
GUIDELINES

Māori Suicide Prevention Community Fund

2026–2027 FUNDING ROUND

Supporting Māori-led, locally designed solutions that strengthen wellbeing and prevent suicide.

Applications open

10 August 2026 · 9am

Applications close

7 September 2026 · 1pm

CENTRE OF MĀORI
SUICIDE PREVENTION

TE RAU ORA

Start here: the funding round at a glance

UP TO
\$10,000

Whānau & Hapū

UP TO
\$25,000

Māori Community Groups

UP TO
\$50,000

Iwi & Māori Providers

UP TO
\$100,000

Provider Collaborations

Key dates

Apply online between 10 August 2026 at 9am and 7 September 2026 at 1pm. Late, emailed or paper applications will not be accepted.

Delivery period

Successful initiatives may begin from 23 October 2026 and must be completed by 30 June 2027.

About the Fund

Suicide has a lasting and far-reaching impact on individuals, whānau, friends, hapū, iwi and communities. Māori continue to experience an inequitable burden of suicide loss.

Our purpose

To invest in Māori-led, culturally grounded initiatives that strengthen wellbeing, reduce suicide risk and support healing after suicide loss.

The Fund supports practical community action across the suicide prevention continuum. It recognises that whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities are best placed to identify local needs, mobilise strengths and design solutions that work for their people.

Strategic alignment

Initiatives should contribute to Every Life Matters – He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata: Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019–2029 and the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025–2029. The Fund also continues to be informed by the kaupapa and aspirations of Tūramarama ki te Ora.

Priority populations: Māori men, rangatahi and youth, Rainbow communities, and Māori living in rural communities.

Goals and intended outcomes

The Fund aims to build the capacity of Māori whānau, hapū, iwi and communities to prevent suicide and respond effectively when a suicide occurs.

1

Reduce suicide deaths

Strengthen protective factors and locally led prevention.

2

Reduce suicide attempts

Support earlier recognition, connection and response.

3

Ease the impact of suicide

Support whānau and communities affected by suicide loss.

Successful initiatives will:

- Promote Māori ownership of wellbeing and suicide prevention.
- Build on the strengths of whānau, hapū, iwi and communities.
- Raise awareness of and connect whānau with culturally safe support services.
- Acknowledge intergenerational trauma, grief and loss of mana.
- Protect whakapapa, hapū and iwi structures following suicide loss.
- Build mātauranga Māori and evidence about what works for Māori.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must fall within one of the following groups:

Whānau or hapū group

A recognised rūpū with a bank account in the name of the whānau or hapū group.

Māori community group

A legal entity or registered charity.

Iwi or Māori provider

An organisation delivering services primarily, but not exclusively, to Māori.

Regional or national collaboration

Two or more iwi or Māori providers, with one lead provider.

Every proposal must align with the Fund outcomes, show a clear project plan and budget, and demonstrate the capability and capacity to deliver.

One application per rūpū.

Eligibility conditions and exclusions

Additional conditions

- Current Te Rau Ora staff are not eligible. Former staff have a three-month stand-down period from their last day of employment.
 - Applicants with overdue or incomplete milestones from an earlier Community Fund contract are not eligible until every milestone is completed, approved and the final payment is processed.
 - Applications are not accepted from non-Māori governing providers, government agencies, Health New Zealand, tertiary education providers or Crown Research Institutes.
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The Fund will not support

- Ongoing service delivery or an established project that is already funded.
- Permanent full-time or part-time positions. Staff secondment to the initiative and reasonable facilitator koha are permitted.
- Supervision or mentoring fees.
- Vehicle purchase or lease; vehicle hire is permitted.
- Building or premises purchase, rent or lease; venue hire is permitted.
- International travel, ongoing fees or licences, or capital purchases of \$5,000 or more.

Choose the right funding stream

1

Whānau & Hapū

UP TO \$10,000

Bank account in rūpū name

2

Māori Community Groups

UP TO \$25,000

Legal entity or charity

3

Iwi & Māori Providers

UP TO \$50,000

Proven delivery track record

4

Provider Collaborations

UP TO \$100,000

2+ providers; lead applicant

Apply to the stream that matches the applicant's structure—not simply the amount requested.

1. Whānau & Hapū · up to \$10,000

Whānau-centred suicide prevention empowers whānau to determine their own pathways to wellbeing, grounded in identity, connection and collective strength.

Who this is for

Recognised whānau or hapū groups seeking support for health promotion, suicide prevention or postvention initiatives.

Required evidence

Bank account verification

The account must be in the name of the applying whānau or hapū group.

If funded, you will need to:

- Provide progress reports and appropriate financial information.
- Complete an initiative profile.
- Participate in evaluation of the Fund.

Tip: clearly explain what your initiative is and what you are trying to achieve

2. Māori Community Groups · up to \$25,000

For Māori community groups delivering health promotion, prevention, intervention or postvention initiatives.

Eligibility evidence

Legal status

Provide a current certificate showing the organisation is a legal entity or registered with Charities Services.

Māori governance or ownership

Confirm that the majority of board members—or owners/directors—are Māori and that this will be sustained throughout the initiative.

Groups without legal-entity status

Consider partnering with an iwi or Māori provider, or another eligible community organisation, that can support delivery and contracting.

Successful applicants receive a contract for services and must meet reporting and financial-information.

3. Iwi & Māori Providers · up to \$50,000

For providers with demonstrated experience, capability and capacity to design and deliver a community-based initiative.

Required evidence

Provider status

Show that the applicant meets the definition of an iwi or Māori provider.

Current contracts

List relevant health, social service, justice, Whānau Ora or community contracts, including funder and value.

Legal status

Provide a current legal-entity or Charities Services certificate.

Māori governance

Confirm majority Māori board membership or majority Māori ownership/directorship.

Contracted reporting dates, financial records and an initiative profile will apply.

4. Provider Collaborations · up to \$100,000

For regional or national initiatives delivered by two or more iwi or Māori providers. One provider must act as the lead applicant and contracting party.

The lead applicant must demonstrate:

- A proven track record delivering relevant health, social service, justice, Whānau Ora or community contracts.
- Current relevant contracts, including contract type, funder and value.
- Current legal-entity or Charities Services registration.
- A credible collaboration model, with clear partner roles, shared outcomes, governance and delivery arrangements.

Contracting and accountability

The lead provider receives the contract and is responsible for reporting, financial information and initiative profile.

Make the added value of collaboration explicit: scale, reach, shared capability or regional/national impact.

The suicide prevention continuum

Strong proposals identify where the initiative sits on the continuum and explain how it will increase protective factors, reduce risk or support recovery and healing.

WELLBEING

Promoting identity, connection, purpose and belonging.

PREVENTION

Recognising distress early and connecting people with support.

INTERVENTION

Responding safely and promptly when suicide risk is present.

POSTVENTION

Supporting people, whānau and communities after a suicide.

Initiatives may work across more than one part of the continuum. They should be grounded in Māori ways of knowing, being and doing.

Initiative ideas · wellbeing and prevention

Wellbeing / promotion

Strengthen identity, connection, belonging, purpose and resilience. Wellbeing can include taha tinana, taha hinengaro, taha whānau and taha wairua.

Ideas

- Support rangatahi to develop wellbeing strategies and tap into support.
- Connect tamariki and rangatahi with culture, whakapapa, whenua and community.
- Use pūrākau, mātauranga Māori, tikanga, arts, film, music, kōrero or other forms of healthy expression for connection, belonging, resilience and healing.
- Create culturally meaningful wellbeing programmes for communities experiencing higher risk.

Prevention

Build confidence to recognise distress, start caring conversations and connect people with culturally appropriate support early.

- Community gatherings that foster hope, awareness and support networks.
- Wānanga using whakapapa, mātauranga Māori and te taiao to explore ways of working through difficult emotions.
- Rangatahi- or rainbow-led programmes that strengthen identity and belonging.

Initiative ideas · intervention and postvention

Intervention

Build timely, culturally responsive and safe responses when someone's wellbeing or safety is at risk.

- Whānau and community learning focused on having difficult conversations safely.
- Kaupapa Māori response or safety planning for whānau experiencing suicidal distress.
- Local peer-support networks that build knowledge and capability.
- Kaumātua–mokopuna connection through whakapapa, pūrākau, waiata, kai, kapa haka or te taiao.

Postvention

Support whānau, hapū, iwi and communities after suicide loss. Effective postvention can also reduce future risk.

- Safe spaces for whānau and community to drop in and kōrero.
- Positive community events that support remembrance, connection and hope.
- Marae wānanga or resources that strengthen safe, supportive tikanga for whānau pani and tangihanga.
- Trauma-informed, culturally grounded support and pathways to ongoing help.

Prepare and submit your application

1

Log in or register

Access the [Te Rau Ora Funding Portal](#) and log in, or register for an account.

2

Choose the stream

Remember only one application is permitted overall – so choose your stream carefully. Ensure your legal and governance structure matches the selected funding stream.

3

Define the need and outcomes

Explain the community need, who will benefit and what will change.

4

Build a realistic plan

Set out activities, timeline, roles, risk management and measures of success.

5

Prepare the budget

Show reasonable, initiative-specific costs and value for money.

6

Gather evidence

Upload the certificates, bank verification and contract information required for your stream.

7

Submit through the portal

Submit the completed application in the [Te Rau Ora Funding Portal](#) before 1pm on 7 September 2026.

Applications are online only · no paper or emailed applications will be accepted.

How applications will be assessed

An all-Māori external assessment panel—drawing on sector, clinical, cultural, whānau and lived-experience expertise—will review eligible applications. Final recommendations are made to the Chief Executive of Te Rau Ora.

Assessors will consider:

- Alignment with the Fund’s goals, objectives and intended outcomes.
- Clear positioning on the suicide prevention continuum.
- Responsiveness to Māori whānau, hapū, iwi and communities experiencing suicide risk or bereavement.
- Likely benefits, effectiveness and reach for the intended community.
- Contribution to inclusive communities, protective factors and resilience.
- Capability to deliver the plan within the proposed budget and timeline.

Facilitator koha may be included, but it must be reasonable and proportionate to the overall budget. A budget weighted heavily toward facilitator koha may be assessed unfavourably.

2026 funding round timeline

Applications open	10 August 2026 · 9am
Applications close	7 September 2026 · 1pm
External assessment panels	12–16 October 2026
Notifications	23 October 2026
Contracting	From 23 October 2026
Implementation	23 October 2026 – 30 June 2027

Te Rau Ora may withdraw an offer of funding if the contract is not signed within three months of the contracting start date.

If your application is successful

Contracting and accountability

- Contracting begins from 23 October 2026.
 - The initiative must retain its own financial records throughout the contract period.
 - Te Rau Ora may request records relating to the funding at any time.
 - Milestones, progress reporting, financial information, and an initiative profile will form part of the funding requirements. You may be asked to participate in our evaluation.
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Useful terms

Capital purchase	A stand-alone, movable or tangible item costing \$5,000 or more with a useful life beyond one year.
Initiative	The project or activity for which funding is requested.
Suicide prevention continuum	Wellbeing/promotion, prevention, intervention and postvention.
FTE	Full-time equivalent.
PHO	Primary health organisation.

READY TO APPLY?

Kōrero with the Community Fund team

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Phone

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Website

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