1. **SECTION: BACKGROUND**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **What is the purpose of the Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (the Fund)?** | To support ākonga (aged 12 to 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic to stay engaged in their education journey. |
| **Why is the Fund needed?** | We know there are ākonga who have had their learning impacted as a result of COVID-19 (including Alert Level changes) and are either already disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging, from their education. |
| **How does this Fund align to the Youth Plan?** | The [Youth Plan](http://myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan.html) sets out the actions that government will take, in partnership with others, to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 for rangatahi. In line with the Youth Plan, the Fund will also have a particular focus on the following groups of young people:   * + - * Rangatahi Māori       * Pacific young people       * Rainbow young people       * Disabled young people. |
| **How will the Fund do this?** | * + - * This Fund will support community-based programmes that will help ākonga to re-engage in their learning journey.       * The community-based programmes we are seeking are those that use a strength-based youth development approach, providing holistic support to ākonga and, working with their whānau, and the wider community, including education providers. |
| **Who is administering the Fund?** | * + - * The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will administer the Fund.       * This Fund is a partnership initiative between the MYD and the Ministry of Education (MoE). |
| **When does the Request for Proposal (RFP) open?** | The RFP will be available on the Government Electronic Tender System (GETS) from Monday 16 November 2020. |
| **When can a response to the RFP be submitted?** | SmartyGrants will open for responses to the RFP on Monday 23 November 2020. |
| **When does the RFP close?** | * + - * The RFP will close **12 noon, Tuesday 12 January 2021**.       * All responses must be completed on SmartyGrants.       * Incomplete or late responses will not be accepted. |

1. **SECTION: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

| **Question** | **Answer** |
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| **Who is this Fund for?** | To support Iwi and community-based youth development programmes delivered outside of traditional education settings (e.g. schools/kura) to support ākonga (aged 12 to 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to stay engaged in their education journey. |
| **What outcomes will this Fund achieve?** | Ākonga who participate in the programmes supported through this Fund will:   * have an increased level of engagement in their learning and aspiration for their future or will have transitioned to further training or employment * have stronger connections with their community (e.g. youth and support services). |
| However, the measure of success for ākonga will be different and dependent on the level of support needed, their engagement in the programme, and their aspirations. |
| **Who should consider applying?** | Responses are being sought from Iwi and community-based youth development providers who:   * have a proven history of national/regional/local programme delivery to at risk communities * are skilled at connecting with disengaged ākonga and/or ākonga at risk of disengaging, and their whānau * can identify the needs of local ākonga who are at risk of disengaging from education, due to the impact of COVID-19 and provide a way to address these needs. |
| Collaborative applications from community and education providers/practitioners are encouraged to ensure ākonga and their whānau build positive relationships with community and education providers/practitioners, and receive the right information and support to help them on their education journey. |
| **Are there any pre-conditions that must be met?** | Yes. Iwi and community-based youth development providers must be legally recognised organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand. |
| **What programmes are eligible for funding?** | Programmes (including programme delivery) **must satisfy all the points below:**   * + - * **be no less than ten weeks per year,** and       * **commence in Term 1 of the 2021 academic year,** and       * **satisfy 1 to 3 below.** |
| 1. Include **holistic support to ākonga** through building self-esteem, belonging and identity, mental wellbeing and healthy relationships, all of which support ākonga to engage in their education. For example,  * support ākonga who have shown increases in anxiety, mental distress, verbal and/or physically aggressive and or challenging (violent, truant or anti-social) behaviour since lockdown, and/or * develop pathways for ākonga to re-enter into education due to high levels of anxiety as a result of COVID-19.  1. Work with **ākonga, their whānau, and the wider community, including education providers** (including education providers e.g. schools, alternative education, education training providers, kura) to:  * identify additional engagement barriers for individual ākonga, and * help build/strengthen the following protective factors for individual ākonga:   + - * + quality relationships (ākonga engaged for at least ten weeks) and/or         + support ākonga to develop/learn skills and experience success with aspirational goals and/or         + strengthen community connections, mana and sense of identity for ākonga.  1. **Support ākonga through a strengths-based youth development approach** to stay in education and/or support transitions to further training or employment to leverage off other initiatives that support the All of Government recovery response to COVID-19. |
| **What other things will you take into consideration?** | Due consideration will be given to programmes that satisfy one or more of the following:   * innovative in the approach used to meet local needs of ākonga who are engaged or at risk of disengaging as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (e.g. collaborative partnerships, programme design and delivery, new programme or component meets an existing gap and need within the community etc.) * readily available, or able to start operating or expand quickly to ensure that ākonga receive the support as soon as possible to meet immediate demand * have the ability to connect to other government-funded initiatives to support ākonga (aged 16 to 21 years) to transition to further training and or employment * are being delivered in areas where the numbers of ākonga who are disengaged and/or at risk of disengaging are high as a result of the impact of COVID-19 * targeted at rangatahi Maori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people and disabled young people. |
| **How much funding is available?** | Funding is time limited. |
| A total of approximately **$7.8 million** will be distributed through the Fund to support delivery for two academic years only (i.e. 2021 and 2022). |
| Depending on the scale and reach of each programme, a range of 50% to 100% of programme costs will be considered. |

1. **SECTION: POST-ASSESSMENT**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **Who will assess the proposals?** | A joint MYD and MoE assessment panel will be established to assess the open tender contestable fund. |
| **When will I know if my proposal has been successful?** | A decision regarding successful proposals will be made no later than February 2021. |
| Successful proposals will be negotiated no later than February 2021 and delivery must commence in Term 1 of the 2021 Academic year. |
| Successful proposals must have, or are applying for, Level 3, 2 or 1 [Social Service Accreditation](https://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/providers/social-services-accreditation/index.html) prior to be contracted. |
| **When will the funding be available?** | All successful proposals must have the appropriate level of Social Service Accreditation prior to being contracted. |
| On completion of a signed contract. |
| **When will I be able to access information about successful proposals?** | A list of successful applicants, including funding amount will be posted on the MYD and/or MoE website/s following completion of the open tender contestable funding round no later than March 2021. |
| **If my application is unsuccessful in this round, will there be other funding rounds?** | The fund is time limited. |
| If the fund is not fully committed, MYD may undertake a further funding round in March 2021. |

1. **SECTION: SMARTYGRANTS**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **What is SmartyGrants?** | SmartyGrants is an online platform.  MYD uses SmartyGrants to support responses/applications for any contestable funding rounds that it administers. |
| **How do I access SmartyGrants?** | SmartyGrants will open for responses to the RFP on **Monday 23 November 2020.** A link and further instructions will be available on the MYD website. |
| **Who can help me if I have any problems with SmartyGrants?** | Please email [Akonga\_Fund@myd.govt.nz](mailto:Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz) if you need help. |

1. **SECTION: GENERAL**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **Who can I contact for help?** | Please email [Akonga\_Fund@myd.govt.nz](mailto:Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz) if you need help. |
| **Are there any Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)?** | Yes. A set of FAQs will be posted along with the Request for Proposal document and draft Outcomes Agreement on GETS. |
| Updated FAQs will be posted on the MYD website: <http://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html> |
| **What if I have a question?** | You can send your question/s to [Akonga\_Fund@myd.govt.nz](mailto:Akonga_Fund@myd.govt.nz). We will endeavour to respond to all questions within 48 hours of receipt. |
| Alternatively, you can attend an information hui/zhui. Details will be posted on the MYD website: <http://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html>. |
| **Can I send my response in via email or hard copy?** | No. Responses will only be accepted through SmartyGrants. |