and without the active involvement of a ‘provider’ group or organisation (i.e. independently)

It is likely undertaken as ‘informal activity’ with people choosing to be active when they want, with whom they want, and at a time and for a duration that best suits them.

**We applied for Community Resilience Fund in 2020. Can we apply for Regional Covid Hardship Fund?**

Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Regional Covid Hardship Fund Guidelines and if you have costs to include in your application.

### **We were told we were not eligible for Community Resilience Fund. Can we apply for Regional Covid Hardship Fund?**

Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Regional Covid Hardship Fund Guidelines. Applicants for the original Community Resilience Fund had to be affiliated to Sport NZ national partners, but this is not a requirement for Regional Covid Hardship Fund.

### **We applied for Tāmaki Makaurau Sector Support Fund last year. Can we apply for Regional Covid Hardship Fund?**

Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Regional Covid Hardship Fund Guidelines and if you have costs to include in your application. Any awards made through Regional Covid Hardship Fund will consider what you received from the Tāmaki Makaurau Sector Support Fund.

### **What's the difference between the Regional Covid Hardship Fund and Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa?**

The Regional Covid Hardship Fund is aimed at helping play, active recreation and sport organisations that have experienced financial hardship, as a result of the time Auckland spent at Alert Level 3 and 4 in the period 17 August to 18 October 2021. It is to help ensure that those organisations are able to continue delivering quality physical activity experiences to get Every Body Active in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa provides funding for quality play, active recreation and sport experiences for children and young people. It has been established drawing on insights from a number of sources, including the KiwiSport Review, the impact of Covid-19 on specific groups and the management of other funds. It is particularly focused on groups that are less active or missing out on opportunities.

### **How do we apply?**

All applications must be submitted via the online application form located on [the Sport Waikato website](#). by **27 March 2022**.

If you are unable to access the online application form, please contact [rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz](mailto:rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz)

### **We are a bunch of volunteers – can we get help with completing the application form?**

Yes, please contact us at [rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz](mailto:rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz) and we will put you in contact with someone who can help.

### **How much can we apply for?**

This Fund is intended to help cover fixed administration and operating costs that relate to providing play, active recreation and sport experiences, for organisations that are experiencing financial hardship (through loss of revenue) caused by the impact of time Waikato spent at Alert Level 3 and 4 (17 August until 31 December 2021). Please refer to the Guidelines for more information about the types of costs that you may include, and the costs that are not be covered.

No applicant will be awarded more than \$25,000 across the Tāmaki Makaurau Sector Support Fund and the Regional Covid Hardship Fund.

A question in the application form that asks if you're applying for more than \$5,000. When answering this consider what funding you received from the Tāmaki Makaurau Sector Support Fund. If you answer no to this, the maximum you will be awarded is \$5,000, and there will be fewer questions for you to answer.

### **Will our application be considered if we have cash reserves?**

Yes, organisations with cash reserves are eligible to apply, but we will consider the amount of your reserves

when we determine your award.

It is good financial management to hold cash reserves to cover costs in case of unexpected events. You may also be saving for a significant capital outlay, such as new building work or major repairs.

You are required to provide information about cash reserves and savings in the application. This will be considered when assessing your financial hardship. Please refer to the guidelines for more information.

#### **How do I determine cash reserves?**

**Cash reserves** are defined as cash and cash equivalents that an organisation can use for operational purposes.

**Tagged cash reserves** are defined as cash reserves that have been formally set aside for a specific purpose.

Examples of tagged reserves include:

- Membership subscriptions received for the upcoming season
- Wage subsidy received for wages that are yet to be paid
- Commitments agreed at a board or committee meeting
- Cash accounted for as income in advance
- Grant funding tagged for specific purposes, such as for building projects

If you are unsure if your reserves are tagged, provide details of your plans for your reserves in your application and your assessor will contact you if there is any further information required.

#### **We want to develop new programmes or events, or modify existing offerings, so that we can have better options available for participants later in the year. Can we use the fund for this?**

No, the Regional Covid Hardship Fund is specifically to help organisations keep delivering the play, active recreation, and sport programmes that are already up and running, but that are at risk because of financial impact of time spent at Alert Level 3 and 4.

Please refer to the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa Guidelines about opportunities to support new delivery.

#### **Can we apply for court/turf hire for future bookings?**

No, future bookings costs are not eligible. However, you can apply for help to pay court and turf hire costs that you needed to pay in the period 17 August to 30 November 2021, you can't apply for costs of bookings outside that timeframe.

#### **Can we apply for affiliation fees?**

No, affiliation fees are not eligible.

#### **We are a sport organisation but not affiliated to a Sport NZ partner. Can we apply?**

Yes, your organisation does not need to be affiliated to a Sport NZ partner to apply for support from this fund. Please check the eligibility requirements before beginning your application.

#### **Can any member of the organisation submit the application?**

Yes, but this person must be authorised to submit the application on behalf of your organisation. Your application must include the name of an official who takes responsibility for the organisation's application, such as the Treasurer or Chairperson. You must only submit one application per organisation.

#### **Do we need to provide evidence of the bills we've paid with money received from the fund?**

The assessor of your application will undertake random checks by contacting successful applicants later in the year to ask for evidence of how the money was used. You do not need to send evidence unless requested.

#### **Will others know how much we receive from the fund?**

Yes, Sport Waikato and Sport NZ will publish information about all successful applicants on their website (applicant name and the amount awarded).

#### **Why is the rest of the country not receiving any support?**

Northland, Auckland and Waikato have obviously experienced an extended periods at Alert Levels 4 and 3, and this has had a particularly strong impact on the region's sport and recreation sector. Sport NZ has monitored the impact of the Delta Outbreak on all regions through the network of regional sports trusts, and we believe focusing support on Northland, Auckland and Waikato is the most appropriate response. We also know from our research that the effects of Alert Levels 4 and 3 are more profound than lower alert levels.

#### **Last year was a bad year due to Covid, however, I have not lost more than 15% of our full-years income, am I still eligible to apply?**

Possibly, if your lost income from this period at Alert 4 and 3 (17 August until 31 December 2021) is more the 15% of you lost income from the 2020 or financial year, and you meet the other requirements found in the Guidelines you are eligible to apply. If you are unsure please contact [rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz](mailto:rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz)

#### **Can I apply for lost revenue?**

No, having lost income is an indicator of hardship but the fund does not cover lost income. You may have eligible costs that you can claim to offset lost income. Please check the Guidelines for details on what the fund covers.

#### **Can I apply for funding to cover Council Rates?**

Yes, you can include as a fixed cost a pro-rated portion of your rates from the 17 August to 30 November 2021.

#### **I received funding from the Outdoor Education Support Fund. Am I eligible to apply to the Regional Covid Hardship Fund?**

Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Regional Covid Hardship Fund Guidelines and if you have costs to include in your application. Any awards made through Regional Covid Hardship Fund will consider what you received from the Outdoor Education Support Fund. If you have received more than \$25,000 from the Outdoor Education Support Fund, you cannot apply to the Regional Covid Hardship Fund.

#### **Where can I access information?**

For further information, please visit the Sport Waikato website [here](#). You can also email [rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz](mailto:rcf@sportwaikato.org.nz)