



Outcomes of the Community Food Transition Grant Fund

Through MSD’s Food Secure Communities programme, **135 foodbanks, food rescue and other community food services** received a total of **\$2 million in funding** from the Community Food Transition Grant Fund (Transition Grant) to cover the period June – August 2020.

The Transition Grant provided temporary support for providers during the transition between Civil Defence Emergency Management groups standing down and MSD implementing its two-year Community Food Response Grant Funding. The funding was a contribution towards the increased costs of services distributing or providing food to people, families and whānau unable to afford to purchase food, when compared with prior to COVID-19. Organisations who had worked alongside Civil Defence over the COVID-19 restrictions were given priority. Providers were asked to provide a report on how they had used the grant funds, in any form that suited them.

Around 86% of the 135 grant recipients had responded to our request by 26th November 2020 when this report was compiled.



Orongomai Marae

Food was the most common expenditure with funding but many also took the opportunity to upgrade their infrastructure

Alongside food, organisations also purchased PPE and other non-consumable goods. They paid for staffing or volunteer costs, petrol and other operational expenses.

Both the quality and quantity of food that we are able to provide has been improved and increased as a result of this funding.

The funds received not only supported the food purchase it allowed us to have staff on board for additional hours to support those coming through our doors. We were able to pay our warehouse support person to ensure that food parcels got out to the community in a timely manner also.

They also leased or purchased chillers, freezers, containers and vans.

The purchase of a chiller has meant that we are now able to sustainably manage and store many foodstuffs for the longer term.

In September we purchased a new van for pick-ups and deliveries.

We can confirm that the container we asked for has arrived.



City Mission Whanganui

The funding contributed to being able to support whānau in ways that enhanced their mana

Being able to continue to provide our choice-based foodbank with the financial support allowed us to provide our services in the most dignified and mana-enhancing way for people and whānau.

We sustain a foodbank where food justice is paramount. Every person in our community has the right to access healthy and culturally appropriate food when needed.

We provide our communities and neighbours with food for today and longer-term solutions to create food security for tomorrow. We aim to prioritise nutritious food and encourage healthy choices - more than one-third of the food we distribute should be fresh produce.



SouthSeas HealthCare

COVID-19 sparked much innovation and collaboration that continued to be built on

We now focus on providing ingredients for complete meals and custom-packing the parcels to suit each situation. This has led to us providing a much more personalised service where our clients are made to feel valued and respected.

Post lockdown there is increased awareness and encouragement for people to engage in our kaupapa - share food within our community and accept the manaakitanga that exists. Valuable quality connections and mana enhancing opportunities are created by expanding our premises to host a session / venue for conversations, volunteering contribution, knowledge sharing, food sharing, resource storage and exchange and much more, in addition to food.

It was great to collaborate with other organisations who were supporting our community. Being a part of the COVID kai collective to bring together community meal providers has gone onto a working group to look at the creation of a community hub for the homeless in our city. Building relationships with our local social housing providers has given us the opportunity to provide wraparound services to tenants including help with backyard clean ups, lawnmower lending, family wellness.

Many organisations expressed their gratitude for the Community Food Transition Grant funding that enabled them to meet the increased demand for food from the community

They also discussed the importance of other grant funds from MSD as well as funding from Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies, Councils/Civil Defence and philanthropic organisations.

We would not have been able to assist nearly as many Aucklanders needing food support during the COVID lockdowns without this grant. It was great knowing we had funds available to purchase additional food when the second lockdown hit.

Having funds available to purchase food meant that our busy volunteers did not have to worry about money; stocks of food were maintained at a level ensuring that everyone got the food they needed.



Auckland City Mission

There were lovely stories about the support and generosity of the wider community including individuals, whānau, communities and local businesses

The local farmers gave a lot of their excess crop or non-saleable items during harvest which really helped with the fresh fruit and vegetables. We had our community garden coordinator going out and picking the fruit for the elderly who could not pick their own and they kept their share and then many donated what they would not use to the foodbank. We advertised locally and had Fonterra come onboard with their staff to help the food bank as well.

One of these generous donors has donated a car boot full of groceries to the foodbank every week for the last five weeks. He and his family have previously received food parcels from us. Now he has his own business and is in the position to give back to the community.

We distributed export pork, we picked watercress and puha and at one stage we went to pick up 10 boxes of freshly picked apples. One of our whānau offered to cook 200 fried bread to distribute to the community. We also received a beast which we were able to deliver to each whānau and kaumatua.



Bay of Islands Community Foodbank

One of our clients has offered to do a walkathon to show her gratitude for the support we provided to her during lockdown as a first-time client.

Organisations were also grateful for surplus food from food rescue organisations and the NZ Food Network, as well as their local supermarket.

We have also linked into the NZ Food Network which has just been amazing with the amount of kai donated and fresh fruit and veges.

We were able to develop fast relationships with food rescue organisations such as KiwiHarvest and FairFood.



Nelson Kai Rescue with Victory Community Centre

While this funding was post COVID-19 lockdown, many organisations also discussed their COVID-19 experience

Many iwi and hapū started distributing kai during this period to meet the needs of whānau.

We provided nearly every service needed to meet the needs of our local whānau/hapu and iwi. Age was no limit and while whānau numbers increased for each house, our kai deliveries were healthy, substantial, and well received. We embraced the ability to manaaki our wider community.

We worked with Civil Defence and others to organise kai packs to those in need of food. We collaborated with the agencies in a coordinated manner using our iwi networks, with each iwi group delivering as appropriate to their own communities.



Hauraki Māori Trust Board

Organisations discussed scaling up their services, collaborating with others, and changing their delivery models.



Kairos Freestore Christchurch

I would describe it like trying to build an aircraft and at the same time take off down the runway into flight. We very quickly collaborated with several other trusts. This gave us a great group of resources from volunteers and also other like-minded networks.

Our services were redesigned to ensure safe delivery of food support as we responded to the unprecedented need for help at this time.

In the middle of the first COVID19 lockdown we created a collective that began to provide support to each of our communities through access to food.



Te Puna Ora o Mataatua