

Process & Eligibility

As part of the loan application process, trained Community Finance workers have a 45-60 minute financial conversation with the applicant. These conversations cover budgeting, managing bills, savings and the dangers of high cost credit. Workers ensure the applicant can afford the loan and refer to other services when necessary.

To be eligible clients must:

- › Currently qualify for a Community Services Card
- › Reside in their current premises for more than 3 months
- › Show a willingness and capacity to repay

Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply

About Good Shepherd New Zealand

Our vision is to create an emotionally, economically and physically safe world for women and girls.

Our purpose is to disrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage and enable fullness of life, especially for women and girls.

Our objective is to support women and girls to fulfil their goals, socially and economically.

Our Partners

BNZ is committed to supporting this initiative because it's the right thing to do. BNZ stands by its promise to help all New Zealanders be good with money, not just those who already enjoy financial independence and stability.

Good Shepherd Microfinance in Australia has been providing low and no interest loans since 1981. Since 2003, they have partnered with NAB, which has made \$130 million in loan capital available.

A smart investment

Research by the Centre for Social Impact has shown that most loan recipients show increased confidence dealing with money, and better money management skills. Social and economic benefits have been measured at \$2.68 of return for every dollar invested in StepUP, and \$1.59 of return for every dollar invested in NILS

Community Finance Locations

Community Finance loans are available from local trusted community organisations across New Zealand.

For current Community Finance locations, see:

nils.org.nz
stepuploan.org.nz



To find out more about becoming a **Community Finance provider, volunteering opportunities, to donate** or becoming a **funder**.

microfinance@goodshep.org.nz
goodshepherd.org.nz

A community focused initiative of



Supported by



Small loans, big difference



Community Finance



Good Shepherd
New Zealand

What is Community Finance?

Approximately 735,000 people in New Zealand are in financial crisis and around 500,000 people are unable to access appropriate, mainstream credit. This leaves them vulnerable to financial shocks and less able to recover from unexpected events, which places them and their families at risk of poverty and poor social, emotional and health outcomes.

In the face of a financial shock, such as the loss of a key asset like the family car, many people on low incomes have no alternative but to turn to high cost fringe lenders.

Community Finance offers safe, fair and affordable credit to people living on low incomes for essential goods and services.



Community Finance

Trusted community organisations are supported by the New Zealand government via Good Shepherd to become accredited providers, delivering low interest and no interest loan products



Good Shepherd
New Zealand

Good Shepherd brings 35 years experience in community finance and offers training, systems and support to local providers, and expertise and quality assurance to funders.

bnz

BNZ has provided \$60 million in lending for the cyclical system of community finance. This money can be lent and repaid over and over again.

Loans aim to support employment outcomes, improve wellbeing, enable people to effectively manage debt, and build financial knowledge, capability and resilience.

Loans are available for goods and services, including:



White goods



Furniture



Computers



Medical expenses



Vocational education



Second hand cars or repairs

Loans can **NOT** be used for cash, debt consolidation, holidays or bills.

Community Finance Loan Products



No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) provides individuals and families on low incomes with access to loans of up to \$1000 with no fees or interest.

Loans are for essential goods and services and repayments are set up at an affordable amount over a set period of time. Loans are not for cash.

nils.org.nz



StepUP is a low fixed-interest loan with no fees, for people on low incomes. Loan amounts are up to \$5,000 with three years to pay back. There are no hidden charges.

Loans are for essential goods and services that improve the borrower's quality of life. Loans can be held in individual or joint names. Loans are not for cash and are provided on a not-for-profit basis.

stepuploan.org.nz



I like to do things by myself, but this one stage I just couldn't. There were a lot of closed doors before the StepUP loan.

Billy is a single parent. He works part-time but had to stop when his van was written off.

His five year old daughter requires regular hospital treatment and he was relying on public transport or his friend's car to get to work or his daughter to the hospital.

Once his StepUP loan was approved, Billy was able to buy a van. He can get to work and take his daughter to the hospital.