

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2026/27 Guidelines



Acknowledgement

Maribyrnong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays its respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

About the program

The Maribyrnong City Council Community Grants Program provides funding to support projects that will benefit the Maribyrnong community. The delivery of the Community Grants Program is an identified action in the [Council Plan](#).

The focus for the Community Grants Program (Annual) 2026-27 is to support projects that address the following focus areas:

- Build social connection and belonging
- Increase participation in community life
- Support community building and wellbeing
- Demonstrate environmental sustainability in action and/or strengthen climate resilience.

And aim to benefit our priority communities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/First Nations led
- People living with disability
- Children and young people (up to 25)
- Older people (65+)
- LGBTQIA+ people
- CALD communities
- Newly arrived, migrant and refugee communities
- People experiencing poverty and homelessness.

In 2026/27 \$290,000 is available:

Small grants	Up to \$1000
Medium grants	\$1001-\$15,000
Large grants	\$15,001-\$25,000

Cover photography: Kit Edwards, Yixin Wang

Eligibility

In order to be eligible applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Project meaningfully addresses one of the identified focus areas
- Be a Maribyrnong based not-for-profit community group, community organisation, agency or certified social enterprise
- All funded activity takes place within the geographic boundaries of the City of Maribyrnong
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Have Public Liability Insurance cover of \$20 million
- Have no outstanding grant acquittals or debt owing to Council
- The majority of project participants live, work, study, or volunteer in the City of Maribyrnong.

Not eligible for funding:

- Projects that do not align with Council policies and values
- Projects already funded or partly funded by any Council funding program
- Festivals
- Events and activations without community development outcome/s
- Projects that are the primary responsibility of other levels of Government
- Projects that duplicate existing projects/services
- Projects that replicate the core business of organisation applying
- Artists seeking funding for their own creative/professional practice
- Fundraisers, awards and prizes
- Material aid
- Sport equipment and uniforms
- Capital works and facilities maintenance
- Projects with a religious or political focus
- Educational institutions unless working in partnership with an eligible organisation
- Projects that have already started or have been completed.

Additional factors:

- If you do not have not-for profit status, ABN number or Public Liability Insurance you may still be eligible to apply via an auspice organisation
- Social enterprises must provide evidence of current certification by [Social Traders](#)
- First Nations focused projects should be First Nations led
- You can make one application to the Program per calendar year.

Assessment process

Many more applications are made to the Program than Council is able to fund, and applications are in competition with each other.

Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel who will score each application against the criteria outlined in the Guidelines. Assessments are reviewed and recommendations finalised by an Independent Peer Panel before being presented to Council for endorsement.

Assessment criteria

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- How does the project address the nominated focus area?
- Does the target community align with one or more of Councils identified priority communities?
- Does the project incorporate a genuine partnership or collaboration?
- Is there evidence of community need and support for the project?
- What are the expected outcomes of the project and what benefit will the project provide to participants?
- Has the applicant demonstrated capacity to deliver the project?
- To what extent have any project risks been identified and addressed?
- Is the project plan and budget detailed and realistic providing value for money?

The following applications will be prioritised:

- First Nations led projects
- Projects from or developed in partnership with our identified priority communities
- Projects incorporating genuine partnerships between Maribyrnong based not-for-profit community groups, organisations, agencies or certified social enterprise

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Sign and return Funding Agreement
- Provide EFT details and an invoice
- Meet requirements of any relevant permits and permissions
- Hold \$20M public liability insurance cover for the duration of the grant
- Complete a Child Safe Compliance Assessment and Declaration
- Meet monitoring and reporting requirements
- Complete the project during the 2027 calendar year.

Monitoring and reporting requirements	Small	Medium	Large
Attend successful applicant meeting	✓	✓	✓
Attend project update meeting	✗	✗	✓
Share participant survey	✓	✓	✓
Submit acquittal and Financial Declaration	✓	✓	✓

Acquittals are due **six** weeks from the project end date and will require you to:

- Outline work undertaken and the benefit of the project
- Identify primary beneficiary/ies
- Provide participation numbers
- Describe challenges and learnings
- Complete a Financial Report (including budget)
- Sign a Financial Declaration

How to apply

Applications are submitted online via maribyrnong.smartygrants.com.au

For technical support see [SmartyGrants Help Guide](#) or [SmartyGrants FAQ](#).

Key dates

Tuesday 7 July 2026	Applications open
Wednesday 15 July 2026 6-7pm	<u>Community Grants Program Information Session (Online)</u>
Thursday 23 July 2026 11am-12pm	<u>Community Grants Program Information Session (In Person)</u>
Tuesday 28 July 2026 2-4.30pm	<u>Grant Ready: From Idea to Application Workshop (In Person)</u>
Tuesday 18 August 2026 4pm	Applications close
Mid-late November	Grant outcomes announced
2027	Funded projects delivered

Assistance with applications

The Community Grants Officer can provide guidance and support for individuals and organisations submitting an application. Community Grants Program Information Session and Grant Ready Workshop are provided to assist applicants. Registrations can be made via the website maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitygrants

Copies of Guidelines can be made available in community languages if required.

Questions

Community Grants Officer 9688 0223
grants@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitygrants