Māori Development Fund

Eligibility and Investment Criteria

Māori Development Fund Eligibility Criteria

For a Proposal to be eligible for investment, it must meet all the eligibility criteria set out below. Proposals that do not meet these criteria will be declined on eligibility grounds.

To be eligible for investment, Proposals must:

a. Be made by a single legal entity based in New Zealand, including the following:	a. registered incorporated society b. limited liability company c. trust incorporated under the Charitable Trust Act 1957 and registered with the Companies Office d. statutory entity, including a Māori Trust Board (Māori Trust Boards Act 1955) or Māori Association (Māori Community Development Act 1962), Māori Incorporation e. trusts and Incorporations set up under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 f. other entities with a demonstrated ability to receive and administer Government funds. **Note:** Groups can partner with a legal entity, or a legal entity can act as an umbrella organisation for another entity or group of entities, with the documented consent of those groups.
b. Meet due diligence requirements for investment, including:	a. entity can meet their financial obligations b. if co-funding is required from entities other than the applicant, written confirmation of their commitment to contribute the stated amount must be provided with the proposal c. any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest are declared, able to reasonably be managed, and a management plan is in place d. if a decision-making member of the organisation has been declared bankrupt or convicted of offences that could impact the initiative or reasonably be seen to bring it, or Te Puni Kōkiri, into disrepute, a management plan sufficiently addressing the risk must be provided e. identifies potential risks and has mitigations in place to manage these f. governance approval is evidenced. For proposals involving joint governance or an umbrella organisation, written confirmation of governance or ownership arrangements must include agreement from all parties, and provisions for conflict resolution and exit g. providing a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy if the Proposal includes working with children (under 18 years) or vulnerable adults h. a completed proposal that is signed and endorsed by an authorised signatory.
c. Intend to deliver the Investment Outcomes of at least one of the two Investment Priorities in the Māori Development Fund Investment Plan, or an initiative building capability to deliver economic, social and cultural outcomes for local Māori communities.	

⚠ **Proposals will not be eligible for investment if they are for:**	a. activities that will mostly be undertaken outside of New Zealand (some very limited exceptions may be possible if the activities are essential for the delivery of a specific initiative) b. international travel and accommodation c. initiatives with options for alternative finance or funding from other sources and investment from the Māori Development Fund would not significantly accelerate change d. business-as-usual activities for the kaitono such as operational costs e. legal advocacy, arbitration/mediation, or litigation costs, including court costs (legal advice of other kinds may be able to be funded) f. purchase of vehicles, buildings, land, businesses, or shares g. retrospective events and activities h. alcohol i. medical bills j. payment of existing debts. k. events that have a political component or purpose.

Māori Development Fund investment criteria

Eligible proposals will be prioritised for investment if they meet the following investment criteria:

1. Provide data and evidence to demonstrate the achievement of investment outcomes.	Te Puni Kōkiri is required to report on the outcomes delivered by the Māori Development Fund. To enable this, proposals must clearly describe the change achieved as a result of the investment. Kaitono agree to provide Te Puni Kōkiri with relevant data and evidence to demonstrate that the investment outcomes have been achieved.
2. Provide credible evidence to substantiate the expected return on investment.	Kaitono must provide credible data and analysis that demonstrates how the expected return on investment will be achieved.
3. Demonstrate a robust, specific and credible plan to secure any further investment that the initiative may need for implementation.	The Māori Development Fund is not intended to provide ongoing funding for programmes and services. Proposals should clearly identify how the initiative will be implemented (including how implementation will be funded), how the initiative will remain financially viable once Te Puni Kōkiri funding ceases, and the plan to achieve self-sustainability. Applications for, or intentions to seek, further Government funding will not be considered sufficient unless exceptional circumstances demonstrate that this approach is credible.
4. Avoid duplication of Government investment and support.	a. Te Puni Kōkiri seeks to make a distinct contribution to Māori wellbeing and development. Kaitono are expected to demonstrate they have explored whether other agencies may be the more appropriate funding or co-funding partners, to ensure Te Puni Kōkiri funding is not used for activities typically supported by other agencies. b. Where Te Puni Kōkiri co-funds a proposal with another Government agency, the activities it supports must be clearly distinct from those funded by the other agency and capable of being independently attributed. c. If a kaitono submits multiple proposals, including across multiple Te Puni Kōkiri offices, these will be consolidated wherever possible into a single proposal to avoid duplication.
5. Maintain a balanced portfolio of investment across investment priorities, entities, and regional distribution	a. Investments are expected to be distributed in a balanced way across investment priorities, regions and entities. b. The overall balance of the investment portfolio may be considered when assessing proposals, including proposals seeking significant funding, repeat funding, or funding for activities already supported through other investments.
6. Demonstrate that costs are reasonable and deliver value for money, with benefits proportionate to the investment scale and shared beyond a single entity	Proposals must provide sufficient detail on costs to enable analysis of the relative value of expenditure. Where costs are considered comparatively high, justification may be requested and will be considered as part of investment decision-making. Proposals are required to demonstrate that benefits are proportionate to the scale of investment and more widely shared. They must be shared beyond a single entity.
7. Show a clear need for funding by demonstrating that kaitono cannot self-fund or secure other funding, and that without Māori Development Fund support the initiative would not proceed or would be significantly reduced or delayed.	Kaitono must provide clear evidence that available organisational resources and alternative funding sources are insufficient, and that without Māori Development Fund support the initiative would not proceed or would be materially reduced, delayed, or delivered at a lesser scale, scope, or pace. A decision to prioritise available funds for other activities or investments will not, on its own, be sufficient evidence of funding need.