

# Assistance for Businesses Coping with COVID-19

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## CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PACKAGE

**Why:** To buffer and provide support to the arts community

**Who:** Artists, arts practitioners, arts groups and arts organisations.

**What:** \$16 million in first phase, including \$4.5 million of new funding, \$11.5 million repurposed from other programmes. Phase two will provide support beyond June 2020. At this stage the resilience grants are being targeted as follows:

- Arts Continuity Grant (up to \$50k), supporting the creation of new work or the reframing of an existing project considering COVID-19, including creative and professional development, promotion and distribution.
- Emergency Relief Grant (up to \$10k per individual), for eligible artists and arts practitioners, collectives and groups that may be experiencing devastating loss of income and opportunity and an uncertain future and who have applied for the announced government support.
- Short-term Relief for Investment Clients, open to existing Creative NZ investment clients and on top of existing funding, with priority given to those materially negatively impacted by COVID-19 to help them stabilise their businesses and remain viable

**How:** Funding opens on 14 April and will be distributed to the sector through to June 2020. Regular updates are provided at <https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/covid-19-cnz-response>.

## CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

Thankful for Art (#TFA) has been developed by Creative New Zealand to celebrate the value the arts sector is bringing to people during the lockdown, as well as sharing ways New Zealanders can engage with, support and participate in the arts. Each day Creative NZ's social media channels will share specially commissioned works by a diverse range of NZ artists, as well as ways other people can be involved. For further information, visit [www.thankfulforart.co.nz](http://www.thankfulforart.co.nz).

## ARTS FOUNDATION

In the wake of the last few weeks, the Arts Foundation has been on a mission to boost opportunities for artists and amplify their impact. Even better, they are supported by a community of generous art lovers from all over the country who understand the value of arts on our collective wellbeing. Initiatives include:

- Boosted – a crowd funding platform just for the arts, which has an amazing 85% success rate in achieving funding targets. Boosted also provides one-on-one support to ensure your fundraising campaign is a success. Visit [www.boosted.org.nz](http://www.boosted.org.nz).
- Boosted Live – a space where creatives can live stream their work and be paid for it. This platform launched on 24 April 2020. For further information, visit <https://boosted.org.nz/resource/Live%20streaming%20coming%202024%20April>.
- Arts Foundation Future Fund – a new fund to provide support to artists that engage their crowd to support and show New Zealanders their work on Boosted. Every Boosted project that reaches \$1,000 will also receive an additional \$1,000 from the Arts Foundation Future Fund. For further information, visit <https://boosted.org.nz/projects/future-fund>.

## WORK & INCOME EMPLOYER WAGE SUBSIDY

**Why:** To support businesses impacted by COVID-19 and for wages only to help keep staff employed.

**Who:** Any employer in any region, including contractors, sole traders, the self-employed, registered charities and incorporated societies that fulfil the following criteria:

- The businesses must be registered and operating in New Zealand;
- Employees must be legally working in New Zealand;
- The business must have experienced a decline in actual or predicted revenue of at least 30% compared to the same month last year (note there is also support for new businesses that have been operating for less than a year);
- The decline must be related to COVID-19;
- Active steps must have been taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; and
- Best efforts must have been made to retain employees and pay them a minimum of 80% of their normal income for the subsidised period.
- There is a specific page for large employers:  
<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-large-employers.html>

**What:** The COVID-19 wage subsidy will be paid at a flat rate of:

- \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week
- \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week.

It is paid as a lump sum, covers 12 weeks per employee and businesses can only get this subsidy once. There is now no wage cap on eligibility for support.

## WORK & INCOME EMPLOYER WAGE SUBSIDY (cont.)

**How:** Make sure your business and employee details are up to date with IRD. If you have people working for you, you need to provide:

- Your IRD number;
- Your New Zealand Business Number (NZBN) - apply with NZBN if you don't have one;
- Your business name, address and contact details; and
- Employee details: names, IRD numbers and contact details.

You don't have people working for you, you need to provide your IRD number, the business name and business address.

For further information and to apply, visit

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html#null>

## WORK & INCOME LEAVE PAYMENT

**Why:** To support self-isolation to slow the spread of COVID-19.

**Who:** Anyone that needs financial support to self-isolate, care for dependents who are required to self-isolate or cannot work from home.

**What:** Payment have been set at \$585.80 per week for a full-time worker and \$350 per week for a part-time worker.

**How:** Paid to employers to pass on in full to their employees that need to self-isolate for 14 days, based on Ministry of Health guidelines. Employers will be able to apply for this more than once.

For further information and to apply, visit

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html#null>.

## **MSD RAPID RESPONSE TEAM**

The Ministry of Social Development has set up rapid response teams throughout New Zealand to provide guidance to support businesses and people. This includes talking about individual situations, helping businesses retain staff, coordinating with other government agencies, supporting employees, helping people find another job, re-training, skills assessment and financial support. The employer help line is 0800 778 008 and the Labour Market Manager for the Bay of Plenty is Bay of Plenty Brent MacDonald: Brent.MacDonald001@msd.govt.nz

## **MSD COMMUNITY AWARENESS & PREPAREDNESS GRANT FUND**

This \$4.8 million fund is available for community grants to support innovative, community-led solutions that support local resilience. It is available to community groups providing essential community-led solutions that support local resilience and community wellbeing during COVID-19 restrictions. Grants are up to \$5000 and are allocated on a one-off basis.

Priority is being given to requests that support Maori, Pacific, older people, people with disabilities, people with current significant health considerations, migrant communities and people who are rurally isolated.

For further information, visit [https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/community-awareness-and-preparedness-grant-fund.html?fbclid=IwAR1WCscnnVbBA1jehbjt\\_BRjsdrJyQvwQm\\_gTPZmNs10uXA183IYFx8NlgU](https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/community-awareness-and-preparedness-grant-fund.html?fbclid=IwAR1WCscnnVbBA1jehbjt_BRjsdrJyQvwQm_gTPZmNs10uXA183IYFx8NlgU).

## **WORK & INCOME HELP WITH ESSENTIAL COSTS**

Work & Income can support people that have lost their jobs, that can't work at the moment or whose income has been reduced to access a benefit or obtain financial support. This includes helping people that are struggling to meet their living costs or that get an unexpected bill.

For further information and to apply, visit  
<https://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/index.html>.

## **BUSINESS FINANCE SUPPORT AND MORTGAGE HOLIDAYS**

A major financial support package has been put together for businesses and homeowners affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19. This includes a six-month principal and interest payment holiday for mortgage owners and small to medium sized businesses whose incomes have been impacted.

The \$6.25 billion Business Finance Guarantee Scheme for small and medium-sized businesses aims to protect jobs and support the economy. Specific details are still being finalised with the banks making these public in coming days.

To download the media release, visit  
<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/mortgage-holiday-and-business-finance-support-schemes-cushion-covid-impacts>.

## **OTHER BUSINESS CASH FLOW AND TAX MEASURES**

Other tax initiatives in place to support businesses include:

- Increasing the provisional tax threshold from \$2,500 to \$5,000 from 2020/2021;
- Increasing the small asset depreciation threshold from \$500 to \$1,000 – and to \$5,000 for the 2020/21 tax year;
- Allowing depreciation on commercial and industrial buildings from 2020/2021; and
- Removing the hours test from the in-work tax credit from 1 July 2020.

For further information visit [https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid19?utm\\_source=business.govt.nz&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=special\\_cv\\_edition](https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid19?utm_source=business.govt.nz&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=special_cv_edition).

## **SUPPORT FOR MĀORI COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES**

The government has developed a plan to support Māori communities and businesses in the face of COVID-19. This includes

- A Whānau Māori Community and Mārae package reprioritising \$10 million from the Māori development vote to support community outreach;
- Māori Health and Whānau Ora response with \$30 million targeted directly to Māori health services and an extra \$15 million to Whānau Ora commissioning agencies; and
- Supporting Māori businesses and engaging with Māori with \$1 million of funding to enable a needs assessment for Māori businesses, and \$470,000 to Te Arawhiti to engage and work with iwi on their COVID-19 pandemic response plans.

## **ACCESS BUSINESS SUPPORT & OPPORTUNITIES TO UPSKILL FROM HOME**

Tauranga Chamber of Commerce has set up a series of free webinars to support local businesses and provide an opportunity to upskill from home.

These include

- Managing your emotional state through uncertain times (1 April)
- Effective communications techniques for business leaders (3 April)
- How to work effectively from home (9 April)

The Chamber has also expanded its business advisor team to support local businesses in the wake of COVID-19. For further information, visit

<https://www.tauranga.org.nz/business-services-2/coronavirus-business-support/>.

## **TAURANGA / WESTERN BAY FUNDS SUPPORTING CREATIVE SECTOR**

Tauranga City Council delivers three different schemes to support projects in the community. The status of these schemes as at 31 March is as follows:

- Event Support Funds: All funding rounds in the 2019/20 financial year have been exhausted, however applications are welcomed from those that have an event that will take place after 1 July 2020. For further information, visit <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/community/events/event-funding-framework>.
- Community Match Fund: This fund is currently on hold, with consideration being given to using them to support a local emergency funding initiative being facilitated by TECT, Acorn Foundation and Bay Trust (see below).
- Project Tauranga: Project Tauranga is involved in initiatives that are facilitated on a case by case basis to support the community. Due to the isolation issue, no matches are currently being facilitated.

## **TAURANGA / WESTERN BAY FUNDS SUPPORTING CREATIVE SECTOR (cont.)**

Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Community Match Fund is currently on hold, but an announcement will be made in early May 2020 about a new funding initiative. For further information, visit

<https://www.westernbay.govt.nz/council/news-and-updates/news?item=id:263e1bnmc17q9skx0na4>.

During the COVID-19 pandemic BayTrust is committed to business as usual, providing appropriate support throughout this period of heightened risk and uncertainty:

- Applicants to the March 2020 Community Impact Fund (\$15k-\$100k) will know the outcome by the end of March, with approved grants being paid by mid-April.
- Future grant rounds are still open, apart from the Community Amenities Fund which has been deferred until next year. Applications to other funds will be received and processed according to normal guidelines.
- BayTrust will honour all multi-year funding obligations and other existing commitments.

For further information, visit <https://www.baytrust.org.nz/>.

**Community Facilities Fund:** TECT's Community Facilities Fund, for the build of new facilities or the purchase / upgrade of existing facilities, is open until 1 April. If you need help submitting by this deadline, contact [www.tect.org.nz](http://www.tect.org.nz).

**Community Development Fund and Community Events Fund:** Applications for both funds close on 1 April – contact [www.tect.org.nz](http://www.tect.org.nz) if you need help or flexibility (eg obtaining quotes) with your application.

## **TAURANGA / WESTERN BAY FUNDS SUPPORTING CREATIVE SECTOR (cont.)**

**Changed Needs:** For those community groups that have already had funding approved but are facing a change in delivery of activities, TECT will work with you to determine how their funding can best be used at this time. Contact (07) 578 5094 or email [info@tect.org.nz](mailto:info@tect.org.nz).

**Future Distributions:** TECT's long-term investment approach means that their ability to make distributions from returns on investments are resilient to the current situation.

The 2020/21 Distribution Plan will go ahead as planned, with \$31 million to be distributed through the rebate and \$9 million through the grants programme.

**New ways to connect:** While the TECT office is closed, they invite you to contact them to discuss your specific requirements. If you email Paula Hudson at [paula@tect.org.nz](mailto:paula@tect.org.nz) she can have a chat to find out what you need and potentially arrange a Zoom call if that works for you.

Our major regional funding partners in Tauranga/Western Bay have come together to establish a new Rapid Response Fund to support community groups who are experiencing increased demand and/or funding shortfall as a result of COVID-19.

The \$600,000 fund comes from current grant reserves committed by TECT, BayTrust, Acorn Foundation and Tauranga City Council. Funds granted under the Rapid Response Fund will be in addition to any business as usual operating funding, ensuring community groups are sustainable in the long run as well as able to meet current unexpected demand.

## **TAURANGA / WESTERN BAY FUNDS SUPPORTING CREATIVE SECTOR (cont.)**

The single online application process will be hosted by TECT. Groups who are providing essential services as defined by the government will be invited to make the first applications to the fund before it is opened to the wider not-for-profit sector. Others eligible to apply will include groups that face a significant funding shortfall, see an increase in demand or face additional costs in enabling them to adapt their service delivery to meet the restrictions of COVID-19.

Identified essential service groups will be contacted by TECT in the coming days, with a notification to all others going out when the fund opens to the wider not-for-profit sector. There is also an online portal for those that wish to contribute to helping with the local COVID-19 response:

[www.acornfoundation.org.nz/ways-to-give/donate/donate-now](http://www.acornfoundation.org.nz/ways-to-give/donate/donate-now).