



Community Support Package for North Island Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle

Provider factsheet

Community Support Package

On Monday 13 February, the Government announced a time-limited \$11.5 million Community Support Package to help those affected by the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Community Support package for response and recovery efforts, includes:

- **Community support fund (\$2 million)**
- **Provider support fund (\$4 million)**
- **Food fund (\$1 million)**
- **Support through Community Connectors (\$4 million)**
- **Support for disabled people (\$0.5 million)**

This Community Support Package aims to relieve pressure on community groups and contracted providers so they can continue to deliver their response and recovery efforts for individuals, whānau and communities.

This Community Support Package funding is time-limited and only available until 30 June 2023. However, the extent of the damage caused by the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, and the appropriate levels of support, are not yet fully known.

Funding information

1. The 'Food fund', 'Support through Community Connectors' and 'Support for disabled people' will be distributed as grants direct to communities and providers most affected. Note, there is no open application process for this funding.
2. Both the 'Community Support Fund' and 'Provider Support Fund' are open for applications through the Ministry of Social Development [website](http://www.msd.govt.nz) (www.msd.govt.nz) from 16 January 2023. However, as some community groups or providers involved in response and recovery efforts may not be able to complete an application, we will be proactively contacting those who may be eligible.
3. Applications will be prioritised based on communities and areas most impacted by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, taking into consideration those with accessibility barriers (including those not easily able to connect to existing services), and those from more vulnerable population groups.
4. There may also be providers or community groups that have incurred costs already as part of their response and recovery efforts, so retrospective applications may be considered on a case-by-case basis. MSD and other government agencies will work through this with identified community groups and providers.
5. If you are impacted by infrastructure or connectivity issues or cannot apply for funding online, please engage regional MSD staff who will assist you to access funding. This maybe through provision of hard copy application forms to complete.
6. Current regions of focus are Northland, Auckland, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Tararua District. If families have relocated to outside of these regions but still need support, we can consider applications that relate to this from community groups or providers on a case-by-case basis.

Community support fund

This funding is for local community groups, who are not contracted by a government agency. This fund is capped at \$3,500 per organisation.

Examples of community groups who can apply are:

- Local marae, whānau, hapū, iwi
- Multicultural councils
- Ethnic community organisations
- Community Hubs
- Faith based, religious and church groups
- Not-for-profit organisations and social enterprise

Community groups can apply to the [Community Support Fund](https://www.msd.govt.nz) via the MSD website (www.msd.govt.nz) from 16 February 2023.

Provider support fund

This funding is for providers who already have government contracts in the social sector. This fund is capped at \$7,000 per organisation.

This funding will allow eligible providers to continue to deliver their response and recovery efforts, respond to increased demand on their services, and support the wellbeing of their staff and volunteers. This funding is not intended to replace or cover insurance related matters.

Providers can apply to the [Provider Support Fund](https://www.msd.govt.nz) via the MSD website (www.msd.govt.nz) from 16 February 2023.

Food fund

This funding will support existing community food providers to refill their stocks and respond to current demand in affected communities. This funding will be distributed through existing systems, including the New Zealand Food Network which supports community food providers by facilitating bulk purchasing of essential food items. Note, there is no open application process for this funding.

Support through Community Connectors

Community Connectors were established in June 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Connectors are employed by non-government organisations and are a trusted service for individuals, families and whānau. As such, Community Connectors are an important interface between communities and the many types of support options available through government agencies or other service providers.

The funding will support existing Community Connectors to widen the scope of the support they provide – from their current remit of supporting people impacted by COVID-19, to also supporting those affected by the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Each Community Connector has access to discretionary funding to support their work on a case-by-case basis.

Support for disabled people

This funding will support disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and/or their households to access support for immediate and unexpected needs due the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

Disabled people do not need to be receiving Disability Support Service funding from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People or from another government agency to be apply for this support.

Note, this dedicated funding to support disabled people is in addition to other support available through the Community Support Package that available to organisations supporting disabled people.

More information about accessing this support for disabled people can be found on the MSD website (www.msd.govt.nz).

For more information or assistance

Any questions about initiatives outlined above in relation to the Community Support Package for people impacted by North Island Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, can be emailed to: Community.Information@msd.govt.nz

This inbox is currently being actively monitored to support the quick rollout of the Community Support Package.