

TOP OF THE SOUTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2026 ANNUAL GRANT ROUND

Funding Information for Community Groups

About TSCF and How Our Funding Works

Top of the South Community Foundation (TSCF) provides a platform for donors to invest in their community through regular and one-off giving, bequests, and long-term endowment funds.

When donors establish a fund with us, they can choose who or what their generosity will benefit. Our funding priorities reflect the preferences of those community spirited individuals, families, and organisations. As a result, the funding available, priorities, and locations supported may vary between grant rounds.

As TSCF grows, the funding we have available will support a wider range of kaupapa and communities across Te Taihū (Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough).

We encourage you to subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed about upcoming grant rounds: www.topsouthfoundation.org.nz/news

TSCF Grant Round

TSCF now offers one annual grant round, which brings all available funds together into a single, streamlined process.

Grant round open: 1–30 June

July: Applications are reviewed by the Distribution Committee. Additional information may be requested, particularly from first-time applicants.

August: Funding decisions are finalised and communicated to applicants. We aim to distribute grants by the end of August.

Unless otherwise stated, a short accountability report is due 12 months from the date of the offer letter. This report can be found under the 'Resources' page of our website.

Projects and organisations (unless acting as a fundholder) may only apply for **one grant fund**, but they can also apply for a Tindall Foundation Grant, for the same or a different project.

This is our only grant round this year. You're welcome to apply again, even if you received funding in September or October last year, and you don't need to have completed your accountability yet.

Funds Available in the Annual Grant Round

The following funds may be available within the annual grant round (funds and amounts may vary year to year):

GSG Wilson Fund [*Further details for this fund are provided in Appendix 1 below](#)

GSG Wilson 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.

Grants: Up to \$10,000

Nelson Tasman Environment Fund

Projects that help native species and ecosystems to thrive in Nelson and Tasman.

Grants: Up to \$3,000

Golden Bay Fund

Projects that support the community and natural environment in Golden Bay.

Grants: Up to \$3,000

General Fund

Projects supporting charitable purposes across Te Taihuhu/Top of the South, with a focus on helping those who need a hand up.

Grants: Up to \$3,000

Children and Youth Development Fund

Children and youth development initiatives in the Nelson and Tasman region, targeting those who need support to thrive.

Grants: Up to \$2,000

Employment Support Marlborough

Employment initiatives in Marlborough that support people into meaningful work.

Grants: Up to \$5,000

Marlborough Environment Fund [*Further details for this fund are provided in Appendix 2 below](#)

Projects supporting Marlborough's natural environment.

Grants: Up to \$6,000

Tindall Foundation Funds

We also encourage local charities to consider applying to a Tindall Foundation Grant, in their Family and Environment Focus areas. From this point onward, applications will be received directly through the Top of the South Community Foundation via our website. Criteria and further details are provided on our website under 'Receiving a Grant'.

Grants: Up to \$15,000

Funding levels are indicative and may be adjusted depending on applications received.

General Eligibility Criteria

Projects and organisations (unless acting as a fundholder) may only apply for one grant fund, but they can also apply for a Tindall Foundation Grant, for the same or a different project. If you have any questions, please contact us – info@topsouthfoundation.org.nz.

To be eligible for TSCF grants, organisations and projects must:

- Be a charitable entity (e.g. registered charity, incorporated society, charitable company), or have a charitable entity act as a fundholder
- Be based in Te Taihū or provide direct services to the region
- Deliver clear community benefit aligned with the relevant fund criteria
- Demonstrate good governance and responsible financial management
- Show cultural responsiveness

Organisations acting as fundholders may apply on their own behalf and on behalf of other groups.

Most grants are awarded for one year. However, the GSG Wilson Fund does offer some multi-year grants. You can indicate your interest in a multi-year grant when applying through the portal.

Fundraisers

A fundraiser is someone from outside the organisation who supports them to apply for funding. A fundraiser cannot accept terms and conditions for an application. Applications must show/include the financial arrangements of a fundraiser and the organisation, in the project budget. Application budgets must show that the fundraiser is paid at a flat fee or hourly rate which is paid irrespective of the outcome of the grant request.

What We Will and Will Not Fund

We May Fund:

- 100% of a small project, or a contribution to a larger project
- Operational costs where they contribute to the overall project
- Ongoing services or new initiatives (new projects should demonstrate relevant experience)

We Do Not Fund:

- Services or activities that promote commercial, political or religious activities
- Activities primarily for fundraising or regifting
- Core education
- Individuals (except scholarships)
- Retrospective costs
- Activities outside Te Taihū unless specified by a donor

How Funding Decisions Are Made

All applications are reviewed by a Distribution Committee made up of Board members, staff, grant advisors, and community representatives. The Committee makes recommendations to the TSCF Board, which makes final funding decisions.

Due to limited funds, not all applications can be supported; and applications may be partially funded if there is an oversubscription for eligible initiatives.

Application Process

All applications are submitted through the TSCF online funding portal.

Key Points to Note:

- You must register as a user the first time you access the portal
- Applications cannot be saved and returned to later — prepare responses in advance
- You must select the correct fund based on the published criteria
- You will need to upload bank account verification (in the fund holders name)
- A maximum of two supporting documents may be uploaded. We recommend you upload a Budget for your initiative (an example can be found on our website under Resources (www.topsouthfoundation.org.nz/faqs/resources/))
- Detailed application questions and instructions are provided on the portal.

Terms and Conditions (Summary)

Grant recipients must:

- Use funds only for the approved purpose and within the approved timeframe
- Return any unspent funds
- Complete accountability reporting as required
- Inform TSCF of any significant organisational changes
- Agree that TSCF may publicly acknowledge the grant

Failure to meet grant conditions may result in repayment being required.

Full terms and conditions are available on request and via the application portal.

Need Help?

If you have questions or would like support with your application, please contact:

Email: info@topsouthfoundation.org.nz

Website: www.topsouthfoundation.org.nz

We're happy to help you understand whether a TSCF grant is a good fit for your organisation.

Appendix 1: Criteria for the GSG Wilson 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.

Appendix 2: Criteria for the Marlborough Environment Fund

Any organisation, working with charitable purpose and with an environmental focus, based in Marlborough can apply.

Priority will be given to projects focused on:

- Public and Māori land
- Protecting and restoring under-represented native ecosystems that are relatively unmodified. Examples include wetlands and coastal areas
- Small local groups working on small to medium projects, particularly those with a strong volunteer component
- Innovation or trialling new approaches
- Financially sustainable projects and organisations.
- Projects can include: a focus on a specific species, particularly less well funded species; and the control of plant and animal pests as part of ensuring native ecosystem health.