



THE DIGITAL STRATEGY:
CREATING OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

Community Aspects of the NZ Digital Strategy



THE DIGITAL STRATEGY:
CREATING OUR DIGITAL FUTURE



The Digital Strategy Vision

New Zealand will be a world leader in using information and communications technology to realise its economic, social, environmental and cultural goals, to the benefit of all its people.



The Digital Strategy was released in May 2005. It brings together a range of different government initiatives in ICT under one, co-ordinated umbrella. Up to \$400 million of new resources will be directed over the next five years to work towards the Strategy's goals. The Strategy is being led by the Ministry of Economic Development.

Digital Strategy Strands

Content

Information we can access that can enrich the quality of our lives.

Confidence

The skills to use ICT and a secure environment in which to do so.

Connection

Getting access to and using ICT.



The Digital Strategy emphasises three areas known as the three ‘C’s and a number of programmes address all three.

Digital Strategy Strands

Communities

To enable communities to use technology to achieve their social, cultural, and economic aspirations.

Business

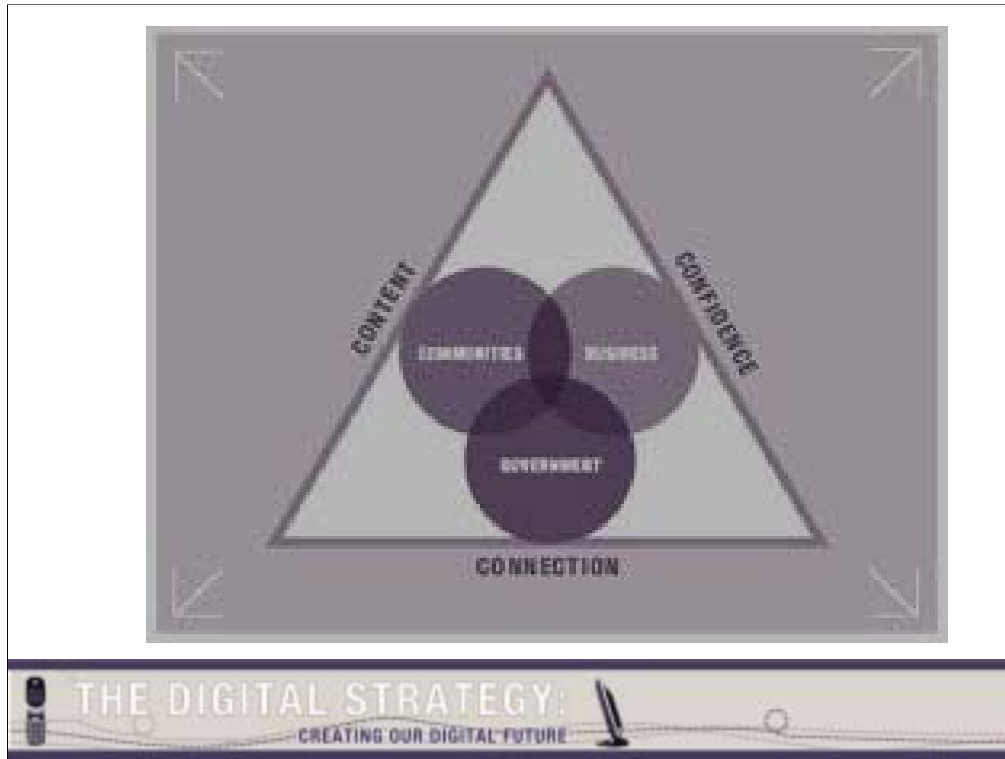
To enhance the contribution ICT makes to New Zealand's overall business productivity.

Government

The delivery of government information, services, and processes will be integrated, accessible, and customised.



The Digital Strategy emphasises three areas known as the three 'C's and a number of programmes address all three.



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Digital Strategy Launched May 2005

Connecting Communities planning, research, pilot projects, conference etc. from 2001 on.

Draft Strategy launched mid 2004, followed by extensive consultation and feedback.

Wide support from community, business, media etc.

Digital Strategy Steering Group from government agencies, local government, National Library.

Ministerial oversight by four ministers, including Hon. Winnie Laban Minister for C&V sector

Ministerial input from an Advisory Group selected from business, community, government.



A group of Digital Ministers oversee the implementation of the strategy. A Digital Strategy Community sub-group is developing the community aspects of the strategy, overseen by Minister for C&V.

Unlocking the potential of
communities.

Community Partnership Fund (\$20.7m)

Connecting Communities

UPLIFT – MS Unlimited Potential Foundation

CommunityNet Aotearoa.

Project PROBE extension

BroadBand Challenge (\$24m)



A fourth 'C' under the Digital strategy is Communities. A number of specific programmes in this area will be of interest to local government.

Connecting Communities

\$0.450 million per annum

Strategic targets including developing:

- Best practice ICT planning tools for community organisations
- Organisation infrastructure to support ICT access
- Community networking



Connecting Communities Strategy has recently transferred to DIA from CEG which was part of DOL, includes a number of activities that will facilitate community and voluntary sector access to ICT.

We are currently scoping the work to sort out where to take the Strategy from here.

Project PROBE Extension

\$1.44 million for 2005/2006

Project PROBE aims to ensure all schools have access to broadband, with benefits extended to their communities

Extension planned for harder to reach communities and schools

MED lead agency



The Government has invested \$48 million in Project PROBE and raised broadband coverage to approx 95% in each region. This extension will allow for nearly 100% coverage – with rural communities and businesses that have been excluded to date able to access the benefits of affordable broadband.

Microsoft Unlimited

**Grants from Microsoft and Government (\$0.45m)
and free software**

**Partnership with Whitireia Community Polytechnic
Skills programme to 'train the IT trainers'**

**Will train up to 125 trainers for community learning
centres**



This programme will be rolled out through community learning centres in disadvantaged communities over the next two years. The course will be run by Whitireia Polytechnic, which has experience in working with community groups. Trainers who attend the course will be required to train another trainer and a specified number of community members. It is estimated that up to 4,100 people who currently have no or limited IT skills will be able to benefit from this initiative.

It is a positive example of the potential for collaboration between business, government and communities.

CommunityNet Aotearoa

Community information and sharing resource since 1998; community guided, government supported

Includes

Hot Topics – including Digital Strategy

How-To guides

Community news, events, training, jobs, resources etc.

Links directory

Case studies



Community Net Aotearoa will continue to be an important resource for communities and digital strategy opportunities and ICT information will be posted there.

Community Partnership Fund

\$20.7 million over 4 years

Contestable fund to build local partnerships that increase ICT capacity in communities and local digital content.



The government is providing \$20.7 million seed funding over four years to partly fund initiatives by partnerships that will improve people's capability and skills to use ICT and develop digital content.

ICT can be used to bring communities closer together, to build the capacity of individuals and groups and extend existing services to isolated communities or to those excluded from participating fully, and increase participation in the democratic process.

The Community Partnership Fund will support the many grassroots ICT-related initiatives that draw on the benefits of the broadband infrastructure put in place by PROBE and other Digital Strategy projects.

The seed funding will support projects that primarily:

- 1) Build ICT skills and capability in regions and communities
- 2) Map communities ICT assets and identify priority gaps
- 3) Strengthen community projects through the use of ICT
- 4) Address issues of confidence, such as safety and security, in using ICT
- 5) Create and digitise distinctive and valuable New Zealand content.

Community Partnership Fund

Objectives of the fund

To support community projects that

- work to realise community aspirations through using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- work on ICT content, connection and confidence and
- work in partnership with others.



Community Partnership Fund

The sort of projects that will be considered are those that show smart ways to apply ICT, for example to:

- digitise and link content and use software applications across communities and nationwide;
- use ICT in communities to meet community interests and aspirations;
- increase confidence in using computers and other ICT;
- improve ICT capability and skills.



Community Partnership Fund

Eligibility Criteria

- Be community driven
- Include identified partners
- Build the capacity of communities to use ICT and overall capability
- Support the Digital Strategy goals
- Contribute to the objective of the Fund and community aspirations
- Use ICT that is fit for purpose, appropriate and accessible
- Contributions from other sources financially or in-kind to match the funding applied for
- A plan for sustainability after funding ceases
- Management, governance and delivery capability.



Projects must be supported by community partners or stakeholders (an individual or organisation) who is significantly involved, affected or have an interest in an issue and/or project.

Projects must have partners that will provide financial or in-kind contributions that match or exceed the funding applied for.

The outcomes of the project will benefit the community, address possible gaps and build community capacity and capability.

Applicants must show the project will be on-going and be a sustainable operating project after funding ceases.

Community Partnership Fund

Ranking Criteria

- **Community Benefits and Outcomes**
Ranks the community support, intended benefits and outcomes of the initiative
- **Partnership Strength and Leverage**
Ranks the partnership support for the initiative
- **Sustainability / Scalability / Replicability**
Ranks initiatives in relation to their sustainability and ability to be scaled or replicated
- **Capability and Ability to Implement**
Ranks the project management skills of the applicant,
- **Innovation / Smart Use of Proven ICT**
Ranks innovative initiatives and those that show smart ways of using proven ICT



Eligibility Criteria

The Fund is directed at ICT-related projects that meet the requirements described:

Capacity to deliver

The applicant organisation and its partner/s must have the capability to successfully achieve the project outcomes. This should include project and risk management plans and audit accountability arrangements appropriate to the size and complexity of the project.

A partnership approach

Projects must have partners that will provide financial or in-kind contributions that match or exceed the funding applied for.

Capacity building initiatives

The project must build the capacity of communities to use ICT to achieve their aspirations and contribute to overall community capability.

Sustainability

Applications for ongoing projects must have a plan for how the project will be sustained in normal operations and/or be integrated into the community after CP funding ceases.

Community driver initiatives

Applications must be for ICT-related not-for-profit projects that come from new and existing grassroots/flaxroots community organisations, enterprises and agencies.

Community Partnership Fund

Funding Levels

Applications can be made for funding for:

- any amount up to \$5,000;
- any amount from \$5,001 and up to \$100,000; or
- \$100,001 and over.

The level of funding will be a contribution to the overall cost of the initiative.

The amount applied for is to be matched by contributions from other sources.

There are differing requirements for the three levels of funding.



Community Partnership Fund

Two Stage Application Process

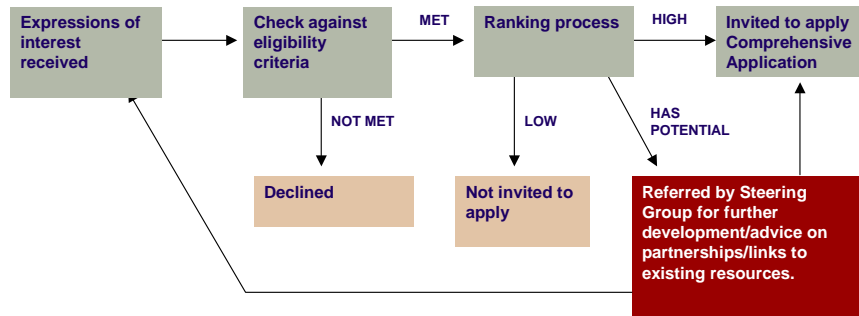
1. Expressions of Interest applicants required to submit a preliminary overview of their proposed project. If the applicant meets the eligibility criteria and is successfully ranked, they will be invited to submit a comprehensive application.
2. The comprehensive application requires more detailed information to be submitted. If the application meets the eligibility criteria and is ranked as a successful application, they will be awarded funding.



1. Applicants are required to fill out an Expression of Interest application. The applicant will be considered based on what is written on the application form. If the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, they will be ranked. If they are successfully ranked, they will then be invited to submit a comprehensive application.
2. The comprehensive application requires more detailed information to be submitted. If the application meets the eligibility criteria and is ranked as a successful application, they will be awarded funding.

Community Partnership Fund

The Expression of Interest Process

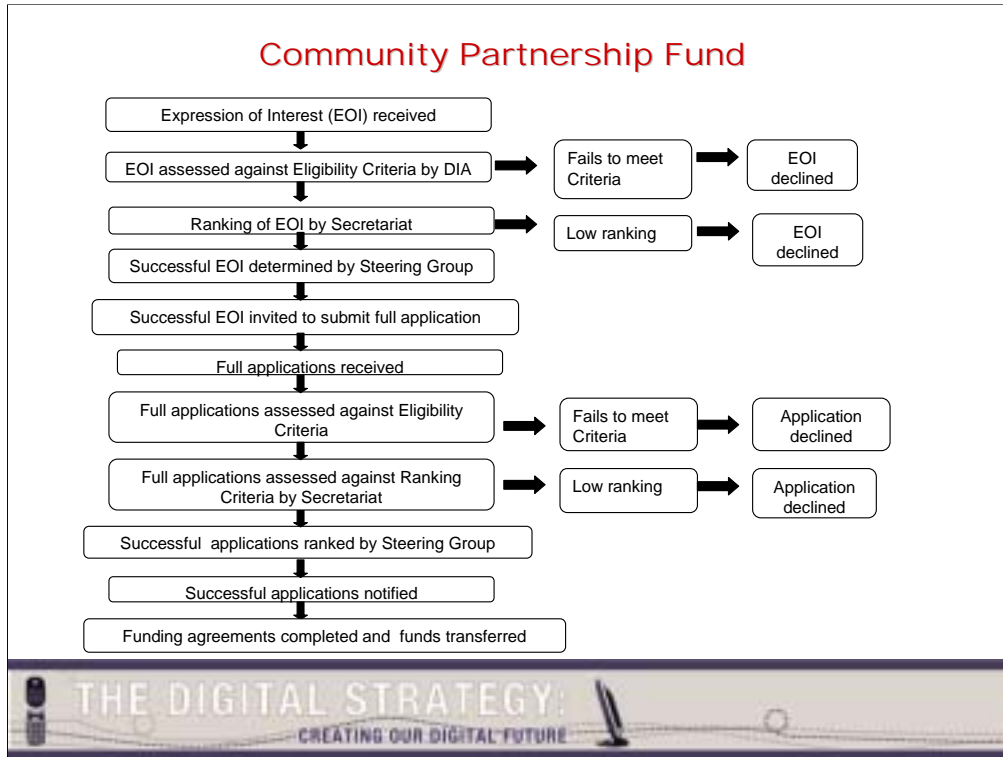


Community Partnership Fund

Decision Making Process

- The DIA are responsible for the administration of the Fund.
- Decisions relating to the granting of funds are made by the Steering Group.
- The Steering Group is made up of senior officials from a range of government agencies and departments.





DECISION MAKING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Administration: Department of Internal Affairs

The EOI is received and assessed by DIA to ensure all necessary information has been provided and applicants have met the eligibility requirements.

DIA then provide a schedule of the applications to the Digital Strategy Secretariat

The Secretariat has administrative responsibility for the Digital Strategy. It provides oversight of Digital Strategy programmes and manages monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. The Secretariat is managed by the Ministry of Economic Development and includes representation from the Department of Internal Affairs.

Assessment: Digital Strategy Secretariat

The Digital Strategy Secretariat will then rank the schedule and submit the schedule to the Digital Strategy Steering Group. The Digital Strategy Steering Group is made up of a number of government departments with related Digital Strategy programmes.

Ranking: Digital Strategy Steering Group

The Digital Strategy Steering Group will consider the schedule of applications and determine which applications will be invited to submit a comprehensive application.

Comprehensive applications

DIA notify successful applicants and invite them to make a comprehensive application.

Community Partnership Fund

Timeline for Expressions of Interest

- Applications open: 17 October 2005
- Applications close: 12 December 2005

Successful EOI applicants will be notified late February and invited to submit a comprehensive application. Closing dates for the comprehensive application are:

- Smaller applications: 7 April 2006
- Larger applications: 21 April 2006

All applicants will be notified of results: mid-June 2006.



Community Partnership Fund

More information

Application packs and full information at
www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/cpf

- Invitation Letter
- An Information Sheet
- A Fact sheet
- Application form

Community background information, including Connecting
Communities strategy, conference and research at
www.community.net.nz/cpf

Or email cpf@digitalstrategy.govt.nz

