

Community Impact Grants

Program Guidelines

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



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About the Program

The Community Impact Grants Program aims to empower community organisations and groups to grow ideas in innovative and creative ways to improve the city and strengthen the community.

The grant program links to the key focus areas of the council. These include:

- Healthy, safe, and resilient community;
- Connected and engaged community;
- Sustainable and forward-looking;
- Thriving and vibrant community; and,
- Strong, responsible, and sound leadership.

For more information, please refer to the *Wodonga Council Plan 2021-2025* available at: wodonga.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-Organisation/Corporate-documents/Council-plan-and-budget

Community organisations and community groups auspiced by a community organisation can apply.

The program provides funding to support projects and events under the categories below:

Category	Amount
Building stronger communities	up to $4000
Environmental sustainability	up to $4000
Community events	up to $4000
Arts and culture	up to $4000
Connected communities	Up to $4000

Before Submitting Your Application

All applicants MUST contact the Community Grants Officer prior to starting the application process. This will ensure you are applying in the correct category and that you clearly understand the guidelines.

Please contact the Community Grants Officer on (02) 6022 9315
or email communitygrants@wodonga.vic.gov.au

What You Need to Know

- Applicants should be aware the grant process is competitive, and funding cannot be guaranteed.
- Allocations made via the program are limited by the total amount of funding available.
- Successful projects/events cannot be guaranteed continual funding; applicants must demonstrate a sustainable model of funding.
- Funding is only provided for the purpose for which it has been granted.
- If an application is being supported by an auspicing body on behalf of another organisation, the application form must have written approval of the auspicing body submitted with the application or the application must be submitted by the auspicing body.
- Applicants can only apply for funding once per financial year. Community groups are encouraged to consider how they can work in partnership when developing their application.
- An organisation that acts as an auspicing body for an unincorporated organisation may also apply for a grant in its own right for a separate project.
- Grant applications will take a minimum of 10 weeks to consider and process. All applications must be submitted at least 10 weeks prior to proposed event/project start date.
- All applications must be lodged through Smarty Grants online grant management system which is accessed at wod.city/grants.

Equity and Inclusion

Wodonga Council recognises diversity as one of our community's greatest strengths. The council commits to supporting the growth of a community that builds on the strengths of all people. It values diversity and tolerance and recognises that everyone has the right to respect, inclusion, and equitable access to services and opportunities.

Projects and programs can impact people of diverse genders, abilities, ages, and cultural and ethnic backgrounds in different ways. Applicants must demonstrate how their initiative/project or event will be inclusive and accessible to diverse populations.

For more information on council's commitment to equity, inclusion, and community wellbeing, please refer to council's *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan* and the *Wodonga Council Plan* 2021-2025 available at wodonga.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-Organisation/Corporate-documents/Plans-and-strategies

Eligibility Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for funding under the program, applicants must:

- Provide direct benefits to residents of Wodonga;
- Be not-for-profit as classified by the Australian Tax Office in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936;
- Be an incorporated association, indigenous corporation or a community group that has an auspicing body;
- Hold an adequate public liability insurance policy (to the value of at least $10 million) to cover the staff, members, volunteers, and the public, as appropriate; and,
- Have an adequate risk management plan in place, if required.
- In the case of a large-scale event, an event plan must be submitted with the grant application; and,

Who is not eligible to apply?

An applicant will be ineligible to receive funding through the program if they:

- Have an outstanding debt to council or have not satisfactorily acquitted a previous grant;
- Are already receiving ongoing financial support from the council for a project/event/ service;
- Are an unincorporated organisation, group, or club without an appropriate auspicing body;
- Do not have adequate public liability insurance policy to cover the staff, members, and the public, as appropriate;
- Are a private, for-profit organisation;
- Are a government organisation;
- Are seeking funding as a source of sponsorship or fundraising; or,
- Are a school or educational institution requesting funding for a project/activity/event that forms part of a regular curricular program.

Applications will not be considered if:

The application is incomplete, or the application is for:

- A project, event or activity that is held outside the Wodonga municipal boundary (except for the *Connected Communities* category which permits projects, events or activities in Albury), and does not directly benefit Wodonga residents;
- A project, event or activity that relies on ongoing funding from the council;
- A project, event or activity that is already receiving support from the council through either in-kind or financial support;
- A project, event, or activity where there is a demonstrated political purpose;
- A project, event or activity that contains illegal content;
- A project, event or activity that is or could be perceived as offensive or prejudiced; or
- A project, event or activity that is seeking funding for any of the following:
    - Repairs or maintenance to council-owned facilities or property;
    - Core operational costs such as salaries, training, facility maintenance, insurance, rent, utilities etc.;
    - Equipment, unless necessary for a project, event, or service, beyond standard operations;
    - Prizes, trophies, and gifts;
    - Interstate or international travel costs for staff, volunteers, or group members (except for the Connecting Communities category); or,
    - Alcohol or gambling-related activities.

Funding conditions, requirements, and extra information:

- All permits and other applicable authorisations, including public liability insurance, remain the responsibility of the applicant and must be received from the relevant authorities prior to starting the project/event. The council can assist by providing advice on these permits.
- Applications which come from a body which leases or rents a facility from another body must have that body's written permission submitted with the grant application.
- An offer of a grant does not mean any ongoing funding commitment or obligation by the council.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement for the life of the grant.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to advise the council of any change to key project contact details.
- Wodonga Council's assistance must be acknowledged on any promotional material related to the project/event.
- The council's support must be acknowledged in any media relating to the project and the council's communications team notified so that this publicity can be maximised as appropriate through the council's communications channels.
- Successful applicants must provide the council with an invoice and signed funding agreement within four weeks of being notified of their successful application.
- All successful applicant must complete an acquittal and evaluation form within 60 days of completing their grant project or event.

Grant Categories

The program provides funding and supports projects and events that link to the following categories.

1. BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES (UP TO $4000)

This is for projects which encourage people to strengthen their community.

Aims

- Support healthy and active lifestyles.
- Foster an inclusive and diverse community and encourage community participation.
- Support volunteers and encourage volunteering.
- Improve community safety.
- Create and strengthen community collaborations and partnerships.
- Improve mental wellbeing and community resilience.
- Prevent violence against women and promote gender equality.
- Improve access to employment pathways, particularly for young people.
- Improve ways for residents to move around the city and to access services.
- Increase access to green spaces and outdoor recreation.

Examples

- A health promotion initiative.
- A youth career pathways program.
- Establish a volunteering program.
- Women's empowerment forum.

2. ARTS AND CULTURE (UP TO $4000)

This is to celebrate and showcase creative expression in a wide cross-section of areas.

Aims

- Develop and promote art and cultural works produced in the region.
- Foster activation of Wodonga, building a dynamic city profile to grow visitation through cultural tourism experiences.
- Provide equitable access to diverse cultural experiences, resources, and opportunities that encourage engagement and participation.
- Preserve and interpret the history, heritage, and contemporary stories of the people of Wodonga, their city and region.
- Cultivate professional development of the arts in Wodonga and foster partnerships between artists, cultural workers, and the wider community.

Examples

- Public art development and installation.
- Community cultural workshops.
- Program of performing arts.

3. COMMUNITY EVENTS (UP TO $4000)

This is for events both small and large where there is a demonstrated benefit to the community.

Aims

- Celebrate the cultural, social, and recreational diversity within the city.
- Cater for diverse community members.
- Attract and grow new and inspiring events, which benefit the community, celebrate connection, and attract visitors to Wodonga.
- Nurture a sense of community identity and positive engagement.
- Create opportunities for a maximum number of Wodonga residents to engage and experience events and festivals.

Examples

- Multicultural street festival.
- State sporting event.
- National conference.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (UP TO $4000)

This is for projects that improve the natural environment of Wodonga.

Aims

- Create long-term benefit to Wodonga's environment.
- Be sustainable and not rely on council's ongoing maintenance or upkeep.
- Raise awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability issues.
- Improve the community's capacity to respond to climate change.

Examples

- A project that encourages the community to look after and care for green spaces such as adopting a park.
- Tree plantings or neighbourhood enhancements, such as a sensory garden.
- Initiatives to address environmental issues, such as waste management or climate change.

5. CONNECTED COMMUNITIES (UP TO $4000)

This is for projects that drive collaboration, innovation and opportunities across Albury Wodonga that will benefit residents of Wodonga.

Aims

- Encourage collaboration across Albury Wodonga.
- Leverage innovation and resources from across the region to provide opportunities of benefit to Albury Wodonga.
- Facilitate the participation of Wodonga residents in regional events and programs.
- Support economic development and job creation.
- Leverage regional benefits to attract visitors and new residents to the city of Wodonga.

Examples

- Transport solutions to link residents across the region.
- Connecting local artists and performers to regional events.
- Projects that improve regional transport accessibility.

Assessment Process

Stage one:

1. Contact the Community Grants Officer on (02) 6022 9315 to discuss eligibility and the proposed initiative.

2. The council refers the applicant to a designated council officer to help guide and advise on the proposed initiative.

Stage two:

1. Organisations must complete a grant application form through the Smarty Grants online grant management system which is accessed at wod.city/grants. The council will send an acknowledgement to organisations that their application has been received.

2. All applications will be assessed and shortlisted by an internal panel for eligibility and alignment with the program aims, using a weighted assessment framework.

Assessment Criteria	Amount
Project rationale – the project meets a demonstrated need in the community.	20%
Aims - the project/event meets the aims of relevant category (Refer to pages 7 - 9). Projects/events must align with *at least one* of the aims.	50%
Planning – the project demonstrates sound project planning and financial management.	10%
Capacity – the organisation has the capacity to successfully complete the project.	20%

3. The council will determine the grant approvals and allocations at a council meeting.

Note: the council may allocate less than the full amount requested.

Stage three:

1. If successful, the council will notify the applicant in writing and will enter direct negotiations to draft a grant agreement, including key milestones and agreed timeframes.

2. If not successful, applicants will be notified by phone or email.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information, please contact the Community Grants Officer on (02) 6022 9315 or by emailing communitygrants@wodonga.vic.gov.au