

FAQS: Community Grants Program

We're excited to let you know we've updated our community grants program to better deliver outcomes for the community.

The grant amount had been doubled to \$10,000 and we have simplified processes for application and administration.

There are now three funding opportunities for community groups and events funding.

The following FAQs have been created to provide you with further details and we will host two workshops in July which we encourage interested groups to attend.

Where is the funding coming from?

The funding is from the Strathbogie Shire annual budget and provides an opportunity for groups to undertake projects that complement the focus areas identified as priorities for the Strathbogie Shire Council

What can the grants be used for?

The Strathbogie Shire Community Grants and Event Grants programs encourages community organisations and community groups to apply for funding to support community led projects delivered in Strathbogie Shire that align with the 2021-2025 Council Plan bringing people together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, upskill, share resources and put ideas into action.

Outcomes of funded projects and events may include, for example, social connection, inclusion, health, wellbeing, safety, community arts, positive cultural or environmental outcomes, economic development, and increased visitor economy.

What can't the grants be used for?

- Projects that have already received Council funding or been approved for another grant from Council this financial year
- Projects delivered outside of the Strathbogie Shire municipality
- Retrospective funding for projects that have already occurred or have commenced
- Projects that don't align with our Community Values
- Projects for political purposes and/or promotion
- Projects that celebrate January 26th
- Projects that are the responsibility of other agencies (e.g. charities, government agencies)
- Costs of attending conferences or sporting events; travel or accommodation
- Fundraising costs or prizes
- Catering costs
- Operational costs e.g. rent, utilities, insurance
- Staff wages (this does not include payment of contractors or services to deliver the project) or payment to a service provider under the same ABN as the applicant
- Projects that are defined as facility maintenance on community and Council owned buildings; *small appliances are acceptable for Community Strengthening & Quick Response Grants*

Who can apply for these grants?

Community groups that are incorporated, have an ABN, and have at least \$20mil Public Liability insurance.

What happens if we are not incorporated, don't have an ABN or Public Liability insurance?

If your group is not incorporated you will need to find an incorporated community group, organisation or club with an ABN and PL Insurance who would be willing to endorse your project.

This is called 'auspice'. The auspice organisation takes responsibility (legal & financial) for the grant. They sign the funding agreement, receive and distribute the grant funds, make sure the project/event is completed and submit the end of funding reports.

Who can't apply for these grants?

You cannot apply for any Council grants if you are:

- An individual
- Emergency services
- Educational institutions
- Religious organisations or institutions
- Political organisations
- Commercial, profit-making organisations
- State or federal government agencies
- An elected member or employee of Strathbogie Shire Council. Elected members or employees of Strathbogie Shire Council cannot be involved in the development of an application and are not eligible to sign or be listed on any grant
- Groups who have an overdue acquittal from a previous funding application
- Groups who have already received or been approved for funding from the same funding category this financial year
- An auspice organisation that has provided auspice to another Community Strengthening Grant application this financial year.

How much funding can I apply for?

You can apply for up to \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant with 3:1

matching so you will have to provide \$1 for every \$3 provided by Council towards the cost of the project. This can be cash or in-kind (refer to the next question)

What's an 'in-kind' contribution?

"In-kind" contributions are contributions by volunteers and suppliers in terms of time, goods or professional services donated to the project. They should be clearly identified in your project budget.

You can calculate the value of in-kind time for services as:

- General committee/community member contribution (e.g. planning, coordination, etc) at \$40 per hour
- Specialist or expert contribution (e.g. tradesperson, professional services) at \$80 per hour

The value of in-kind support should be included in your budget in both income and expenditure.

Council can also provide in-kind contributions to your project e.g. equipment, venue hire. All requests for Council in-kind contributions must be approved and included in your budget. The value of Council's in-kind contribution must be calculated into the total amount you are requesting from Council not exceeding the grant maximum.

For example, if you are requesting the maximum of \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant and request a \$2,000 in-kind contribution, Council's contribution would be in-kind to the value of \$2,000 and grant funds (cash) to the value of \$8,000.

What do I need for my application?

Before you start your application you will need:

- Copy of your group's Certificate of Currency
- Copy of your group's most recent bank statement

- Letters showing the community supports your project.
- To consider what permits and landowner permissions you may require for your project

When are applications due?

Applications for the Community Strengthening Grant close at midnight on 7th August 2023. Late applications will not be accepted.

How do I apply?

Applications are to be completed online at: <https://strathbogje.smartygrants.com.au/>

How are applications assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a panel of at least three Council Officers from various departments and areas of expertise relating to your application.

When will applicants find out if they are successful?

Applications for the Community Strengthening Grant will be assessed in August and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after the September Council meeting.

How will we receive the funds?

If your application is successful, the approved funds will be paid directly into your groups or your auspice organisations bank account.

Who can I contact for further information?

Applicates can contact Jean McKinnon (03) 5795 0000 or by email info@strathbogje.vic.gov.au to discuss their submissions.

Please also see our website for further information on this grant opportunity www.strathbogje.vic.gov

Attend a workshop for more information!

The workshops will be held on July 13, 2023 to introduce the new community funding model and guide community members on how to prepare a grant application and answer any specific questions around project suitability.

Workshop format	Date	Time
In person and online	July 13, 2023	3pm to 4pm
Online only	July 13, 2023	7.30pm to 8.30pm

Bookings can be made via <https://events.humanitix.com/community-strengthening-grant>.

Timelines

Community Strengthening Grant June 26 to August 7, 2023

Community Conversations Grants: June 26 to July 24, 2023

Event Grants: Open on June 26, 2023, and remain open for the financial year or until funds are expended.

Quick Response Grant: Open on July 1, 2023, and close May 31, 2024, or until funds are expended.