

CCS Festivals Fund FAQs

Applications

Will there be a different application form?

No, applicants should be advised to include the term 'festival' in the title or description to help you differentiate festival applications from standard CCS applications.

However, if the panel identifies a potential project that hasn't specified this, they can seek clarification from the applicant or include it in the round if they are confident of its eligibility (e.g., the track record is known, if not specified).

Assessment

Can CNZ hold some info sharing zooms for assessment panels?

Yes, we will hold drop-in Zoom sessions for CCS Managers and assessors focussed on this fund in July 2023.

Can council staff with festival expertise help our assessment committee or make decisions about festival applications?

As always, the assessment and funding decisions for CCS applications should be made by community members.

However, other council staff could provide strategic advice to an assessment committee, so that their expertise and knowledge is considered in the assessment process. This would allow for expert advice to be fed into community-led decision making.

Reporting

How do we report on the Festival Fund?

Reporting for this fund will be in the standard Grants Tracking Tool (GTT). We will add tag specifically for tracking the CCS Festivals Fund.

Do we need to allocate this in the first CCS round of the year, or can we spend these funds across two or more funding rounds? (*When does it need to be committed / spent?*)

Councils can decide how they want to distribute these funds. They can be expended in the first round, or across the full year. However, the funding will need to be committed by 30 June 2024, to align with the standard CCS allocation.

Opt-in process

What if a district doesn't have any established festivals but there are some new festival ideas coming through?

Due to the requirement for this funding to go toward “established” festivals, your council will not be eligible to accept these funds. I would encourage new festivals to apply through the standard CCS funding.

What happens if we opt in but can't distribute all the funds?

As this funding comes from the Governments COVID-19 Cultural Recovery Programme, there is a requirement for it to be expended in 2023/24.

Councils should therefore be confident they have the capacity to distribute the additional funding before opting in.

Given the additional funding comes from COVID-19 funds, we may request that unspent funds are returned at the end of the financial year.

Should my council opt-in if we are carrying a high roll-over from previous years?

If you currently have a high roll-over from previous years, we don't want to burden you with having to take on extra funds. As noted above, to opt-in, you should be confident that your council can successfully distribute the funds within the 2023/24 financial year.

Established Festivals

Do applicants need to provide evidence of previous festival presentation?

Yes, applicants will need to provide evidence that they have presented at least one festival in the last 5 years. This can include digital presentations.

What if a festival doesn't reference previous iterations in the application? How do we know if its established?

You can seek additional information from the applicant or undertake your own research (e.g. look for evidence online).

A festival has yet to be completed but is in progress - does this count as an established festival?

Yes.

General Eligibility

Do applicants need to demonstrate impacts of COVID 19? **No.**

Do food and wine festivals come under the criteria?

No, this funding is for arts focussed festivals that celebrate the stories, cultures, and regional identities of New Zealanders.

Is the funding only intended for festival organisers or would an individual act that will be part of a festival be eligible?

This fund is intended for the festival organisers.

Can council-run festivals apply for this fund?

These funds are for community-led festivals. Festivals that are council-run are not eligible.

Costs

Is there a maximum grant for the festivals fund?

Like all CCS grants, there will be no maximum amount. It will be up to your assessment committee to make final decisions on funding amounts for applications to the Festivals Fund.

If we have shared costs for a festival with another council during the last five years, could the festival apply for CCS Festival Funding from both councils?

Yes, as long as each grant is for different items.

A festival has already received CCS funding, is it eligible to receive additional funding through this?

Yes, if the funds are for costs that are not covered by the initial CCS grant.

What about the difference between free events and events that have paid ticketing?

Festivals with free and paid events are eligible. However, as one of the purposes of the fund is to improve access and participation, assessment committees should consider the accessibility of ticket prices when reviewing applications.

CNZ Festival Grant

If a festival is getting funding from the larger Festivals Grant, can they still apply for this scheme?

We are encouraging festivals applying to the larger Festivals Grant to request the total cost of their festival. If an applicant is considering both grants, you should direct them to our Funding Services team at funding@creativenz.govt.nz to discuss their Festivals Grant application.

If an applicant is unsuccessful in the larger grant application, they are eligible to apply to the CCS Festival Fund.

If an applicant is unsuccessful for part of their application, they are eligible to apply to the CCS Festival Fund, if the costs are not covered by the larger fund.

How will we know if a festival has received funding through CNZ's Festivals Grant?

We know this is a challenge for assessment panels. If you have an applicant that you think may have been funded through the larger Festival Grant, please contact our Funding Services team on funding@creativenz.govt.nz. They will be able to check the status of individual applicants for you.

Funding is intended for festivals that are established and for sustainability, but this is a one-off fund. Can the funding be used by festivals for infrastructure / strengthening? Could the sustainability aspect be about audience development?

This fund is for festival creation and presentation. Funds can support accessibility and audience development as part of festival development and creation.

This could be a programme of outreach activities or free artist-led workshops in local schools and communities to promote your festival events.

However, like all CCS grants, funds cannot be used for physical infrastructure or capital items. This includes purchase of property or vehicles, audio-visual and/or technical equipment (i.e., a PA system, laptops, camera equipment etc.). Instead, funding can be used to hire production gear and venue space.