

Grant Criteria

October Grant Round 2025

INTRODUCTION

How our funding works

When donors establish a fund with Top of the South Community Foundation, they can choose who or what their generosity will benefit. Our funding priorities align with the preferences of those community-spirited individuals, families, and organisations that have set up funds with us.

Introduction to the TSCF Rounds 2025 -26

As TSCF grows, the funding we have available will support a wider range of kaupapa and in different locations. This year, to make it clearer what you can apply for and when, we are splitting the TSCF annual grant round into smaller grant rounds. In previous years, we have had only one grant round.

October Grant Round

The October Grant Round has only one fund – it is our largest fund and is available to organisations working across Nelson Tasman

GSG Vulnerable and Underprivileged Families Fund

1. Purpose and Framework

This fund supports vulnerable and underprivileged families across the Tasman-Nelson region. This includes both entire family units and specific individuals whose circumstances materially affect household wellbeing. The Fund provides need-based assistance via vetted community and charitable organisations.

2. Definition of Vulnerable and Underprivileged

A broad and inclusive interpretation applies. Community or charitable organisations may qualify if they provide support to families impacted by:

- Financial hardship
- Housing insecurity
- Health challenges (mental, physical, or disability-related)
- Social isolation
- Educational disadvantage

- Cultural exclusion (e.g., Māori, Pacific, migrant or other underserved communities)
- Intergenerational cycles of hardship
- Domestic violence
- Refugee resettlement.

Eligibility may arise from impacts on the household as a whole or individual members.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Delivery Organisations

Recipient organisations must:

- Be a community or charitable organisation
- Operate within the Tasman-Nelson region
- Deliver tangible direct support to eligible families or individuals
- Demonstrate cultural responsiveness
- Uphold transparent governance and responsible financial management
- Preference may be given to smaller organisations with limited access to other funding sources

4. Amounts available

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available.

There will be four \$10,000 grants available for 2 years (multi-year funding). If you wish to be considered for this, please indicate this on the application form.

**These funding levels are provisional and may be slightly adjusted based on applications received*

1) Further criteria for the October Grant Round

- i. To apply for these funds, you must be a charitable entity (for example, a charitable trust, charitable company or incorporated society), or a charitable trust must act as a fundholder for your application.
- ii. Organisations acting as fundholders can submit an application on their own behalf and also on behalf of other organisations.
- iii. You can only apply once in this grant round (unless you are a fundholder)
- iv. Most grants will be for one year with 4 x \$10,000 per year multi-year grants (\$10,000 per year for 2 years). If you indicate you want to be considered for a 2-year grant and are not successful, you will automatically be considered for a 1-year grant.

- v. We can cover some operational costs as a contribution to the whole project, but we will not fund operational costs exclusively.
- vi. Organisations must be based in our region, or provide a direct service to our region
- vii. We can fund 100% of a smaller project or contribute to a larger project. If your request is for a contribution to a larger project, please briefly explain how you will cover any other costs
- viii. The 'project' can be an ongoing service you offer. If it is a new project, please briefly describe similar work you have undertaken that shows us you can deliver on the outcomes you describe in the application.
- ix. We favour organisations that demonstrate an adaptable approach that responds to current community need
- x. The longer-term impact of the project is important, either through direct results or by linking to other kaupapa (outcomes question)
- xi. We will prioritise financially sustainable projects and organisations

TSCF does not fund:

- Religious or Political advocacy.
- Activities primarily focused on fundraising or regifting.
- Core education.
- Individuals (except for scholarships).
- Activities outside Te Tau Ihu, unless indicated by a specific donor.
- Retrospective claims

Timeline

- Applications open from 1 to 31 October 2025. For instructions on filling in the application form, please see our website and the 'Tips for Applicants' document
- November - The Distribution Committee reviews all applications and may request additional information, especially from first-time applicants.
- Late November - Decisions are finalised and communicated to applicants, we aim to distribute grants by the end of December.
- A short accountability report is due 12 months from the date of an offer letter

Other things to note

- Due to limited funds, we are unable to fund all applications.
- Please see our Tips for Applicants for more information on TSCF, terms and conditions and how to apply (accessing the portal etc). Available on the 'receiving a grant' page of our website.

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