



Regional Business Partner Network – RBP Voucher Funding Scheme

The Regional Business Partner Network is a Government (NZTE) funded department that works with the Regional Business Partners (RBP) who are a Regional Agencies supported by their local Council or Councils i.e. Northland Inc for the Northland Region and ATEED for the Auckland Region.

The Regional Business Partnership Network provides funding via the RBP Voucher Funding Scheme, which has been setup to help small and medium businesses by co-funding the engagement of Business Advisors to coach and train them into how to better manage their businesses. The Regional Business Partners are issued RBP Voucher Funding based on the number of businesses in their individual region.

The RBP Voucher Funding helps business owners to access business training and coaching services, by providing them with up to a 50% subsidy towards the registered service cost for the first six months of that service.

To access this co-funding businesses must first meet with one their Regional Business Partner Growth Advisors to discuss their business. The Growth Advisor will seek to understand opportunities for growth and help identify any barriers to this. Where a management capability need has been identified that could be addressed by training, the Growth Advisor will generally issue a RBP Voucher to the business.

Vouchers can only be used in the following subject areas; Business Planning, Business Systems, Business Sustainability, Capital Raising, Export, Finance, Governance, Lean Manufacturing/ Business Operations, Managing Resources, and Marketing which will be included in the Business Advisor proposal which will be supplied to the Growth Advisor prior to the business owner / Growth Advisor meeting.

To qualify for this funding businesses must be certain criteria which include:

- Being registered with the Regional Business Partnership. If you are not registered it takes approximately 5 minutes via their website:
<https://web.regionalbusinesspartners.co.nz/business/>
- Have met and undergone an assessment with your Regional Partner (Growth Advisor) i.e. ATEED or Northland Inc.
- Have fewer than 50 full time equivalent employees.
- The engagement of an Approved Business Advisor with the appropriate service registered and approved in the Regional Business Partner Network “Marketplace.”

In Addition to the above “business as usual co-funding,” the Regional Business Partner Network may issue other funding agreements such as the fully funded Covid-19 Business Support service.

While the Covid-19 Business Support scheme is fully funded by the RBP Voucher Funding Scheme, up to a maximum of \$5,000, the current funding has now been fully allocated in most Regions including Auckland owing to the volume of applications. A third allocation of this fund may be made to it by the Government in the coming months. The use of this service, however, does not prevent businesses wanting to continue with Business Advisor support from moving to a 50% co-funded service once the Covid-19 funding has been used or if and when the Covid-19 fund is topped up from applying for this 100% funded scheme while on a co-funding scheme.

Please note: Business as usual RBP Vouchers only cover the first six months of a service and are capped at \$5,000 per Government tax year, being 1st July to 30th June. Additionally, Northland has been historically over subscribed for RBP Vouchers so the amount approved by the Northland Inc Growth Advisors may be less than \$5,000 or, as at the 6th of November 2020 fully allocated for the remainder of the government financial year. No funding currently available in Northland until 1 July 2021