

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When are the 2021 Community Grants applications due?

Applications open on **Monday 19 July 2021**.

Applications close **5pm Monday 23 August 2021**. No late applications will be accepted.

How much funding is available?

Community Grants has a total funding pool of \$170,000 broken into categories:

- Small grants – up \$500
- Medium Grants - \$501 and \$10,000
- Large Grants - \$10,001 and \$20,000.

Is funding capped?

Funding is given out on a merit basis.

How many applications can be submitted?

One (1) application can be submitted in each category, e.g., one (1) Small, one (1) Medium and one (1) Large Grant. Each application must be for a different project.

How to apply

1. Applicants should carefully read Council's Community Grants guidelines, **which outline all details, including how to apply.**
2. Applicants are encouraged to contact Council's Community Grants Officer as early as possible to discuss their project, and **not to leave contact until the closing date, as the Officer may not be available to assist them.**
3. Applications are made online via the SmartGrants website,
<https://maribyrnong.smartgrants.com.au>.

What documents must be included in an application?

Applicants need an ABN, incorporation, and public liability to apply. If they do not have these, they can consider finding an auspice organisation. Council cannot auspice applications.

Budgets and Project Plans

Medium Grant applications must also include a detailed project budget.

Large Grant applications must also include a detailed project budget **and** project plan.

Permits

Depending on the project, applicants may also need to identify the relevant Council permits required to deliver their project.

What is an auspice organisation?

An auspice is an organisation who manages grant funding on the applicant's behalf. Auspicing organisations provide coverage for applicants who lack an ABN, public liability insurance and incorporation. Council does not auspice applications.

How do applicants find an auspice organisation?

In order to secure an auspice an applicant would need to approach a non-profit or community organisation that might be interested in supporting the project.

It is likely that this would be an organisation working to achieve similar outcomes locally or might be an organisation that the applicant is already a member of. Common auspicing organisations include Neighbourhood Houses, Multicultural Councils/Associations and Residents Groups.

A formal agreement should be in place between the project and the auspicing organisation. Keep in mind that auspicing organisations will have requirements of auspiced projects and sometimes charge a fee.

Need help applying online?

Applicants should contact Council on 9688 0223 or grants@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au as early as possible prior to the application closing date, so they can be assisted.

Need technical assistance?

For technical support see the [SmartyGrants Help Guide](#) or SmartyGrants [FAQs](#). If applicants have further questions, they can contact SmartyGrants at: service@smartygrants.com.au

Are there categories to fund arts / recreation or environmental projects?

There are no specific thematic categories in the Community Grants program. Community Grants funding is available to achieve outcomes that build capacity and support inclusion and diversity.

However, a project could use recreation, community cultural development (arts/craft) or environmental sustainability as the process or content to create that outcome.

Does the Community Grants Program fund arts projects?

No. Artists seeking funding for their own creative endeavours or professional practice will not be funded through the Community Grants program.

However, a community group or organisation may develop a project that uses community cultural development (arts/craft) as a mechanism to achieve a community benefit. This may include working with an artist/arts organisation.

Does the Community Grants Program fund wages?

Ongoing operational budgets and core business/salaries are not funded by the Community Grants program. However, wage/project worker fees for a one-off project can be covered. One-off projects are not considered core business.

Will projects that have been previously funded, be funded again?

No. Funding is not recurrent. Projects must be new. However, new projects that are adaptations based on learnings from previous funded projects will be considered.

Is Small Grant Funding for seniors only?

No. Small grants funding supports seniors' groups and all established groups, emerging groups, and small-scale programs

Does the Community Grants Program fund Council projects?

No. Community grant funding is not available to fund Council programs. Advice to an applicant can explain the links that a funding proposal may have to Council priorities.

Is funding available for First Nations projects across all Community Grants categories, or in the Large Grants category only?

First Nations individuals, community groups, organisations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to apply across all Community Grant categories, and in particular in the Large Grant category.

Do you need to be a First Nations individual, community group, organisation, or agency to apply for a Large Community Grant?

Community Grants are open to all in the community, including First Nations individuals, groups, organisations, and agencies, based on the Key Selection Criteria.

Do you need to be a First Nations individual, community group, organisation, or agency to deliver a project with a First Nations focus?

A project with a First Nations focus, must demonstrate that it is initiated and led by First Nations people.

Is funding awarded simply by score?

Community grants support a diverse range of projects. The score applied by an assessment is not the only measure for determining a recommendation. Simply meeting criteria does not guarantee funding. Consideration is also given to previous access to support and if the applicant has been funded previously / and or across other funding opportunities at Council. Consideration is given to the impact of project and scoring is one measure.

When and how will applicants be notified if they have been successful in securing a Community Grant?

Successful applicants will be notified by email in December 2021.

What is a Conflict of Interest?

Assessors are required to indicate on the assessment form if there is a conflict of interest with an applicant. Assessors would be deemed to have a conflict of interest if they were a member of, or had interest in, an organisation applying.

Contact details

Community Grants Officer

9688 0223

grants@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au