

1) Background

The Rural Travel Fund was developed in response to concerns raised by territorial authorities about the lack of participation in sport by young people living in rural communities. Geographical isolation, urban drift, lack of employment opportunities and access to mainstream funding were identified as barriers to sport participation.

It has been agreed by SPARC that the Rural Travel fund shall once again be made available in 2008/2009 and is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years. This is an interim measure until a rural participation strategy is fully developed and implemented.

The rural travel fund is designed to help subsidise travel for junior teams participating in local sport competition. The allocation of the fund is based on a population density formula for territorial authorities whom have less than 10 people per square kilometre based on 35c per capita with a baseline/minimum entitlement of \$9,000 (Source: Census Statistics 2006).

2) Rural Travel Fund Eligibility

Application for the rural travel fund is open to rural sports clubs and rural school teams with young people aged between 5 and 19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Please note: The rural travel fund is to be managed by the territorial authority and funding **should not** be provided for the purpose of travel to **regional** or **national** events.

3) Assessment Criteria

The following criteria shall be applied when considering applications for funding. School club teams and sport club teams are defined as:

“a school club team participating in regular local sport competition in weekends, that excludes inter school and intra school competitions played during school time”

and/or;

“a sports club team participating in organised, regular sport competition through club membership outside of school time”

4) **Assessment process**

Each territorial authority can decide on their own assessment process based on their own resources. It is up to each territorial authority to communicate the process to all applicants. Territorial authorities may wish to use an assessment committee process if there is an established funding committee.

5) **Fund administration**

Territorial authorities should satisfy themselves that the public money distributed for the fund has been used for the purpose for which it was intended. SPARC has produced these guidelines to provide authorities with information to assist with local decisions.

SPARC requires organisations that receive funding to return an accountability form to the appropriate territorial authority showing proof of purchases made within that period and attach any receipts.

Please note: If applicant organisations whom have received assistance do not return their accountability forms, it can jeopardise any future funding. Applicants ***must*** be able to account for the total amount allocated.

Administration

Q. What is the SPARC rural travel fund?

A. The SPARC rural travel fund is a partnership between SPARC and territorial authorities to assist the development of junior sport in rural communities by providing a travel subsidy.

Q. Who administers this funding?

A. Administration is provided through territorial authorities.

General

Q. Can individuals apply for funding?

A. No, all applications must come from sports club teams, and school based teams. Funding should not be distributed to individual players, coaches or officials for the purpose of travel.

Q. How are territorial authorities selected to participate in the rural travel fund?

A. SPARC has selected territorial authorities based on a formula that takes into account population and population density. Eligible councils have a population density of less than 10 people per square kilometre.

Q. Where can I get an application form?

A. Application forms can be obtained from territorial authorities.

Q. Who can apply to this fund?

A. Organisations and schools with participants aged between 5 and 19 years playing sport for a club or school club team who meet the rural travel fund criteria.

Q. A team has applied for funding to help pay for travel expenses to get to National Champs. Are they eligible?

A. No they aren't. The fund is for travel to regular, local competition for eg. Saturday morning or week night games.

Q. Can we fund a school team for a one off or annual inter school competition?

A. No, the fund is for travel to regular, local competition.

Q. How can I find out about the criteria for the rural travel fund?

A. Contact your territorial authority for more information.

Q. Who should I contact at SPARC for more information?

A. Please contact Fiona Ramsay at SPARC on 04 496 5012 or email fiona.ramsay@sparc.org.nz.

What else can SPARC do for you?

Active Communities Investment

Territorial (city and district councils) and regional authorities can gain both financial and service support from SPARC for programmes that will contribute to SPARC's aims of:

- Making New Zealand the world's most active nation,
- Having the most effective sport and physical recreation systems

Push Play resources

Push Play is a nationwide SPARC campaign to get more New Zealanders more active more often. Push Play is based on the fact that even small amounts of activity are good for your health and all it takes is 30 minutes a day. There is a great range of Push Play merchandise and printed resources available to order and many of them are free.

SPARC research

SPARC leads strategic research in the sport and recreation sector to create a strong evidence base for policy and programme development.

For more information about the above investments and services, please contact Fiona Ramsay at SPARC on 04 496 5012 or fiona.ramsay@sparc.org.nz.

You can also visit www.sparc.org.nz.