



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

# **Guidelines for Innovation Grant Application Process**

## **Community Participation Providers within the Disability Sector**

**June 2023**

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# Overview

The Innovation fund is to support the establishment and development of systems, practices, processes, and reporting that will deliver better experiences and outcomes for those receiving community participation services.

Existing Community Participation service providers contracted with MSD will be able to apply for funding from June 2023.

Community Participation service providers who apply for a grant will be asked to create an innovation plan that is aligned to the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) approach and developed in collaboration with disabled participants. There is an [Enabling Good Lives Organisational Self Review tool](#) available for those who would like to first assess how they are doing in EGL.

Providers can ask for a grant of up to \$7,500 to get support to develop their plan by emailing [vocational\\_services\\_disability@msd.govt.nz](mailto:vocational_services_disability@msd.govt.nz)

This amount will be provided up front. The full plan will need to be submitted within three months of the receipt of the \$7,500. Once the Innovation plan is submitted it will be evaluated to determine the amount of funding each provider will receive.

Providers can submit their proposals any time from June 2023.

## Implementing the Enabling Good Lives approach

***In the future, disabled people and their families will have greater choice and control over their lives and supports, and make more use of natural and universally available supports. Enabling Good Lives vision statement***

The Enabling Good Lives approach is about making it easier for disabled people and their families to create good lives for themselves. For disability sector providers who offer Community Participation services the Enabling Good Lives approach can be implemented through:

1. **Promoting choice and control:** Disability sector providers should ensure that the people they support have control over the services they receive. This includes having people with disabilities and their families lead the decision-making and planning processes and adapting services to meet their unique needs and preferences.
2. **Building mainstream community connections:** Disability sector providers should promote community connections and inclusive opportunities for the people they support. This includes encouraging participation in

community activities and events and fostering relationships with community members and organisations.

3. **Supported decision-making:** Disability sector providers should assist the people they support to make informed decisions about their lives. This includes providing information and resources and ensuring they access to the tools and support they need to make decisions. Learn more about [Support for Decision Making](#)

4. **Building strong relationships:** Disability sector providers should build strong relationships with the people they support and their families. This includes fostering a culture of respect, trust, and open communication.

5. **Providing high-quality services:** Disability sector providers should strive to provide high-quality services that are responsive to the needs of the people they support. This includes ongoing evaluation and improvement of service delivery processes, and a commitment to ongoing learning and professional development.

6. **Embracing innovation:** Disability sector providers should be open to innovation and new ways of working. This includes exploring new technologies and approaches to service delivery and collaborating with other organisations and community members to develop new solutions.

In summary, implementing the Enabling Good Lives approach requires disability sector providers to be proactive in promoting choice, control, community connections, informed decision-making, strong relationships, high-quality services, and innovation. By embracing these principles, providers can support their participants to live full, meaningful lives in their communities.

For more information on Enabling Good Lives, please visit the [Enabling Good Lives website](#).

## Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the funding, the organisation must:

- be already providing Community Participation services - including Community Participation, Very High Needs, Transition from School, Business Enterprise - for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand
- be currently funded by MSD
- have an initiative that aligns with the Enabling Good Lives approach and promotes innovation in processes, reporting and/or systems.

# Application criteria

Applicants are required to submit a written proposal. The proposal should outline their plans for how they intend to use the funding and requires the following:

- 1. Description of how your organisation is currently aligning to EGL approach**
- 2. Type of service(s) which your innovation plan is related to (CP, VHNS, BE, Trans from school)**
- 3. Description of your initiative, how this will support your organisation to better meet the EGL approach and support your participants to become more involved in their community**
- 4. The priority groups included in your plan – including Māori, Pacific and Ethnic communities**
- 5. Detailed budget outlining how the funds will be used**
- 6. A timeline for the implementation of your initiative**
- 7. The location at which your initiative will be implemented.**

Each organisation can submit one proposal for innovation for each service. For example, if an organisation offers CP and VHNS services, then they are eligible to submit two individual applications.

The plans must be submitted to **vocational\_services\_disability@msd.govt.nz**.

## Examples of Innovation plans

Providers who are seeking Innovation grants may submit their proposals aligning the innovation of their organisation to the Enabling Good Live approach. Further guidance is outlined below.

### **1. Collaborative initiatives**

Providers may propose collaborative initiatives with other organisations or community groups to develop innovative solutions.

### **2. Development of new service models**

Providers may propose the development of new service models that align with the Enabling Good Lives approach. Examples could be:

- A new quality and culturally responsive service delivery model that demonstrates the beneficial effects of Māori cultural practices - spiritual, mental, physical, emotional and whānau wellbeing - for disabled people by linking with local marae, hapu and iwi.
- A new service delivery model that advocates for and allows participants to choose which services they want to attend.

### **3. Use of technology**

Providers may propose the use of technology to enhance service delivery and support the people they serve. These could be:

- The development of a mobile app which supports and improves the lives of disabled people
- The integration and automation of systems that are easy to use and edit with relevant information about the participants available in real-time
- Improving a provider's internal systems, ensuring that the systems are transparent and up-to-date, financial planning can be done in an effective way, participants' data can be monitored and accessed easily, and the privacy of participants' data is maintained.

#### **4. Improved processes and practices**

Providers may propose improved processes and practices where disabled people are leading, governing, overseeing, and monitoring the change to design systems, policies, practices, and processes. This demonstrates that participants are at the centre of designing services for themselves and their community.

Communications or financial practices can be addressed by this grant by suggesting improvement in how the organisation communicates with participants and their whānau or how the organisations do their annual financial planning to the benefit of participants.

Performance reporting practices are encouraged to be improved and aligned to EGL, so that feedback from participants and their whānau is gathered and actioned regularly.

#### **5. Professional development**

Providers may propose professional opportunities for their staff to enhance their knowledge on Enabling Good Lives approach, innovations in the disability sector, training programmes that focus on promoting choice and control for disabled people. Professional development can also be focused on improving reporting and/or self-evaluation that aligns with the EGL approach.

## **Review and evaluation process**

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the evaluation panel - taking into account:

- the degree to which the proposal aligns with the Enabling Good Lives approach of
  - Promoting choice and control
  - Building community connections
  - Supporting informed decision-making
  - Building strong relationships
  - Providing high-quality services
  - Embracing innovation
- how well the link between the need(s) being addressed and better outcomes for disabled people is demonstrated (how will we know the grant has been effective)
- the feasibility of the plan, including budget and timeline
- location of services
- services to priority groups, ie Māori, Pacific and Ethnic.

# Award of grant

- The funding will be provided as a grant in one instalment
- Grant letters will be issued to the successful applicants
- Reporting on the use of the grant will be expected from providers 12 months after they receive the grant.

Any questions should be sent to **[vocational\\_services\\_disability@msd.govt.nz](mailto:vocational_services_disability@msd.govt.nz)**.