Applicant eligibility criteria:
- Applicant must be able to meet all the criteria stipulated in the guidelines.
- Applicant/organisation must be: Incorporated Society (certificate or documentation of proof must be supplied); Trust or Association (please supply documentation); Unincorporated community group or an Umbrella organisation with local branches.
- Council is unable to issue funds directly to individual recipients.

Project eligibility criteria
- Take place within Rangitikei;
- Demonstrate consideration of how they see their proposal would benefit the community
- Provide 3 targets that will be used to monitor the outcome of the project
- Provide a realistic and balanced budget;
- Be able to contribute a significant proportion to the cost of the project
- Must have a completed application with documentation as required, such as quotes, financials and a completed balance sheet for the project.
- Must have returned a completed project report for previous funding

Exclusions:
- Applicants cannot have been financially supported by the ratepayers of the Rangitikei District Council through some other means for the same project in the same financial year, i.e. through the Event Sponsorship Scheme, Community Boards/Committees, Annual Plan etc.;
- Applicants cannot apply for funding from the Community Initiatives Fund more than once in any financial year;
- Any organisation that has given away or donated money to other organisations will not be granted Council funding.
- Proposals which are eligible for funding from Creative New Zealand or Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund must state clearly if they have made an application to or intend to apply to either fund. The Community Initiatives Fund assessment committee may limit funding to these groups.

Costs covered:
- All apart from the below:

Exclusions:
- Building development, repairs or funding for capital works (i.e. the costs associated in developing buildings);
- Grants to individuals;
- Purchase or long-term lease of facilities, excluding that which serves a recreational function (i.e. playground swings)
- Retrospective project costs;
- Costs of bonds or making good any damage done to venues that are hired;
- (General overheads such as power costs, administration costs etc. must be based on proven figures from previous year’s accounts.)