

IWI PARTNERSHIP | TE HŌTAKA HONONGA-Ā-IWI

1. INTRODUCTION

This Iwi Partnership/Te Hōtaka Hononga-ā-Iwi program is designed to uplift iwi development by fostering sustainable initiatives that align with tikanga and kaitiakitanga. It enables iwi to pursue projects that contribute to the economic, cultural, environmental, and social wellbeing of their people. The scope of eligible projects includes, but is not limited to, sustainable aquaculture, environmental restoration, education and training, cultural development, and marae upkeep or enhancement projects that benefit the wider iwi community.

2. PURPOSE

This program aims to:

- (1) Strengthen iwi-led development through initiatives that align with the Trust's strategic aspirations.
- (2) Support projects that improve community infrastructure, including the maintenance and development of marae.
- (3) Encourage education, training and capacity building initiatives that blend mātauranga Māori with modern practices.
- (4) Enable environmental and cultural revitalisation projects, including taiao restoration and resource sustainability.
- (5) Build iwi resilience through projects that improve long-term social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

3. FUNDING SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY

The Program offers funding of up to \$120,000 each fisheries financial year. Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 but are not guaranteed the full amount. To be eligible for funding applicants must meet the below criteria:

- The applicant must be a registered company or charity representing one of our 10 constituted Te Arawa iwi.
- Projects must align with one or more of the trust's strategic objectives:
 - Iwi capacity and capability building;
 - Environmental or taiao restoration and care;
 - Education, training or youth development;
 - Marae development or upkeep;
 - Cultural revitalisation; and/or
 - Economic and social wellbeing initiatives.
- Projects must demonstrate a commitment to kaitiakitanga underpinned by tikanga.
- The proposed project must predominantly benefit the iwi it represents and ensure widespread, lasting positive impacts across the wider community.
- Projects must clearly outline specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely (SMART) goals and objectives, with a clear timeline, measurable outcomes, and feasible implementation strategies.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

The process for applying to and participating in the program includes the following stages:

- **Apply:** Applications are open from 1 October each year and close 30 April each year. Applications may close prior to 30 April if all funding is allocated before this date. Applications should be submitted through the online portal, however hard-copy applications can be provided upon request. Applicants will be asked to provide verification of their bank account details.

- **Review and Consideration:** The Trust will review applications and determine successful applicants. Applications are accepted/funded on a first-in first-served basis provided they meet the above criteria.
- **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 10 business days of submission.
- **Funding:** Successful applicants will receive the full agreed funding directly into the verified bank account provided within five business days of notification.
- **Project Implementation:** Successful applicants must proceed with the implementation of the project according to the approved plan. Any changes to the plan must be communicated to the Trust as soon as reasonably possible.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Successful applicants are required to submit a Final Report, using the approved template, within 10 business days of the project's completion or no later than 31 days after the end of the Trust's financial year the funding was received. The report must include an evaluation of the project's outcomes in relation to the agreed goals.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Ongoing communication and monitoring between the Trust and project recipients are required to ensure that project objectives are being met. This includes tracking progress, addressing any issues that arise, and adjusting plans as necessary. The Trust places a strong emphasis on accountability, transparency, and the long-term sustainability of projects.

5. GENERAL TERMS

- (1) **Criteria:** The program is not intended to provide financial assistance for:
 - Internal organisational expenses (i.e. salary, administration, operational costs, and expenses).
 - Individuals.
 - Complete or substantially completed projects.
- (2) **Financial Contribution:** The maximum financial contribution available in a financial year is \$120,000 for the program, and a maximum of \$10,000 per project per financial year (no gst). If the proposed project doesn't require the full available amount of funds and only partial funds are required, the project cannot claim the remaining funds. If funds are not claimed, they will not 'roll over' into any subsequent financial years.
- (3) Successful applicants must provide evidence of a verified bank account (bank statement, bank screenshot, verified bank slip etc.) upon request. Evidence must show the bank name, account name and account number. Payment will not be made until verification is provided.
- (4) **General:**
 - Successful applicants should attend the Annual General Meeting for the relevant year the funds were provided.
 - If the successful applicant fails to provide a Final Report the applicant may be required to return any or all the Financial Contribution that was paid (in part or full). Outstanding portions of the Financial Contribution may be withheld and eligibility for further funding may be withdrawn.
- (5) Successful applicants agree to the Trust/Te Arawa Fisheries Group using their project for promotional material, subject to meeting mutual privacy and confidentiality concerns.
- (6) Unclaimed/Unrequested funds not allocated to the program during the financial year will remain property of Te Kotahitanga o Te Arawa Waka Fisheries Trust and distributed at its discretion.

6. REVIEW AND UPDATE:

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in supporting the strategic objectives of the Trust and the needs of Te Arawa iwi members. Any amendments to the policy require Trust Board approval.

Version	Date Effective	Approved By	Amendment
1.0	1 October 2025	Trust Board	Initial Policy

