**Community Grants FAQ**

**When do grants open/close?**

Timeline (excluding Small Project Grants):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applications Open  | Monday March 19, 2018 |
| Applications Close | Friday April 20, 2018 |
| Applications assessed | May 2018 |
| Recommendations to Council for decision | Tuesday June 19, 2018 |
| Applicants advised of outcome | Friday June 22, 2018 |
| Project can commence | Sunday July 1, 2018 |
| Project Completed and Acquittal Submitted | Friday May 31, 2019 |

**What grants are available?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Active and Healthy Communities |  $5000 |  Open 19 March 2018 |
| Arts, Culture and Events |  $5000 |  Open 19 March 2018 |
| Environment and Sustainability |  $5000 |  Open 19 March 2018 |
| Facilities and Infrastructure |  $5000 |  Open 19 March 2018 |
| Small Projects |  $1000 |  Open 1 July 2018 |

**There are a number of different types of grants. How do I know which grant to apply for?**

The Community Grants Program is divided into five categories, each of which has specific guidelines.

It is important that you read the Community Grant Guidelines to ensure you are across all of the requirements for each Grant category.

Then you should contact a member of the Community Wellbeing team to discuss your application further.

**What about William Pearson Bequest? Why is it not considered a Community Grant anymore?**

Upon reviewing the Community Grants Program Guidelines, Council has decided to remove the William Pearson Bequest from the Community Grants Program.

As the funds for the William Pearson Bequest are not Council funds but money that Council manages for distribution in the Community it was determined that it was inappropriate for the Bequest to remain under the banner of Community Grant.

Funds will be exclusively allocated to the Euroa Citizens Band for the implementation of projects or events based in Euroa.

There is a total of $2,500 available per year and submissions can be made up to this full amount.

Submission portal will open 1 May 2018

**What about Quick Response Grants? What has happened to them?**

Quick Response Grants have been renamed “Small Project Grant” from 1 July 2018.

Quick Response Grants are currently still available until the funding allocation is exhausted.

**What happened to the “Community Matching Grant” category?**

* Grants are no longer required to be “matched”.
* Applicants are required to contribute towards the implementation of their project; this may include cash or in kind contributions or a combination of both.
* There is not minimum contribution required however evidence of the contribution must be provided.

**The guidelines mention in kind contributions. What do you mean by “in kind”?**

* In-kind contributions or support includes volunteer labour or administrative support, free venue hire or accommodation, and donations of goods.

**Community Grants applications must be beneficial to the wider community. What is meant by “community benefit”?**

* The following questions might help you think about what the community benefit of your proposal will be:
* How many people will benefit?
* Are they from groups of particular disadvantage?
* How will they benefit?
* What will be the impact on people’s lives?
* How will the proposal improve the community?

**Partnerships are valuable to the success of a project. What do you mean by partnership?**

* Partnerships strengthen our communities and aim to encourage collaborative relationships between groups in the community.
* This might be through sharing of resources or working on projects together.
* Provide details about what groups are partnering in the project and what each group is doing as part of the partnership.
* Don’t forget to upload letters of support from each partner on the application form.

**There are a lot of eligibility criteria. Is my group eligible to receive a grant?**

Applications must meet the following criteria to be eligible for community grants:

1. Demonstrate benefits to the community by addressing at least two of the grant program funding priorities.
2. From groups comprised predominantly of residents of the Shire of Strathbogie.
3. From groups that have open membership, within the context of the particular group, to residents in the Shire of Strathbogie.

**My group is informal. What if we are not incorporated or don’t have an ABN?**

* You will need to find an organisation that will auspice your project.
* An auspice is an agreement where one organisation (the Principal Organisation) agrees to apply for funding on behalf of a second organisation that is not Incorporated or does not have an ABN (the Auspiced Organisation).
* If the funding application is successful, the Principal Organisation receives, holds and administers the funding to the Auspiced Organisation so that the Auspiced Organisation can complete the funded project.

**I think my group is eligible for a grant. How do we apply?**

* Applications are online through the Smarty Grant portal on the Strathbogie Shire Council website.
* Go to <http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/community/community-funding/community-grants-program>

**So the application process is online. What if I don’t have access to a computer?**

* There are computers at the local libraries for public use.
* Does another member of you committee have a computer?
* Can you ask a friend or family member for assistance?

 **I’m not confident using a computer. What if I don’t have technical computer skills?**

* Do you have a friend or a family member who could help you?
* Are there other people in your group who could complete the online application?
* Council will be holding workshops in March to show people how to use the Smarty Grants system.

 **There’s a lot of information to take in. Who do I contact to talk about a grant application?**

Please contact a member of the Community Wellbeing Team on 5795 0000 or info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au