

Impacts of COVID-19 on funder distributions and funding practice – Survey findings November 2021

Summary information sheet

In November 2021, Philanthropy New Zealand | Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa (PNZ) surveyed its philanthropic and grantmaker member organisations (funders) to explore the impacts of COVID-19 on their distributions and funding practice over the last couple of years. Fifty-three PNZ funders responded.

This survey was a follow-up to the research we undertook in mid-2020 which explored the early and anticipated impacts of COVID-19 and the emerging response within an uncertain economic context and Government response. In both years family and private trusts, Community Trusts and corporate foundations made up around 60% of the sample.

Key findings

In our November 2021 survey of funder members (with 53 respondents), we found that:

- Around half (49%) saw their funding distributions increase in their last financial year (nearly two thirds of funders said by 10-20%). An additional 21% stated that their funding had stayed at the same level.
- The most common reasons for increased distributions related to funders responding to community needs arising from COVID-19 and/or that increased investment returns or income enabled greater spending.
- For this current reporting year, around 86% of respondents overall expect that their funding will either stay the same as the last reporting year (45%) or increase (41%).
- The results show an upwards trend in funders making proactive approaches to fund community organisations working with those in greatest need and in offering non-financial support to organisations (from our 2020 survey) and around a third of responding funders noted that they have been working more closely with other funders in their region or area of focus.

Read the [full report](#).