



**LeisureCard Fund**

Information Sheet

## Introduction

Participation in sport and recreation is vital for physical, mental, and social well-being, yet financial constraints prevent many Wellingtonians – particularly those from lower-income households, young people and marginalised communities – from getting involved. Without support, these barriers can significantly limit engagement in activities that promote healthier, more connected communities.

The LeisureCard Fund aims to address this gap by offering targeted financial assistance to those who need it most, ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation.

While the fund is available to all Wellingtonians, we have a particular focus on supporting tamariki and rangatahi (5–24 year olds). We know that participation in sport and recreation during childhood and adolescence can have a lasting positive impact—supporting physical and mental wellbeing, building confidence, and helping young people develop social connections and life skills. Early positive experiences also increase the likelihood of lifelong participation in active lifestyles.

By prioritising tamariki and rangatahi, we aim to foster equity of access and ensure young Wellingtonians can thrive through recreation and sport.

Total fund available each year is \$45,000. You can apply for up to \$500 per year per individual annually, and you can reapply each year.

## What is the LeisureCard fund?

The fund supports individuals and whānau, by contributing towards activity related costs such as;

- Membership fees, subscription fees.

Applicants can apply up to a total of \$500 per year per individual, and you can apply for this each year.

## Application Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- live within the Wellington City area;
- you are unable to participate or continue to participate in sport or recreation activities;
- hold a LeisureCard or Community Services Card

## Additional Criteria

Preference will be given to applicants that meet the following additional criteria:

- aged 5-24 years

## How to apply for funding

Applications can be made via our website [LeisureCard Fund - Support and advice - Wellington City Council](#)

A sponsor (LeisureCard partner, teacher, club coach, social worker, etc.) who knows the applicant's situation must endorse the application.

If the applicant is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must complete the application form on their behalf.

Applications will be reviewed, and successful applicants will receive an email informing them on next steps about how to receive the funds support.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email with a notification of the outcome.

The approved grant will be paid directly to the supplier, club, or organisation.

## Reporting

Once approved, the applicant agrees to help evaluate the impact of the fund by collecting information and collating it into a report, diary, or case study. This information will be sent to the fund administrator. The information will help assess:

- Direct benefits of the fund on the recipient(s)
- The social or educational impact on the family/individual
- Identify and incidental outcome of receiving the fund.

## Frequently asked questions

### How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to \$500. This money will only be paid directly to the service provider in exchange for an invoice.

### How often can I apply?

You can apply up to two times per year for example one summer application, and one winter application). Your combined applications must not exceed the \$500 limit.

### Who can act as a Sponsor?

A Sponsor is an individual or agency representative able to answer background information to support the application. They can be one of the following:

- A [LeisureCard Partner](#) staff member
- A non-relative
- A School Principal or Teacher
- Social Worker
- Club Official

### Can an organisation apply on behalf of their members?

Yes, if an organisation wants to apply on behalf of multiple applicants they can do so up to a total of five members or a maximum of \$2,500. The same application form can be used.

### Can I apply for representative fees or expenses generated by rep level (or above) competition?

No. Representative level athletes are already active. The purpose of this fund is to active inactive people, not to further a currently active person's sporting career.

### Can I apply for fees for activities that have already taken place? For example, I did basketball last term but didn't pay the school. Can you support me with this?

No. We can't support retrospective costs (activity/items that has already happened), and we can't reimburse you for those costs either.