



Community Strengthening Grants Guidelines

February 2026

Introduction

The Community Strengthening Grants Program supports not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects, programs, and events that benefit residents of Moira Shire.

All funding applications should align with the Moira Shire Council Plan 2025-29 and/or the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Funding decisions will prioritise projects that demonstrate measurable outcomes against these objectives.

Purpose

Through the Grants Program, Council aims to build the capacity of community groups and organisations to support inclusive, diverse and accessible programs and events, to promote health, culture, sustainability, tourism and equity.

All funded activities must align with Council's strategic priorities.

Grant Categories

Council offers three funding categories. The table below summarises funding caps, timing, intended purpose, and project examples.

Quick Response Grants

Open year-round

Up to \$1,000

Up to \$5,000

Enable small, time-sensitive projects that provide immediate community benefit

Major Grants

Two rounds per year

Up to \$10,000

Support larger projects that deliver significant outcomes for the community.

Program Objectives and Priority Areas

Successful grants will generally be required to demonstrate alignment with the priority areas and outcomes identified in the table below. Council retains the right to vary the amounts granted. As required, Council may release focused grant programs. These will be advertised through our regular channels.

| Priority Area | Intended Outcomes | Examples |
|--|---|---|
| Healthy, Empowered and Connected Communities | Projects should aim to improve physical and mental wellbeing, encourage healthy eating and active living, expand access to community and digital services, reduce harm from alcohol, drugs, tobacco and gambling, and address social isolation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wellbeing programs • Mental health promotion • Social support initiatives • Health education, • Digital access programs |
| Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities | Initiatives should focus on preventing family violence, improving community safety, fostering social and cultural inclusion, celebrating diversity, promoting all-abilities participation, strengthening leadership and volunteering, and supporting gender equality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion initiatives • Multicultural events • Volunteer recruitment and training • Leadership development • Safety programs • Accessibility activities |
| Liveable, Vibrant and Thriving Communities | Activities should activate public spaces, encourage creative expression, improve environmental outcomes, build local pride, and enhance the liveability of small towns. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place activation • Environmental projects • Township improvements • Sports events and programs |
| Community-Led Planning | Projects should develop or update community plans and deliver priority actions identified through community engagement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community plan development • Project implementation • Consultation activities • Community activities and events |
| Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience | Programs should strengthen emergency planning, build resilience and reduce risk, and increase local capacity for response and recovery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency readiness workshops • Resilience and recovery networks • Preparedness planning and exercises and training |
| Digital Literacy Programs | Programs should offer opportunities that increase digital skills and confidence by supporting initiatives that engage participants in digital literacy activities across the Shire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, workshops, online courses with a focus on digital literacy. |
| Arts and Culture | Projects should support positive promotion and celebration of arts and culture through the delivery of events, activities and programs across the Shire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops and classes • Festivals and exhibitions • Public Art • Arts and culture events • Performing arts groups • Creative writing activities • Promoting music and culture |

Who Can and Can't Apply

The table below is a quick reference guide only, for full eligibility information including any other requirements or conditions, please refer to Council's Community Strengthening Grants Policy.

| Applicant | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Not-for-profits, incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations | ✓ | |
| Registered charitable organisations (refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) | ✓ | |
| Unincorporated bodies with an auspice | ✓ | |
| Applicants that have received funding from Council in the current financial year that are applying for more than one activity in a separate grant category | ✓ | |
| Individuals without an ABN | | x |
| Schools or Early Childhood Service Providers | | x |
| Community Asset Committees | | x |
| Government agencies or organisations | | x |
| Individual / Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register) | | x |
| For profits, commercial entities, registered businesses | | x |
| Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from Moira Shire Council (including auspices) | | x |
| Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to Moira Shire Council or in legal proceedings with Council | | x |
| An organisation involved in legal proceedings (that would pose a significant financial or governance risk to Council) or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy – related actions against the organisations directors or officers) | | x |

Eligibility

An application for a project, event or activity to be considered eligible must comply with Council's Community Strengthening Grants Policy including but not limited to the following requirements;

- It is located in the Moira Shire and provides benefit to Moira Shire residents. Note: Council may consider funding events held outside of Moira Shire, particularly in the two cross border communities of Cobram-Barooga and Yarrawonga-Mulwala, where economic or amenity benefit to Moira Shire and its residents can be demonstrated.
- Current public liability insurance minimum \$20m.
- Compliance with relevant Local, Federal and State laws and legislation.
- Relevant management plans are in place – risk, project, event, traffic.
- All required approvals, permits, and management plans including landowner consent have been considered and/or obtained.

Funding Exclusions

An application for a project, event or activity may be declined where;

It is considered the responsibility of other levels of government.

- Is the core responsibility of a Community Asset Committee.
- It is already being funded by other parts of Council.
- It has already commenced, been advertised or completed prior to funding approval.
- It promotes controversial political or religious views that could impact community cohesion or compromise Council's neutrality.
- It is not considered an inclusive community event open to general public (generally ticketed events will not be considered unless the ticket price is a nominal amount).
- It supports direct income from electronic gaming machines, promotes gambling or are events held in licensed gaming facilities.
- The funds are not to be used for:
 - Operational expenses
 - To cover any interstate or overseas travel
 - To purchase prizes, sponsorships, donations or gifts
- It will have a negative impact on the environment.
- It involves major building construction.
Note: minor construction and/or purchase of equipment will be considered particularly if aligned with community plans.
- It is a project on Council property that are deemed high risk (without sufficient risk management).
- It is a projects that duplicate existing services.
- It involves fundraising activities where proceeds benefit another organisation.
- It involves activities that are only of benefit to its members.

General Conditions

- Funding must be used for the approved purposes only.
- Applicants must declare all other sources of funding and provide financial statements if requested.
- Projects should demonstrate a financial or in-kind contribution from the organisation or community.
- All grantees must accept the Terms and Conditions to receive funding and submit a Completion Report with receipts and supporting documentation.
- Any unspent funds must be returned to Council or, with prior approval, may be reallocated to a related activity.
- For portable items with a value greater than \$2,000, a 50% cash contribution is required.
- Catering and accommodation costs are subject to Council limits and guidelines.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted via SmartyGrants.

Support and guidance including translation assistance is available for applicants by contacting Council on 5871 9222.

Computer and internet access is available through local libraries and community houses.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed against alignment with Council Plan objectives and indicators, demonstrated community benefit and participation, the organisation's capacity to deliver outcomes, value for money, project sustainability, and the overall quality of the application and supporting documentation.

Managing the Grant

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Funding Contract and Terms and Conditions.

Funds are paid electronically once all documentation is received.

If GST applies, organisations must provide their ABN and confirm GST registration, and they must comply with ATO requirements.

Grantees must use funds only for the approved activity, complete the project by the agreed date, acknowledge Council's support, notify Council of any delays, changes or termination, maintain necessary insurance and permits, engage qualified contractors where relevant, allow Council access to records and project sites, and return funds if conditions are breached. Council may publicise project outcomes.

Acquittal and Feedback

At the conclusion of the funded activity, grantees must submit a Completion Report via SmartyGrants, including a financial acquittal with receipts and supporting documents.

Community feedback is welcomed to help improve future grant allocation and program design.

Contact

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