

# Community Trusts 2026 Candidate Information Sheet

## Community trusts fund activities that directly benefit their communities

The community trusts (the trusts) are governed by their individual trust deed, and the Community Trusts Act 1999. Each trust is responsible for managing a large investment portfolio, as well as carrying out policies to ensure the distribution of grants for charitable, cultural, philanthropic, recreational and other purposes beneficial to its community.

Trustees are appointed for terms of up to four years and are eligible for reappointment. Trustees continue in office, despite the expiry of their term, until a further appointment decision is made.

Trustees work together to make investment decisions, to grant funding for community projects and activities, and to set the trust's policy direction and strategic plans.

Trustees need to have a good understanding of, and connections to, the communities which they serve. They must also be able to commit up to two working days a month to the trust.

## Skills and attributes desired

Each trust should ideally have the following mix of skills and experience:

1. governance experience;
2. community involvement;
3. investment experience;
4. grant making experience;
5. strategic thinking; and
6. legal expertise.

Māori, Pasifika, ethnic perspectives reflective of the specific region's diversity, and geographic representation are also desirable in candidates.

The specific criteria for each trust can be found on pages 2 to 5 of this information sheet.

## Location

People considered for appointment **must** reside within the grant distribution area of the trust.

## Impartiality

Appointed trustees must be impartial. Irrespective of political interests and personal beliefs, trustees must conduct themselves in a way that enables them to act effectively under current and future governments and serves the wider needs of the community.

## Public servants seeking appointment to trusts

Cabinet has agreed that Ministers **should not generally appoint public servants** to statutory bodies but that there may be special circumstances in which employees of Public Service departments can be appointed. Further information is provided in the State Services Commission's Board Appointment and Induction Guidelines (see page 16), and Cabinet Office circulars CO (02) 5: Appointment of Public Servants to Statutory Board, and CO (22) 2: Revised Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest (especially paragraphs 73-79).

## Nomination process

Any person seeking appointment to a community trust must provide a full and up-to-date curriculum vitae, cover letter, completed expression of interest form, and photo ID (New Zealand Passport or Drivers License).

Completed documents should be sent to [appointments@dia.govt.nz](mailto:appointments@dia.govt.nz) by **5pm 1 May 2026**.

Please note that any nomination may not necessarily result in the appointment of a particular person.

**Waikato Community Trust selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Waikato Community Trust** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet the following key criteria:

- accounting experience

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- investment experience
- legal experience
- knowledge of te ao Māori, Pasifika, and ethnic communities.
- community involvement
- governance.

The trustee fee is \$13,931.50 per annum

**Eastern and Central Community Trust selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Eastern and Central Community Trust** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- extensive governance experience
- a finance and investment background
- legal expertise

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- community involvement
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking.

The trustee fee is \$13,200 per annum

**Toi Foundation selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Toi Foundation** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- governance experience
- banking
- legal expertise
- accountancy knowledge and experience
- a finance and investment background
- community involvement
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking.

The trustee fee is \$11,000 per annum

**Whanganui Community Foundation selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Whanganui Community Foundation** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet the following key criteria:

- resides in Waimarino or Rangitikei

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- an understanding of and connections with Māori communities, including hapu and iwi who have mana whenua in the region.
- represent a younger demographic
- reflect the ethnic and gender diversity in our region
- Commerce, finance, investment acumen or experience
- strategic thinking
- legal expertise.

The trustee fee is \$6,600

### **Wellington Community Fund selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Wellington Community Fund** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- knowledge of, and networks in, Pacific/Pasifika communities
- investment management experience
- brings a youth perspective.

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- governance experience
- community involvement
- grant-making experience
- knowledge of or, and networks in, the region's ethnic communities.

The trustee fee is \$6,600 per annum

### **West Coast Community Trust selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **West Coast Community Trust** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- a sound knowledge of investment principles and how to apply them to an investment strategy
- experience in the voluntary sector, including supporting diversity within the region's not-for-profit organisations
- experience in understanding and applying the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi
- an understanding of the effects climate change is having on West Coast communities
- strategic thinking

As well as the key criteria above, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- a background in accounting or legal services
- understand the fiduciary obligations <sup>1</sup>of a Trustee
- governance experience especially in the philanthropic sector
- grant-making experience
- computer literacy skills

The trustee fee is \$2,640 per annum

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<sup>1</sup> Acting for the benefit of the beneficiaries: Trustees must manage the trust in a way that promotes the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Compliance with relevant statutes: Trustees must adhere to the laws governing trusts and the terms of the trust document.

Diligent management: Trustees must manage the trust prudently and with skill, considering the interests of all beneficiaries.

Maintaining accurate records: Trustees are required to keep accurate records of all transactions and decisions made regarding the trust.

Acting impartially: Trustees must avoid conflicts of interest and make decisions that are fair and impartial to all beneficiaries.

These duties are essential for ensuring the trust is managed responsibly and in the best interest of its beneficiaries.

### **Rata Foundation selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Rātā Foundation** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- has held a senior executive role in a large organisation
- governance experience
- investment experience.

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- community involvement
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking
- legal expertise.

The trustee fee is \$15,400 per annum

### **Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury** is seeking nominations from candidates who represent the **Waimate District** and meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- governance experience
- community involvement
- investment experience
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking
- legal expertise.

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- Māori (preferably Manawhenua) and/or other minority cultural backgrounds
- experience with other community organisations and have good local networks
- a youth perspective
- commercial experience.

The trustee fee is \$7,650 per annum

### **Otago Community Trust selection criteria and trustee fee**

The **Otago Community Trust** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- Connections with Pasifika communities
- representation from the Upper Clutha (Wānaka) area
- legal qualifications and experience
- knowledge / experience of Otago's rural and isolated communities
- knowledge / experience of Otago's mental health, addiction or social services

knowledge / experience of Otago's rainbow community. As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- governance experience
- community involvement
- investment experience
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking.

The trustee fee is \$13,200 per annum

**Community Trust South selection criteria and trustee fee**

**Community Trust South** is seeking nominations from candidates who meet one or more of the following key criteria:

- education sector knowledge
- rural sector knowledge
- youth representation

As well as the above key criteria, candidates are sought with experience in some of the following:

- governance experience
- community involvement
- investment experience
- grant-making experience
- strategic thinking
- legal expertise.

**The trustee fee is \$15,675 per annum**

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