

Frequently Asked Questions on Heritage Incentive Grants

What is a Heritage Incentive Grant?

A grant from the Council for approved work on the heritage fabric of a building awarded to the owners of a building which is on the Christchurch District Plan schedule of protected buildings (Appendix 9.3.7.2 Schedule of Significant Historic Heritage). The grant aims to encourage maintenance, repair, upgrade and retention of heritage buildings through financial support for approved works.

How much would the grant be for?

The grant can be up to 50 per cent of the cost of eligible work and can include the fees of registered architects from the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA), registered engineers who are Chartered Professional Engineers (CPEng), Heritage Professionals (as defined in the Christchurch District Plan) and registered quantity surveyors (aligned with the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors - NZIQS). The grants are paid retrospectively once the works have been completed and certified by Council staff. All the relevant resource consents and building consents required for the project are still the responsibility of the building owner.

How much money has Council made available for this grants scheme?

The Council has committed approximately \$697,700 per year for Heritage Incentive Grants in the current Long Term Plan.

What work is eligible for funding?

Eligible works include normal building maintenance work such as painting and pointing as well as repairs to the building's exterior shell and internal structure. Seismic and electrical wiring upgrades are also eligible as are upgrades or installations of fire escape and fire protection systems necessary to meet current building code requirements. Internal decoration is not eligible for funding and neither is standard cleaning and maintenance such as window washing and spouting clearance. Work already completed on the building is also not eligible, although in special circumstances, as outlined in the Policy Operational Guidelines, some works can be done and approval for a retrospective grant sought from the relevant Council Committee.

How long does it take to secure a Heritage Incentive Grant?

The grants are awarded by the relevant Council Committee given the delegated powers by the Council or alternatively by the full Council. Council reports need to be prepared for the Councillors to assess the applications and visit the sites if possible. Allocation of funds are undertaken quarterly each July-June financial year, starting in October. As a result, there will possibly be a delay from the submission of the application to the confirmation of a grant award from the Committee or Council. All grants of \$150,000 or over currently have to be approved by full Council.

How long do I have to complete the works and claim the grant?

The successful applicant has 18 months to undertake and complete the works. Extensions of time for project completion can be sought in writing from the Committee or the Council if this is necessary.

I see there is a conservation covenant required with grants of over \$15,000. What is this?

A conservation covenant is a legally binding agreement between two parties, in this case the building owner and the Council. The agreement is usually not to undertake alteration works to the building in future without the agreement of the other party, and specifically not to demolish or partially demolish the building or to undertake significant alterations. The covenant is registered on the title and remains if the building is sold. The covenant can be for a limited time or can apply in perpetuity. The Council requires limited covenants for all grants of between \$15,000 and \$149,999 and a full covenant for all grants of \$150,000 or over.

Where do I find more information?

Visit <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/heritage/heritage-grants-and-funding/> for more information including application forms.