

Grants Policy

1. Introduction

AGT aspires to be recognised as a valued part of the communities we operate venues in by venue operators, and the regulator. In order to achieve this AGT will adhere to the Grants Policy and provide the best customer service to grants applicants.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set the parameters for grant assessment and distribution.

All distributions must be to authorised purposes. The Gambling Act 2003 (“the Act”) defines authorised purposes as:

- A charitable purpose.
- A non-commercial purpose that is beneficial to the whole or a section of the community.
- Promoting, controlling, and conducting race meetings under the Racing Act 2003, including the payment of stakes.

Aotearoa Gaming Trust Inc (AGT) will distribute 95% of the available proceeds raised in each territorial region to purposes that directly benefit each regional community. The remaining 5% of proceeds will be distributed for purposes that benefit the wider regional community, or all New Zealanders.

3. Responsibility

AGT’s core purpose is the funding of community organisations. The proper application of, and any discretion within the funding process, is the responsibility of the Chief Executive (CE). That authority may be delegated by the Chief Executive (CE) to the National Grants Manager (NGM) on an operational basis.

The responsibility for the final decision to approve or decline a funding application sits with Net Proceeds Committee and ultimately with the Board of Trustees.

4. Funding Principles

To assist AGT to achieve the goals of this Grants Policy the following funding principles will apply:

People:

We will support community organisations that provide services that give direct positive benefits/outcomes within local communities. We have a particular interest in supporting children, young people, and families.

Participation:

We will support community and sporting organisations that encourage and enable people to be engaged and active within their local communities through provision of sporting and recreational activities, cultural and artistic experiences, and activities.

Places:

We will support projects that enhance local communities by providing sporting and recreational environments and opportunities, preserving the history of the community, and generally providing facilities that provide tangible benefits for the community.

Partnerships:

We will partner with community organisations that provide innovative programmes that address particular issues within local communities, in particular in areas that are recognised as being high need.

Debt Recovery:

We reserve the right to employ the services of a debt collector when grant refunds are not forthcoming.

5. AGT Funding Priorities

AGT maintains a community focus by funding organisations based on the following parameters:

- We have a particular interest in supporting children, young people and families.
- In smaller communities we will work with those communities to determine community need and support priority areas.
- Funding priority will be given to multi-use sporting facilities above single use facilities.

6. Funding Criteria Parameters

- Organisations are required to have operated for 12 months before applying for funding.
- Organisations must have Annual Accounts covering a 12-month period.
 - An exception to the above point might be an innovative start up programme that could provide wide ranging benefits to local communities.
 - A start up would need to provide a business and start up plan including a startup budget that showed sources of funding.
- The applicant organisation must offer inclusive membership.
- All funding applications must be made in the name of the organisation requesting the grant.
 - AGT considers third party requests from a professional fundraiser (who receive payment for services) to require deeper scrutiny.

- Such applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- There must be no conflict of interest between the applicant and any provider of goods and services. This includes professional fundraisers.
- Comparable quotes must be provided wherever possible.
- Expenses must be incurred within New Zealand.
 - An exception may be considered where specialised items purchased overseas are not available locally.
 - The same standards for proof of purchase will apply to these items as applies to items purchased within NZ.
- Applications for salaries will be considered in the context of the core purpose of the organisation and be relevant to the community the applicant group provides services for.
 - General administration salaries for groups, other than welfare-oriented organisations, will not be considered.
- Grants will only be made to amateur sporting groups.
 - These grants may benefit the wider participant group or, they may benefit individuals who achieve amateur representative status.
- Sporting organisations must be affiliated to a sporting body recognised by Sport New Zealand.
- Competitions must be bona fide and recognised as such by the governing body.
- Non-incorporated clubs will be limited to \$1,500 per application.
- Where grants are made for equipment and uniforms they must remain the property of the organisation.
- Education providers can make applications. Associated entities are not funded. For example, support groups like Friends of the School.
- As a partial funder we see our role as complementing regional sector strategies and other funding opportunities.
- AGT will consider projects/applications that add value to, but do not mitigate government bodies (local, regional, or central) responsibility to provide core services by providing community funding for justifiable additional and/or enhanced services.

6.1 AGT does not fund:

- Retrospective grant applications will not be considered.
 - A grant is considered to be retrospective when any costs have been incurred and paid before the grant is approved or paid to the recipient organisation by either the Net Proceed Committee or by the Board of Trustees.
- Catering expenses will not be considered.

- Bar related expenses will not be considered.
- Individual teams from within a Club will not be considered.
 - Applications must be made by the Club.
- Overseas travel is not a priority for AGT.

7. Automatic Declines

Applications will be declined if they are:

- Outside AGT criteria.
- There is insufficient time to process.
- AGT does not have a venue generating funds in your area.
- The Accountability Report for a previous grant is outstanding.
- Application is for retrospective expenditure. That is, items or events paid for before a grant is approved.
- Every effort will be made to assist you but if an application is returned twice and still incorrect on the third submission, it may be declined.

The National Grants Manager will provide a list of declined applications to the Board meetings for ratification.

NOTE: The Board reserves the right to decline applications for reasons other than those listed. An explanation will be given in the decline notification.

8. Conflict of Interest

See also AGT's full Conflict of Interest Policy