

OIR: 2526/298

3 March 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your emails of **10 February 2026** and **16 February 2026** requesting the following information:

...all I really want to know is, why there is one grant specifically for Maori when there are so many different ethnicities in our area! Yes, you did list all the grants available & I acknowledged that! Is it part of the Treaty settlement or a KCDC initiative?

On 12 February 2026, we responded to your initial email with an explanation of the Māori Economic Development Fund, and other grants available and included links to further details about the grants. On 14 February you responded, indicating that you felt your question had not been answered. After further email correspondence, you clarified that you sought a response to the question set out above.

The Māori-specific grant exists to support Māori participation in Council processes and to advance Māori wellbeing and aspirations. Māori hold a distinct legal and constitutional status as tangata whenua and as partners to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This status is different from that of other ethnic communities. Council is required under the Local Government Act 2002, including sections 4, 14, and 81, to:

- recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making; and
- foster Māori capacity to engage with Council.

The Māori-specific grant is one of the mechanisms Council uses to meet these statutory obligations.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

Council also provides a wide range of grants that are open to all ethnic and community groups across the district.

The grant is not part of any Treaty settlement. It is a KCDC initiative established to meet Council's legislative responsibilities and to ensure Māori have equitable access to tools, resources, and support that enable full participation in local government decision-making. This aligns with the commitments in the Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Partnership Agreement, which reaffirms that mana whenua are not stakeholders but Te Tiriti partners whose tino rangatiratanga must be recognised and upheld. The Agreement also sets a shared commitment to collective leadership, sustaining relationships, upholding mana, and ensuring equitable participation in governance.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hara Adams', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Hara Adams

Te Kaihautū Rōpū Hononga ā-Iwi
Group Manager Iwi Partnerships