

Future Focus:

**A guide to
developing
youth-friendly
funding models
in Aotearoa**

Iti noa ana,
he pito mata.

**With care,
a small kumara
will produce
a harvest.**

Welcome to Future Focus

Contents

This resource is designed to help you develop ideas about ways to create youth-friendly funding models that will support youth-led projects for young New Zealanders.

Future Focus was developed after people expressed the need for more information on youth friendly-funding models.

In writing this resource the thoughts and input of people throughout the country and overseas have been sought, including young people / rangatahi, youth workers, community and youth organisations, people in local and central government, funding organisations and many more interested individuals.

Thank you to all who took the time to give their thoughts.

This resource has been a culmination of many people's efforts. It was researched and prepared by Lisa Woods, with an advisory group comprising:

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2007



JR MCKENZIE TRUST
ESTABLISHED IN 1940

Established in 1940, the J R McKenzie Trust is a charitable trust whose goal is to improve the quality of life of New Zealanders who have special needs, or who face disadvantage. It makes grants to charitable organisations in the broad areas of social services, health and community development. For more information go to www.jrmckenzie.org.nz

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Introduction

Young people are the future of our social fabric and communities thrive when everyone is encouraged to play a part in their development. Engaging young people in projects that enable them to contribute to community growth now will ensure our communities remain strong and full of vitality.

To successfully engage young people in the funding process, it is imperative to find ways to break down the barriers that prevent youth accessing funding from mainstream sources. Future Focus will help you understand what those barriers are, and how to overcome them.

When we talk about “youth-friendly” funding processes, we are describing models with two key characteristics:

- Young people can easily and successfully engage with them to access funding for their projects, and;
- They engage young people as decision makers, to ensure relevant decisions now and develop grant making expertise for the future.

There are no set rules about how to create a youth-friendly funding model. Future Focus highlights the key issues you need to consider when establishing youth-focused funding schemes and also provides case studies of different types of youth-led funding models from all over the world.

Future Focus is a guide that will help you grow your ideas and create an innovative, supportive funding environment for young New Zealanders now and into the future.

Youth Development

A youth development approach focuses on young people developing the skills and attitudes they need to take part in society.

Aligning your funding model with a youth development approach means choosing structures and systems that focus on developing these skills and attitudes.

One of the most important elements of youth development is giving young people their own voice to initiate, operate and see through projects and services in the community.

The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, created by the Ministry of Youth Development, recognises this and outlines key principles for youth development. The

Strategy strongly encourages support for and implementation of youth-run, youth-initiated programmes.

If you are interested in supporting youth development and building better communities then this resource is for you!



Future Focus is a guide that will help you grow your ideas and create an innovative, supportive funding environment for young New Zealanders now and into the future.

Youth-friendly funding: What you need to know to get started


There are several phases required to get a youth-focused project up and running. Every community has different needs, but there are some key things to consider when creating your funding model.

Acknowledge cultural diversity

New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, reflects our bicultural heritage and creates a partnership between Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti.

New Zealand is increasingly a multicultural society. Any youth-friendly funding model in New Zealand needs to be inclusive of all cultures and underpinned by a valuing of other peoples views and acknowledgment of Tangata Whenua.

Youth-friendly funding schemes also need to avoid stereotypes.



The key thing to remember is that participation in decision making is a young person's right...

Foster youth participation

It is important that young people / rangatahi are involved as partners from the beginning of your project. Partnerships enable everyone, young or old, to bring their skills to the table to make exciting projects, events and ideas come to life.

The key to sustainable youth involvement is having young people participate, enabling them to develop structures in the beginning that make it inviting for others to take part later on. Don't be put off if you have a high turnover of young people involved – they are busy and naturally move on.

Keep young people engaged by meeting somewhere that suits them, providing food and keeping processes professional but relaxed enough to make involvement in your project enjoyable and fun.

The key thing to remember is that participation in decision making is a young person's right, and has been defined as such by the United Nations.

To find out more about youth participation visit:

www.myd.govt.nz/youthparticipation/effectivelyouthparticipation.aspx

or:

www.un.org/youth

Get your community involved

Successful youth development will require support and commitment from everyone in the community.

It can be helpful to talk to local organisations and young people to get them on board.

If you are a funding organisation, speak to people in the community and ask what they would like to see happen. If you are not a funding organisation, it can help to speak to potential funders about your ideas in order to secure their support.

A key part of securing community involvement involves building relationships across a diverse range of sectors from an early stage. Start networking early – why not try running a community forum with a range of organisations and young people in order to establish support in the early stages of your project?

Build Relationships

Relationship building is important, not only in creating youth funding schemes, but also to the youth development sector as a whole. It will mean that all sectors gain an appreciation of each other's needs and can work together more effectively to build a better community.

Approach different networks, sectors and industry representatives and invite them to attend meetings and events about your project's development. Alternatively, meet for a coffee and let them know how it's going.

Over time a relationship will form where you both can work towards the same goal of creating a better community. Building diverse relationships doesn't mean you will agree on everything, but it will help everyone work together more effectively in the long-term.

Embrace different approaches

Our communities are diverse and as such it is crucial that the structures in place for your project are open and friendly so that all people find it comfortable to take part. Approaches to youth development differ and there is much that can be learnt. Initiate dialogue with people, be open and proactive in exploring other peoples' ideas and approaches to development.

Get organised

Choosing how you want to organise your youth-friendly funding scheme will require selecting a structure that will best help you to gain funding in your community. This is where youth participation is crucial as young people are central to identifying structures that are relevant and appropriate.

Think carefully about what organisational structure is best for your situation. For example, you may choose to:

- Create a separate organisation and legal entity. This could be more work to set up and run, but it clearly shows independence and accountability.
- Be set up within a youth-focused agency. This could be easier to set up, and work well if the host agency would support the funding scheme while still allowing it to make independent decisions.
- Be a separate fund within the organisation of an existing funder. This would also be easier to set up, but be careful that other funding bodies would still be able and willing to

contribute to the fund as well as the host.

Whatever youth-friendly funding model you design, it will act as the legal entity that receives the funding from a funding organisation and then distributes it to young people. The youth-friendly funding model simply breaks down the barriers that stop young people applying directly to the funding organisation itself.

For more information about how to structure your youth-friendly funding scheme, see [Maintaining Accountability](#).

Secure funding

How you arrange funding for your scheme will differ depending on which model you choose to adopt. You will need funding for a range of things – from the money you grant right through to administration and management of your project.

Building relationships with potential funders early on in your project will make the funding process much easier.

Provide training and support

Successful youth development involves not only providing financial support to young people, but also training and mentoring to help them get their projects off the ground.

You may choose to allocate a mentor to individual projects or encourage people in the community to provide their time to mentor young people as a group. Training can cover many key skills – some ideas to consider include: how the grantmaking

process works, youth development principles, diversity and budgeting.

Be sure to provide ongoing support for the people involved in your scheme. It is vital to help them during the project's lifespan, but consider offering support during the evaluation stages as well.

Many schemes rely on the help volunteers, so don't forget training and support for the people you've recruited to run the youth-friendly funding scheme too!

Raise awareness

Once you are organised, with funding and supportive, skilled people on board you need to make sure everyone knows that you exist. Visit schools, hold events for young people, talk to your local paper or stick up posters – do whatever it takes to get your organisation's message out in the community.

Many successful New Zealand projects send their people to schools and other places frequented by young people to talk about the project, put up posters and spread leaflets.

You might want to try advertising on the radio or at events for young people. Word of mouth is one of the main ways news gets around, so give plenty of time for the word to spread about your project.

Try to ensure that your organisation's processes are structured so that when applicants engage with you they are encouraged to support others to apply. It can take time to get applications rolling in – don't be discouraged by this, be persistent.

Make the process accessible and youth-friendly

When you have chosen a funding model that suits your aims, you need to think about processes. Young people are intelligent, but may not necessarily be masters at following the complex requirements of mainstream funding processes. Consider ways in which you can make your project accessible to young people in your community.

Have an overall youth-friendly atmosphere, with friendly staff and straightforward language on forms and other written material.

Ensure application processes are easy to understand and follow. You will need to ask the basic questions around the type of project, who is involved in it and what the expected costs may be. But consider leaving out some of the more complicated requirements for applicants to your scheme, such as being a legal entity, relating projects back to complex criteria, requiring multiple quotes, filling many pages of information and so forth.

Encourage creativity in applications. Why not think about allowing verbal applications, or providing a mentor to work with young people throughout the application process?

Rethink the way awards are granted. Funding criteria for youth projects don't always need to concentrate on measurable outcomes, such as the number of people attending the event.

Think about implementing flexible criteria that capture the spirit of youth development.

For example, asking someone how their project encourages the learning process of grant-making is more closely aligned to youth development than seeking a precise answer to the number of attendees.

Make your decisions quickly and regularly. Young people move quickly – so ideally your model will be flexible enough to allow young people to apply just a couple of weeks before they need the funding.

Provide mentoring and support for young people throughout the application process, right through to the implementation of ideas.

Maintain accountability

Ensuring accountability is not difficult. Like any grantmaking process your scheme must be mainly based on trust.

Funding organisations nearly always only give money to legal entities. So, for them it is often easier if your youth-friendly funding scheme is a legal entity – either on its own or under the umbrella of a host agency. Talk with your funders about what is the best way to account to them for the money your scheme receives.

Diagram 1 outlines how a funding body may choose to allocate money through a legal entity to fund specific projects.

The young people whose projects have received funding are then responsible to your scheme to account for what they have done with it, in a way that is reasonable and proportionate to the amount involved. Develop reporting processes that allow for creativity and are easy to follow. For example, ask the

applicant to write a short letter, but also think about allowing creative responses using photos, posters, videos or verbal testimonials.

You'll probably want to know how the project went, and whether it achieved what they wanted. So you might also encourage the young people to think about what they would do differently if they ran their project again, what they would suggest to others are the key things to get right and so on.

Remember, this is about learning and development rather than "passing" or "failing".

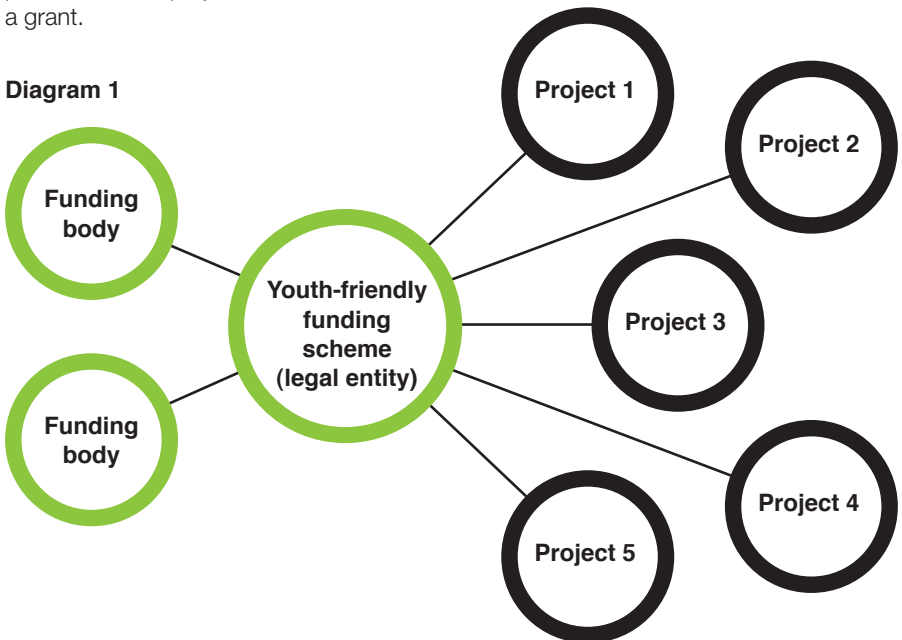
To monitor the projects they have funded, some youth funding models allocate a person to each project that has received a grant.

If you would like more information on making your youth-friendly funding idea a reality, check out the Department of Internal Affairs Community Resource Kit, located on the CommunityNet website:

<http://www.community.net.nz/how-to-guides/crk/>

It is a resource to help organisations to get started and to develop good practice, and includes helpful information on legal entities and other organisational hints.

Diagram 1



Case Studies

Youth Projects Trust


Rotorua's Youth Projects Trust has found an innovative way to engage young people in the community.

The trust, funded by the Rotorua District Council and Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, was set up in response to feedback from a forum where local youth said they needed more events. It provides assistance and grants of up to \$1,500 for people aged between 13 and 25 to organise and run events and activities for local youth that promote participation, positive attitudes and healthy lifestyles.

The trust employs a staff member to provide assistance and support for the young people involved in both the grantmaking process and in running individual events, and also actively encourages other young people to apply for grants.

A board and youth advisory committee made up of young people steer the overall direction of the trust and is responsible for selecting projects to fund. The trust works hard to ensure its processes are accessible to young people and that the application process is straightforward. They are happy for young people to use creative ways to report back – think artwork!

For more information email Laurie and Emma at twpt@xtra.co.nz



This was a massive experience, more work than what I thought it was. When's the next one?

It's awesome to know that I was involved in this!

Shore Youth Bank

Developing leadership, initiative and collaborative practices among young people is the focus of the Shore Youth Bank, based in Auckland's North Shore.

Following some research into youth funding options, a local philanthropic trust identified Shore Youth Council as a potential vehicle from which to establish a youth-for-youth funding model. The development of Shore Youth Bank by the inaugural Board was supported by local youth agency Youth WorX and the North Shore City Council. Shore Youth Bank is self managing but Youth WorX continues to provide administrative support and guidance.

The scheme encourages funding for young people, made by young people, with a committee of nine local youth-reviewing funding applications from their peers every few weeks.

There is no limit to the type of projects the Shore Youth Bank funds but there are clear priorities to help guide the grantmaking process:

- Projects that promote youth leadership and initiative within the North Shore;
- Projects that have wide youth community benefit within the North Shore;
- Initiatives that meet an identified need;
- Initiatives where skills and knowledge may be shared or capitalised on in the future.

Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can apply for a grant, which are usually up to \$2,000, although this can be extended in

exceptional cases. Applicants under the age of 20 are required to have an adult supporting their project. Successful applicants work to create a project agreement and a committee member is assigned to act as a contact for each – ensuring ongoing communication and support for the youth involved.

For more information visit:

www.youthbank.co.nz/home/

Preparing and applying for a grant can be a daunting process for anyone. At Keyfund, which operates in England and Australia, funds and support are provided to young people throughout the planning and implementation of their own projects – making the application process much easier.

Keyfund works by linking young people with a trained facilitator who will help them form a group, create a name and initiate and implement their ideas. It was set up by youth workers who saw benefit in having funds available within a supportive environment that young people could access to run their own projects.

Facilitators come from different sectors, such as the police, youth work and teaching. Young people organise projects that may be as simple as visiting a bowling alley or as complex as building a music collective that works to establish a rehearsal space for community use.

When the young people have developed their projects sufficiently, they meet a Keyfund Panel, made up of community representatives, who assess whether their project qualifies for funding. The panel very seldom turns applicants down, however the group applying for the grant might visit the panel more than once if they need to refine their application further.

The panel does not judge the value of the actual project, but rather the group's ability to recognise how they have developed the 12 Keyfund skills, whilst organising and planning their project.

Each application must satisfy several criteria:

- The idea and planning belongs to the young people involved;
- Projects must be safe, legal and realistically achievable;
- The group is supported by a Keyfund trained facilitator;
- The group shows evidence of their learning.

At the end of the project the group must submit an evaluation along with material that supports any other conditions the panel may have set.

For more information visit:

www.keyfund.org.uk

YouthBank UK


With branches all over the United Kingdom, the YouthBank model enables young people to decide how grant applications will be assessed and who of their peers will receive the money. Each YouthBank is governed by “Golden Rules”, which ensure that young people are at the heart of the grantmaking process.

Young people run YouthBanks at every level, from the assessment procedure through to governance, with support from adult youth workers.


The key to the success of YouthBank UK has been partnerships. Young people work with adults and organisations in their community to establish their own grantmaking projects for which they secure funding and support.

For more information visit:

www.youthbank.org.uk



I enjoy meeting new people, since being involved with YouthBank I've met people I wouldn't ordinarily meet day to day, I've made a lot of good friends and grown in confidence from mixing in with lots of people. YouthBank is about teamwork, decision-making and fun!



The real reward is seeing projects through to the end, really making a difference and being given the opportunity to be responsible for something so important.

Foundation for Young Australians

The Foundation for Young Australians focuses on supporting youth-led initiatives, and developing the skills of both individual young people and organisations.

Young people are involved at all levels of the organisation, from the board to the decision-making committees. The Foundation focuses on youth aged between 12 and 25, with a particular focus on young Indigenous Australians.

There are one-off grants for individual young people and organisations to deliver community-based initiatives, and high engagement, multi-year partnerships, which are funded in two stages. In the first stage of these high engagement partnerships, the Foundation supports young people to identify and prioritise their own goals, followed by funding and support for them to carry out their projects.

Grants focus on initiatives that use good practice in youth participation, as well as make a positive contribution to communities. The decision-making process takes into account the applicant's access to social, economic and cultural opportunities, and requires grant partners to identify a positive contribution they will make to their community with the grant.

For more information visit:

www.youngaustralians.org

Idea Incubator

There are no idea incubators in existence in New Zealand yet, however this is a good way to support young people without establishing a full funding scheme.

Simply making money available to young people may not necessarily guarantee there will be enough great ideas to use it all!

At idea incubators, the focus is on helping young people with the process of organising a project – from developing an idea right through to making it happen.

Within this framework, the group may not distribute money themselves – instead they help young people access existing funding structures to make their project fly. Idea incubator mentors come from a range of different sectors within the community but all share one common feature – they are willing to share their time and expertise to help young people create exciting projects.

Community Foundation Youth Advisory Councils

Many Canadian communities build and manage endowment funds for young people through locally-run youth advisory councils (YACs).

YACs are committees of the 150-plus community foundations in place throughout Canada. Young people in YACs grant money to other young people to run projects that will benefit the community.

In the same way that a community foundation creates a fund from which investment income is generated, a YAC develops a fund from which investment income is directed to youth projects. Such funds are largely built through donations from individuals and organisations that support the concept of youth granting to youth.

YACs involve a diverse range of young people who want to be actively involved in supporting their communities.

For more information visit:

www.yipcanada.org

Wayne Francis Trust

At the time of writing, this Christchurch-based Trust was just starting to develop their youth-friendly funding model.

The Trust has chosen to set their funding scheme within an adaptive framework. Through a team of Youth Advisory Trustees, the Trust examines recommendations about different projects and then works with service providers to decide how best to fund different projects.

The Trust is keen to ensure that projects for youth are developed using the strength-based model that is advocated in the Ministry of Youth Development's Youth Development Strategy.

Youth Event Support

Since 1999, Nelson City Council has been saying yes to young people through Youth Event Support (YES) – a Nelson Youth Council initiative that supports young people to organise safe alcohol-free youth events.

Through YES, mentoring, funding and/or underwriting of amounts up to \$500 per event are available to young people. Events have to fit four key criteria: they must be safe and alcohol-free, organised largely by young people (between 12 and 25), be of benefit to other young people and they need to take place in Nelson.

YES is supported by the Health Action Trust, Nelson City Council and skilled mentors from within the local community. The core aim of YES is to provide safe entertainment for young people – as well as to provide the opportunity to learn new skills in organisation and event management.

For more information visit:

www.healthaction.org.nz/youth_event_support.htm

ruMAD? (Are You Making a Difference?)

Grantmaking within Australian schools is being spearheaded by ruMAD? – an innovative framework that fosters school-based, student-led grant making.

ruMAD? focuses on implementing student action projects (MAD projects) and student-run foundations (MAD foundations) that will make a difference in the community. The system aims to take young people “beyond charity” by positioning them as agents for social change.

Teachers act as project facilitators but also use the programme to enable their students to think big, and to then construct manageable projects which can make their possibilities realities within their communities.

ruMAD? emphasises student engagement and participation and young people are expected to take up key roles and celebrate their achievements while having fun!

For more information visit:

www.educationfoundation.org.au

Some Projects that have been funded



- Youth hip hop or dance challenges
- Concert nights
- Top team challenges/fun days
- Making gift bags to be donated to children in distress
- Formal school balls, for example ball in Mental health awareness week

- Youth bands perform at different schools and run workshops during lunch time
- Creative arts programmes
- Pavement art competitions
- Camps



