

The Northern Grampians Shire Council's Grants Programs provide communities, businesses, and local groups with the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Council to undertake projects that uplift our community's economic wellbeing and quality of life.

Aims of Northern Grampians Shire Council Grants Programs

Council allocates funds through the annual budget process to grants programs that aim to support Northern Grampians to:

- Grow the economic capacity and engagement of our own people.
- Become a magnet for innovation and investment.
- Develop strong economic development governance, leadership, collaboration, and advocacy.
- Attract investment in enabling infrastructure.
- Create iconic destinations.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of the community.
- Increase healthy eating and active living.
- Foster communities that are inclusive, welcoming, and supportive of diversity
- Promote diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity.
- Supports community members to promote respectful relationships and challenge inappropriate behaviour.

General Information

The Council's Community Grants Program is a competitive funding program open twice during a financial year.

Council is offering grants of up to **\$5,000** to support projects that contribute towards outcomes that result in:

- Increased social connectedness for all Northern Grampians Shire residents.
- Creation of safe environments that are inclusive of the growing diversity across communities in the Northern Grampians Shire
- Positive impacts to physical health, mental health, and wellbeing.
- Greater sustainability of community groups and assets.

Council may choose to prioritise certain outcomes on given grant rounds. This is to ensure that Grants align with the strategic work council delivers throughout the year. Projects that align with these outcomes will be looked favourably during assessment.

The Grants Program and any prioritised outcomes of a given round will be communicated and promoted to the public via Council's website, social media, and corporate communication channels.

Grant priority areas

Council recognises that running and sustaining local community groups and organisations can be challenging. Many groups have members who are getting older, and volunteers are not as easily found as they once were. Planning for a sustainable future and sourcing of larger amounts of funding can be assisted through the development of strategic plans.

This round of the Community Grants Program has a community strengthening focus. These grants, in line with the program outcomes, will support initiatives that assist community groups to:

- Develop strategic plans (or business plan) for their groups.
- Develop project planning and event management skills.
- Build their organisational capacity (e.g., develop operational skills, grant writing, web-site creation, volunteer training etc.
- Provide opportunities for inclusion, connection, and participation within the community for First Nations people, young people, older people, people living with a disability, LGBTIQ+, or migrant communities.

What will be funded

Items suitable to be funded with the grant include:

- Strategic and organisational planning
- purchasing of programs/ training/workshops
- program resources
- materials and equipment
- plays/shows
- promotional activities (no more than 10%).

Who can apply for funding

Eligibility criteria

All applicants are required to:

- Be a not for profit or incorporated body with an ABN or be auspiced by a not for profit or incorporated body with an ABN and able to provide documentation demonstrating the auspice agreement.
- Be based in, or demonstrate their project has a direct benefit to the residents of the Northern Grampians Shire.
- Be able to demonstrate financial viability and competence.
- Not have already received substantial support from council.
- Be able to be compliant with council's regulatory requirements.
- Provide evidence of Liability Insurance. Events, activities, or construction that have a likelihood of causing damage or personal injury must have public liability insurance (of at least \$20 million). Other amounts will be considered where there is no likelihood of damage or injury.

Ineligible applicants

Applications will be ineligible if:

- Previous funding received from Council has not been acquitted satisfactorily.
- Applicants have already received substantial grants funding within the same financial year.
- Applicants are an individual applying for funds.
- Funds are contributing towards operating costs e.g., wages/utilities.
- The funding is clearly the responsibility of spheres of other Government i.e., Department of Health & Human Services or Department of Education.
- Projects duplicate other locally available services or resources.
- The project or initiative has commenced prior to the date on which notification of application outcome was given.
- Applications are for ongoing or recurrent funding.
- Organisations or groups are based outside the Northern Grampians Shire, unless the project can be proven to still have benefit to residents of Northern Grampians Shire.

Application and submission process

- Applicants **must** contact the Community Development Team to discuss their project and grant availability prior to applying.

- Grant applications are to be submitted online using the Smarty Grants platform.
- When you submit your application, you will receive a submission acknowledgement from Smarty Grants.
- Your submitted application can be accessed in your Smarty Grants account.

Standard successful application steps



Assessment criteria and decision-making process

For an application to be successful it will need to:

- Successfully align with at least one of the grant priority areas.
- Effectively outline the benefits of the project aligning with the program objectives.
- Have clear and achievable outcomes and measures.
- Demonstrate community involvement in the project planning and implementation.
- Demonstrate the need and benefits of the project.
- Have been accurately costed and include quotes in application.
- Be run by an organisation/group that has the capacity to implement and report on the project/initiative.
- Be run by an organisation/group that has a Responsible Drug & Alcohol Policy (if applicable).
- **Be run by an organisation/group that is a member of the CORE alliance?**

Assessment Process

All applications are assessed against the program criteria, eligibility, and the Community Grant Guidelines.

- All Community Grant applications are reviewed and assessed by members of the Economic Development and Community Futures Team.
- The outcome will take into consideration.
 - The number of applications received.
 - The total funding pool for the financial year.
 - Relevance and impact on outcomes and priority areas
- Projects may not receive the full amount requested.

- Applicants will be notified of an outcome as per the timeline below (within 3 weeks of applications closing)

Timeline

The grants process will follow the timeline below.

Date	Outline of programs process
Round 1	
8AM Friday 27 September 2023	Community Grants Round 1 open
5PM Friday 8 November 2023	Community Grants Round 1 close
9 November – 23 November 2023	Grant Assessments
By 1 December 2023	Grant applicants notified of assessment outcome
Friday 22 December 2023	Deadline for successful applicants to submit invoices to receive grant funding.
Round 2*	
8AM Friday 16 February 2024	Community Grants Round 2 opens
5PM Friday 29 March 2024	Community Grants Round 2 close
1 April – 5 April 204	Grant Assessments
Monday 8 April 2024	Grant applicants notified of assessment outcome
Monday 22 April 2024	Grant funding provided upon receipt of grant invoice and signed terms and conditions.
*Note: Round 2 dates in 2024 may be subject to change.	

Funding Conditions for a successful grant application

If the organisation/group is successful in obtaining a grant it will be required to enter into a written agreement with council, stating that the organisation/group will adhere to the following conditions while undertaking the funded project:

- Project specific conditions may be identified during the assessment and notification process. These must all be adhered to and addressed as part of the acquittal.
- Grants are allocated specifically for the project and cannot be used for any other purpose without prior formal written agreement from council.
- Grant funds allocated to the organisation/group are GST exclusive.
- Funds are required to be expended within 12 months of the letter of offer. Funds not expended by this date are to be returned to the Northern Grampians Shire Council unless a written extension is obtained from Council.
- Any change to the original submission must be approved by Northern Grampians Shire Council in writing.
- All works to be undertaken must obtain relevant permits and approvals prior to commencement.
- Organisations/groups are required to participate in media and communications opportunities that promote the council's Community Grants Program, as requested.
- Any programs or activities undertaken with funding under this program must acknowledge the support and sponsorship of the Northern Grampians Shire Council.
 - This includes responses to media, logos attached to relevant assets (flyers, posters, social media posts etc.), invitations to council to attend relevant events.
 - Successful applicants will be provided with the Northern Grampians Shire Council corporate logo.
 - If you have any questions about these types of activities, please contact council to discuss.
 - Successful projects may be requested to share their project at council events, to media etc. to promote councils grant program.
- Organisations/groups are required to meet relevant government legislation requirements (e.g., Occupational Health & Safety Issues, Risk Management Equal Opportunity, Workcover, Privacy).
- Organisations are required to ensure volunteers are registered with the organisation and covered by insurance.
- A grant acquittal must be submitted to council one month after completion of the project. The acquittal is to include details of the success of the project, photos of the completed project and an income and expenditure statement detailing the grant from council and how this was expended.
- Grant acquittals are submitted via the Smarty Grants portal and council officers are available to assist applicants with the final acquittal. Applicants will be ineligible for further grants if the evaluation process is incomplete.

Referenced Council Plans/Strategy

Grants Funding Policy 2021

Economic Development Strategy 2021-31

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25

Reviewed 06/09/2023.