

# Defining the impact of COVID-19 on our Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector

## Recommendations: RECOVERY

### Summary

**1. Paid community representation** on all recovery and funding design and decision-making panels

**2. Free or low-cost advisory services** available for 12 months

**3. Increase recruitment and onboarding of volunteers**

**4. Funds have 20% set aside for operational and salary costs**

**5. Funding distributed through a regional, place-based model**

**6. Contracted government services are funded at 100% funding of programme costs**

1. Government agencies and local government appoint paid community representation on all recovery and funding design and decision-making panels
2. Free or low-cost advisory services for the next 12 months are available to assist community organisations make core recovery decisions about funding, service design and delivery, staffing, and establishing organisational stability
3. Enable organisations to increase recruitment and onboarding of volunteers during recovery by funding volunteering infrastructure (eg. for recruitment, training and management of volunteers)
4. All recovery funds have 20% set aside for organisations to apply for operational and salary costs
5. Recovery funding is distributed through a place-based model rather than through an application process across multiple agencies. Decision making is made at a regional level
6. Contracted government services are funded at 100% of programme costs and immediately extended to 3 or 5 year terms to ensure continuity of service

While the research focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector, it also highlighted how ongoing and systemic issues hampered organisations' response and recover abilities.

These issues are underfunding, partial and short-term funding, the resource community organisations need to use to seek funding, and the lack of available data and insufficient representation at a sector, government and political level.

In addition to the recommendations to support the COVID-19 recovery, we recommend the following steps to strengthen the sector to help maximise its contribution both in this time of crisis and on an ongoing basis.

## Recommendations: IMPROVING THE SYSTEM

### Summary

**1.** Government **fund cross-sector collaboration** at a national & regional level

**2.** Government produce **accessible and open data** on community need

**3.** Develop a set of **best practice funding principles** for funders and the sector

**4.** Re-establish the **Office for the Community & Voluntary Sector**

**5.** The Minister for the Community & Voluntary Sector **sits within Cabinet**

**6.** **Sustainable funding for national umbrella bodies** to support representation, consultation & information sharing

1. Government produce accessible and open data on community need, and fund cross-sector collaboration at a national and regional level across government, business, philanthropy and business
2. Reduce barriers to volunteers and volunteering by funding volunteering infrastructure to better enable volunteer engagement by organisations
3. Develop a set of best practice funding principles for both funders and the sector. These will highlight the importance of fully funding service delivery, the necessity for community organisations to have healthy overheads, longer-term contracts to support planning and stability, and reducing the burden of seeking and reporting on funding
4. Re-establish the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector to provide Ministerial advice, support work to build the capacity of the sector, expand knowledge within government about the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector, and provide policy and engagement advice about the sector to government agencies
5. The Minister of the Community and Voluntary Sector sit within Cabinet to acknowledge the social and economic contribution of the sector and it is an essential part of all government decision-making
6. Sustainable funding for core national umbrella bodies to support representation, consultation and information sharing