



Community grants policy

Classification	Policy
Strategic reference	Goal 1 Community : Actively contributing communities
Relevant legislation	Local Government Act 1999
Relevant documents	Community Grants Information Sheet and Community Grants Application Form
Responsible officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date adopted	May 2019
Next review date	May 2022

Introduction

Southern Mallee District Council values and recognises the role of community groups and organisations within the Council area, and endeavours to financially support a range of projects and activities that are seen to enhance the quality of life, and delivery of services and provision of facilities to the community.

The purpose of these grants is to encourage groups and individuals to take a more active and visible role in the community and to improve community facilities and facilitate community activities.

Each year Southern Mallee District Council makes funds available under its Community Grants Program for local not-for-profit community, sporting, recreational, social and arts groups.

Council decides, in its annual budget development, how much funding to allocate to community grants.

Council will call for community grant applications at the beginning of each financial year after the annual budget has been adopted. Council will determine the successful applications at its September meeting each year.

Eligible projects

The type of applications that **may be considered** are:

- Recreational activities or projects;
- Upgrading/improving sports and recreation facilities/infrastructure;
- Arts and cultural activities or projects;
- Health and wellbeing initiatives;
- Environmental activities or projects;
- Activities that attract visitors and promote the district;
- Learning and development projects available to the wider community.

Ineligible projects

The type of applications that **will not be considered** include:

- Projects that do not relate to the Southern Mallee District Council area;
- Ongoing salary, rent, loan or insurance repayments or other day to day operating costs;
- General fundraising requests for unspecified purposes;
- Commercial undertakings;
- Projects that have already commenced or are completed;
- Applications for less than \$750.00 in value;
- Applications for more than \$20,000 in value;
- Proposal from groups that have had funding previously and failed to acquit the funding.

Policy objective

The objective of this policy is to encourage active citizenship, participation, community growth and capacity building, and to support community members to respond to local needs. This is done by providing merit based financial assistance for community groups and organisations to:

- Create opportunities for social and cultural interaction and community connection through activities;
- Actively promote innovation, cultural diversity and understanding throughout our region;
- To minimise the environmental footprint and increase community awareness of environmental issues;
- To encourage increased physical activity and promote participation in wellbeing and healthy living;
- To encourage participation in activities for youth, elderly or disadvantaged members of the community;
- Activate our public spaces to increase vibrancy through community festivals, cultural activities, events, celebrations and gatherings.

All Community Grant allocations will be based on the following principles:

- The degree to which the proposal aligns with one or more of the *Southern Mallee District Council Strategic Management Plan Objectives*;
- Extent to which the project meets a demonstrated need
- Demonstrated community support for the project;
- Demonstrated level of community and visitor benefit and interest;
- Anticipated level of community participation;
- Potential to further develop a sense of community;
- Innovative nature of the project;
- Lack of alternative funding sources;
- Opportunity to value add to community facilities or outcomes;
- Frequency of prior application approved under the Community Grants Program;
- The amount of co-contribution of the group.

Conditions of application and offer

- Projects or activities must be based within the Southern Mallee District Council Area
- Applications must demonstrate community support.
- Only one application/project per organisation per financial year will be considered
- Applications must be made using the appropriate Community Grants Application Form which can be downloaded from the Council's website;
- A breakdown of anticipated expenditure, including costings for in-kind requests, must be presented as part of the application;
- Applicants must address all criteria and answer all questions on the application form;
- Applications determined as ineligible in accordance with the criteria will not advance to the assessment stage;
- Incomplete applications or those received after the closing date will not be considered;
- Grant recipients who have previously not complied with all reporting and acquittal arrangements will not be considered;
- If successful, applicants must comply with all reporting and acquittal requirements outlined in the Community Grants Funding Agreement and Guidelines;
- Funds must be used expressly for the project or activity applied for;
- Applicants must undertake and demonstrate transparent procurement practices wherever applicable.
- Applicants must acknowledge Council's financial contribution in any publicity about their successfully funded project or activity.
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Documentation

To assist in demonstrating that the above processes are fair, transparent and accountable, and meet community needs, the processes relating to the receipt, assessment, and outcomes will be documented. The outcomes and details of all successful grant applications will be published on the Council website.

Policy review

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every three years or as necessary.

Further information

This document is available on Council's website www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au and at the principal office of the Southern Mallee District Council at Day Street, Pinnaroo SA 5304.

A copy of this document may be purchased from Council.