

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Community Strengthening Grants

### What can the grants be used for?

The Strathbogie Shire Community Grants program encourages community organisations and community groups to apply for funding through the Community Strengthening grants for inclusive community led projects delivered in Strathbogie Shire. These grants will support projects that align with the 2021-2025 Council Plan and bring people together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, upskill, share resources, and put ideas into action. Outcomes of funded projects may include, for example, social connection, health, wellbeing, safety, community arts, positive cultural or environmental outcomes, economic development, and increased visitor economy.

Community Strengthening grants of up to \$10,000 support larger more strategic projects.

### What can't the grants be used for?

- ✘ Projects that have already received Council funding or been approved for another grant from Council in the same 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 Vision
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Applications that can't confirm they will be able to obtain the required permits and permissions
- ✘ 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 will result in a Council asset that has not received prior approval
- ✘ Projects that are defined as facility maintenance on community and Council owned buildings; small appliances are acceptable

### Who can apply for these grants?

Community groups that are incorporated, have an ABN, a bank account, 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, bank account, and \$20mil Public Liability Insurance who is not on the 'who cannot apply for these grants' list below and would be willing to endorse your project. This is called 'auspice'. The auspice organisation is the one that receives the grant money on your behalf and is ultimately responsible to ensure the project is completed and funds are spent according to the agreement with Council. The auspice organisation does not deliver the project.

### **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
- ✗ State sporting organisations or governing bodies
- ✗ 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 owe money to Council from a previous grant
- ✗ A group or organisation that receives revenue from electronic gaming machines
- ✗ Groups who have already received or been approved for funding from the same funding category in the same financial year
- ✗ An auspice organisation that has provided auspice to another Community Grant application in the same financial year

### **How much funding can I apply for?**

You can apply for up to \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant.

You must provide an applicant contribution, cash or in-kind, to the costs of the project.

### **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.

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

Council can also provide in-kind contributions to your project e.g. equipment, venue hire. You must contact the Events Team to discuss the availability and application process for your Council in-kind request. All requests for Council in-kind contributions must be included in your budget.

Any in-kind contributions requested from Council must be included in the total amount you are applying for which cannot exceed the grant limit, \$10,000 for Community Strengthening Grants and \$1,000 for Quick Response Grants.

For example, if you are requesting the maximum of \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant and request a \$1,000 Council in-kind contribution for venue hire, Council's contribution would be in-kind to the value of \$1,000 and grant funds (cash) to the value of \$9,000.

### **What do I need for my application?**

Before you start your application, you will need:

- To contact the Community Development Officer on 5795 0000 or by email [info@strathbogje.vic.gov](mailto:info@strathbogje.vic.gov) before you commence your application.
- Copy of your group's or your auspice organisation's Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency
- To consider what permits and landowner permissions you may require for your project

### **When are applications due?**

Applications for the **Community Strengthening Grant** open on 17 April 2024 and close at midnight on 28 May 2024.

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 **June** and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after the next available Council meeting.

### **How will we receive the funds?**

If your application is successful, you will be required to provide an invoice and sign a funding agreement with Council. On receipt, the approved funds will be paid directly into your groups or your auspice organisations bank account.

### **Who can I contact for further information?**

Applicants can contact Jean McKinnon (03) 5795 0000 or by email [info@strathbogje.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogje.vic.gov.au) or visit our website [www.strathbogje.vic.gov](http://www.strathbogje.vic.gov) for further information on this grant opportunity.