

11. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FUND AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE ASSISTANCE FUND - CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF GRANTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Project/Discretionary 6.1.9.	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Board with appropriate information so as to establish agreed criteria for the allocation of monies from the above two Discretionary funds.

BACKGROUND

At the Board's 30 April 2001 meeting it agreed to allocate \$10,000 of the disestablished Strengthening Communities Action Plan Fund to the Community Response Assistance Fund and requested staff to develop criteria and priorities for the allocation of such funds for community development initiatives and support. This extra allocation increases the project monies of the Community Response Assistance Fund to \$17,000 for 2001/02.

The following recommendations are based on creating two funding streams. One that would operate as a small grant scheme acting with a quick response to an immediate need or soon to be started community project and the other fund that would support community development projects.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund would act as a quick response in allocating grants of up to \$500 for community projects that have an immediate or soon to start date. Eligibility for such a grant would be that the project meets the 2001/02 Community Board's objectives and that the project is not already receiving Community Board funding support.

It is proposed that this fund be allocated \$5,000 for the 2001/02 year with decision making authority delegated to the Community Development Adviser. Funding decisions would be reported to the Community Board through the Community Advocate's Update agenda item. The allocation of the fund in 2000/01 is attached for the information of the Board.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FUND

This fund would allocate grants to projects that work within the community development principles as outlined in the Council's Community Policy:

- Community development is any process that increases the ability of communities to identify their own solutions to their own needs and priorities.
- Community development involves a commitment where local people are encouraged and supported to participate more fully in the life and well-being of their local community.
- Community development is a way where individuals and groups contribute to the community's improved ability to act on its own behalf.

Community development therefore is not just about a particular community activity/event/service but is about how local people become engaged in identifying/responding to local needs and then participate in the solutions and project/service delivery. Such participation and involvement has the potential to develop the skills and confidence of the individual that will, through the relationships developed between individuals, further empower the local community to become engaged in improving its quality of life.

Projects seeking funding support would also need to contribute to the 2001/02 Community Board Objectives, the objectives of the Community Board's Strengthening Communities Action Plan and to the priorities of the Christchurch City Council's Community Policy and Social Wellbeing Policy.

Funding decisions on applications received from the community would be made at the Community Board's monthly meeting after consideration of a Council officer's report.

It is proposed that this fund be allocated \$15,000 for 2001/02. Such a funding level will require the Community Board to approve the allocation of a further \$3,000 to this fund from its remaining Discretionary monies.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the eligibility criteria and decision making process outlined in the report be approved for the Community Response Assistance Fund.
 2. That the Community Response Assistance Fund retain a \$5,000 allocation budget for the 2001/02 year.
 3. That the eligibility criteria and decision making process outlined in the report be approved for the Community Development Initiatives Fund.
 4. That the Community Board allocate a further \$3,000 from its available Discretionary monies to give the Community Development Initiatives Fund a \$15,000 allocation budget for the 2001/02 year.

- Chairperson's Recommendation:**
1. That recommendations 1 to 3 be adopted.
 2. That the Community Development Initiatives Fund remain at \$12,000 but the new Community Board consider an additional allocation in 2002, if required.