



FACT SHEET: Community Support Package for North Island Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle

Community Support Package

On 13 February 2023, 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, including individuals, whānau and contracted providers.

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)**

On 9 March 2023, the Government announced an update to the Community Support Package, including: a **further \$2 million for the Food fund**, an extension of the funding caps for the Community and Provider Support Funds, and a change for providers in the impacted regions who have received Care in the Community Disability Welfare Fund – Direct Support grants, so they can widen the scope of support they provide to include disabled people affected by the recent Cyclone and floods.

This Community Support Package funding is time-limited and only available until 30 June 2023.

Fund information, eligibility criteria and how to apply

1. Some of the funding is intended to be allocated through existing arrangements; specifically, this relates to the Community Connection funding, the Food funding and the support for disabled people.
2. Both the 'Community Support Fund' and 'Provider Support Fund' opened for applications through the Ministry of Social Development [website](#) from 16 February 2023. However, as some community groups or providers involved in response and recovery efforts may not be able to complete an application, regional leadership teams are also proactively reaching out to providers and community groups that benefit from this funding.
3. Applications are prioritised based on communities and areas most impacted by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, taking into consideration those with accessibility barriers (including not easily able to connect to existing services), and those from more vulnerable population groups.

4. 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 are considering 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 supporting whānau and communities regions impacted by recent weather events, who are not contracted by a government agency.

The funding allows community groups to maintain their response and recovery efforts so they can continue to support whānau wellbeing. Examples of community groups who can apply are:

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

Community groups can request up to \$20,000 in funding, per organization.

Community groups can apply to the Community Support Fund via the MSD website.

Provider support fund

This funding is available for providers supporting communities affected by the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Providers are defined as those who already have government contracts in the social sector.

The funding allows 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.

Community providers can request up to \$40,000 in funding, per organisation.

Providers can apply to the Provider Support Fund via the MSD website.

Support through Community Connectors

Community Connectors were established in June 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and play a key role in the Care in the Community welfare response for people self-isolating. Each Community Connector has access to discretionary funding to support their work on a case-by-case basis.

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. MSD is not increasing the number of Community Connectors as part of this funding.

This funding provides additional discretionary funding to support existing Community Connectors to widen the scope of the support they provide, from their current remit of supporting people in isolation and impacted by COVID-19, to now include those affected by the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

Support for disabled people

This funding will support disabled people or their households to access support for immediate and unexpected needs due the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. The funding will be distributed through existing disability providers who people and households can contact for support.

Get in touch

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.

Other Government Support

This Community Support Package sits alongside a suite of supports the Government has put in place to support those affected the recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. These include:

- Civil Defence payments
- Hardship Assistance (Special Needs Grants)
- Enhanced Taskforce Green programme
- Ministry of Primary Industries - Cyclone Gabrielle: Advice, support, and funding
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment - Extreme weather: Information for businesses, including available grant funding
- Department of Internal Affairs – Floods and cyclone recovery
- Te Puni Kokiri - Investment to help hapori Māori recover from Cyclone Gabrielle
- Te Arawhiti 2023 Iwi Response Funding for Adverse Weather Events fund
- NEMA Welfare Support Grant