Greater Dandenong

Medium Grants Program Guidelines 2026-2027

Updated July 2026

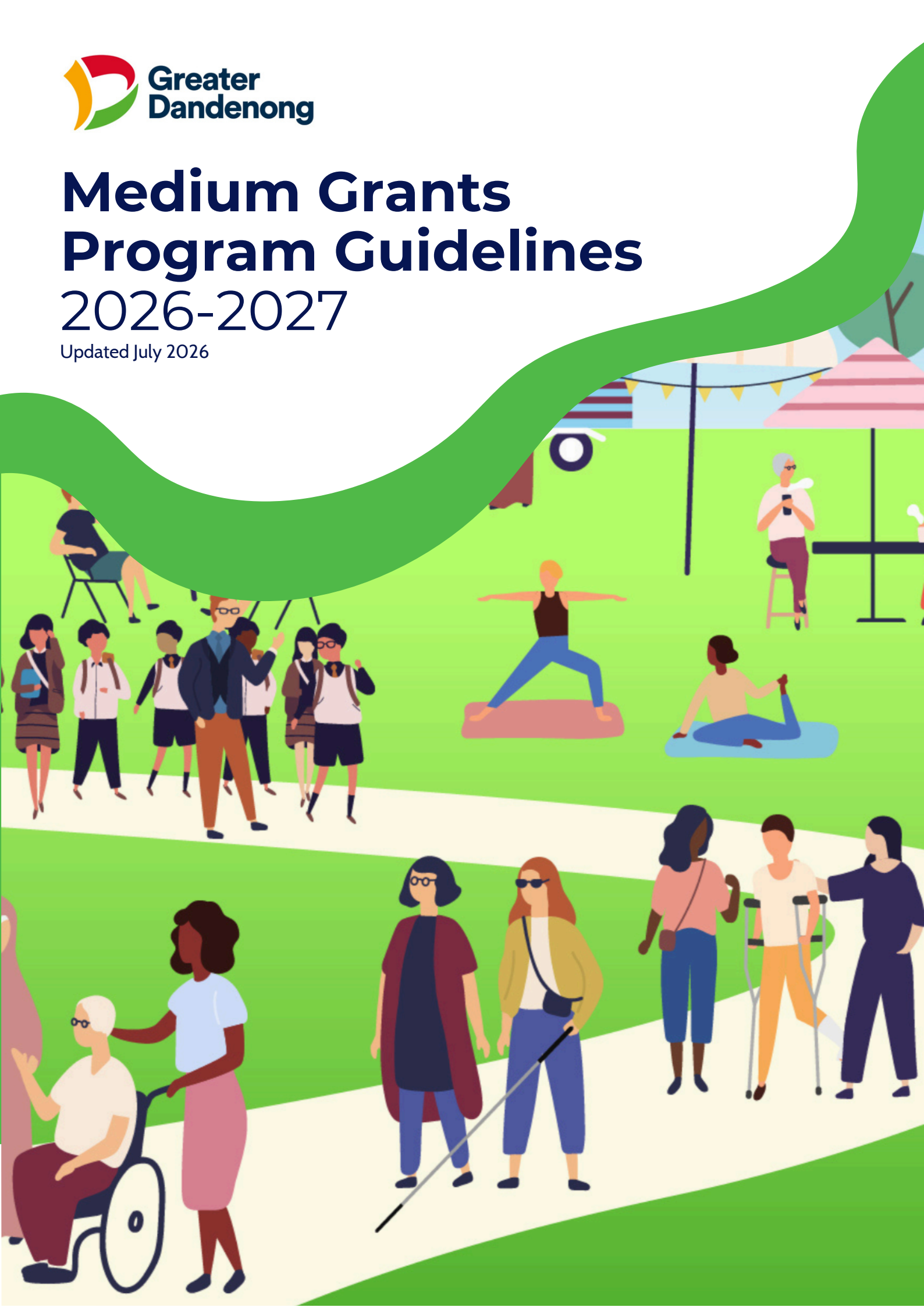


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Introduction

The Medium Grants Program supports not-for-profit community groups, organisations, and individual artists to deliver projects, programs, and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.

Grants are offered **twice a year**, with dates and details available on Council's website.

- Only **one** application per organisation, per round.
- **Maximum funding:** $10,000 per organisation, per financial year.
- **Requests up to $5,000:**
  - Supplementary project funding/income is not required, although encouraged.
- **Requests between $5,001 and $10,000:**
  - Requests over $5,000 must include **at least $2,000 in confirmed supplementary funding** or income (from the applicant or other sources, such as additional grants).
  - Supplementary funding must be **clearly listed as income in the budget section** of the application form and should not be included in the in-kind contribution section.
- Applicants that do not meet this requirement will be deemed eligible for a maximum of $5,000.
- Late applications will **not be accepted.**

Program Goals

- Strengthen community through diverse and responsive activities.
- Encourage local participation.
- Align with Council's strategic objectives.
- Reduce social disadvantage and inequality.
- Build organisational capacity and partnerships.
- Celebrate diversity and intercultural connections.
- Promote access for at risk individuals and groups.



Who Can Apply?

Applicants must:

- Be either a **not-for-profit incorporated association**, registered **charity**, similar charitable legal entity (i.e. company limited by guarantee, co-operative), or be **auspiced** by one.
- Operate **within Greater Dandenong** or serve Greater Dandenong **residents**.
- Have **met all previous grant conditions**, including reporting requirements.
- Hold **Public Liability Insurance** of $20 million or equivalent. Successful applicants will need to provide evidence of a new policy, or an existing policy that covers the project activities.
- Deliver the project within the **specified grant period**.

Individual artists may only apply for community arts projects up to $5,000.

Arts project applications for more than $5,000 must be led by local organisations in partnership with artists.

Schools may only apply for activities beyond their core responsibilities that benefit the wider community.

Government-affiliated local volunteer groups (e.g. CFA, SES) may only apply for community engagement projects beyond their statutory duties.



Not Eligible to Apply

- Individuals (except artist-led projects).
- Government agencies (except schools and local volunteer groups).
- Applicants with outstanding debt with the City of Greater Dandenong and its services.
- Applicants with outstanding grant requirements/acquittals.
- Political organisations.
- Organisations that operate, or benefit from, Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs).
- Private or for-profit businesses.

What Can Be Funded?

- Temporary staff costs.
- Printing, translation and interpreting.
- Equipment and venue hire.
- Transportation for participants.
- Volunteer expenses.
- Promotion and advertising.
- Essential project materials.
- Public liability insurance for the project.

What Won't Be Funded?

- Projects taking place primarily outside Greater Dandenong (unless there is a clear local benefit).
- Projects and activities funded through another City of Greater Dandenong Grant Program.
- Projects led by Council employees.
- Illegal or unsafe activities.
- Projects that promote specific political or religious beliefs.
- Core operational costs (e.g. administration, utilities, insurance, utilities, salaries).
- Projects misaligned with Council's values and strategies.
- Re-granting or re-distribution of grant funds or subcontracting.
- Gift vouchers.
- Debt or loan payments.
- Emergency relief or material aid.
- Payment, equipment or uniforms specifically for members.
- Projects that contravene Council's Electronic Gaming Machine Policy.
- Capital works, land, building or vehicle purchases.
- Duplicate or retrospective projects.
- Projects that have received two years consecutive funding from Council, unless demonstrated high achievement of intended outcomes.
- Commercial events, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco or e-cigarettes.
- Events at venues that operate Electronic Gaming Machines (unless no appropriate alternative).
- Out-of-area or inappropriate venue hire (including venue hire charge for premises owned by the applicant).

Healthy Partnerships

Council encourages healthier partnerships by discouraging support from industries such as alcohol, tobacco and gaming, to promote safer and more inclusive community events. This includes avoiding activities and events at venues that operate electronic gaming machines (EGMs).

For more information, refer to:

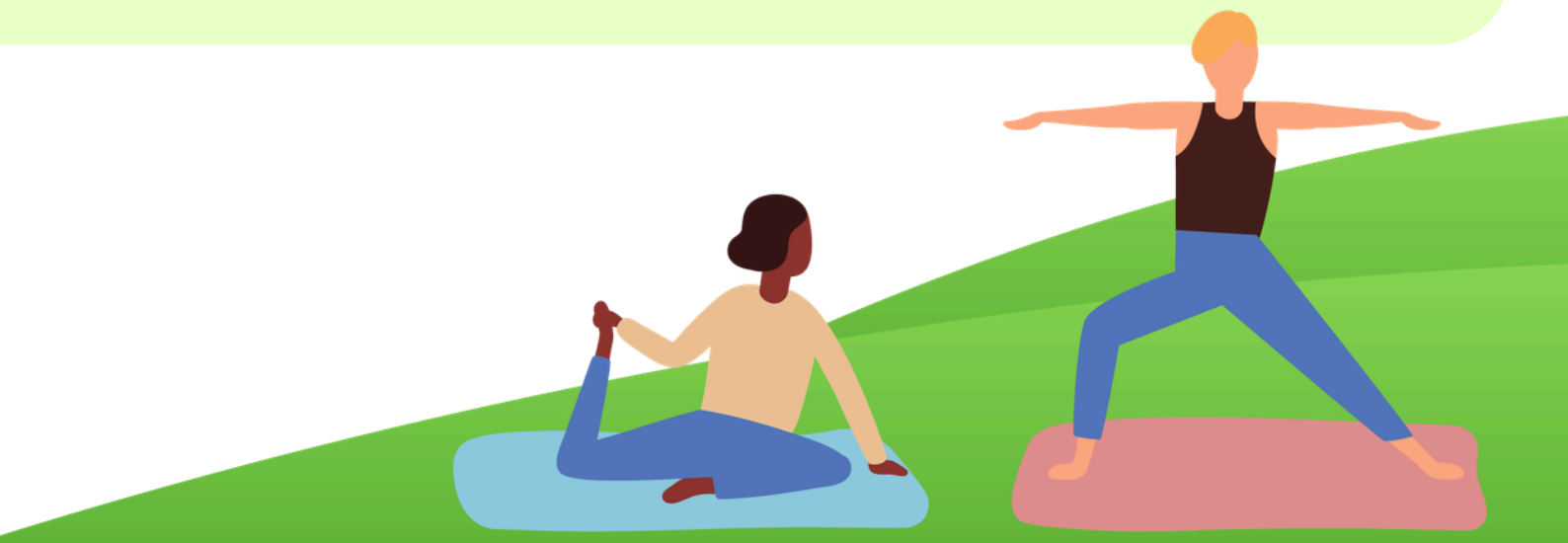
- Council's Gaming Policy
- VicHealth Local Government Partnership website

Assessment Process

The following process will occur after the close of Grant Applications:

1. **Eligibility Check:** Council officers from the Community Development Funding Team, and other areas relevant to the project, review applications against the eligibility criteria.
2. **Panel Assessment:** Eligible applications are assessed by an Independent Community Grant Assessment Panel.
3. **Governance:** Panel members follow Council's Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Terms of Reference.
4. **Council Endorsement:** Funding recommendations are presented at a Council meeting for approval.
5. **Communication and Feedback:** Applicants advised of the outcome.
    a. Successful applicants provided further instructions for payment and reporting requirements.
    b. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact the Community Development Funding team for further feedback and assistance with future applications.
6. **Public Reporting:** Funded projects are listed on Council's grant website and in the Annual Report.

NB: Applicants will be provided updates throughout the assessment process.



Grant Categories

The Medium Grants Program includes four funding streams:

Funding Streams	Purpose
1. Community Development Up to $10,000	Supports not-for-profit groups to build community capacity, promote social inclusion, improve health and wellbeing, prevent family violence, advance gender equity, foster community harmony.
2. Climate Change Action Up to $10,000	Supports not-for-profit groups, organisations and schools to deliver environmental projects that help address climate-related change and support Council's sustainability goals.
3. Arts, Festivals and Events Up to $10,000	Supports not-for-profit groups to run arts, cultural events and festivals that encourage community connection, cultural exchange, and diversity.
4. Individual Artist Grants Up to $5,000	Supports individual artists to lead community-based arts or cultural projects that respond to local needs and build community relationships.

NB: All funding requests **over $5,000** must include **at least $2,000 in confirmed supplementary funding or income** (from the applicant or other sources, such as additional grants).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project proposals, including relevant approval requirements, with relevant teams across Council. Refer to the list of teams and contact details provided on **page 17** of these guidelines.

For eligibility and other application advice, please book an appointment online, or contact:

Community Development Funding Team
03 8571 1432
commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au
Book a Meeting Time

Stream 1: Community Development

Funding Available - up to $10,000

Requests up to $5,000:

- Supplementary project funding or income is not required, although encouraged.

Requests between $5,001 and $10,000:

- Requests over $5,000 must include at least **$2,000 in confirmed supplementary funding or income** (from the applicant or other sources, such as additional grants).
- Supplementary funding must be clearly listed as income in the budget section of the application form and should not be included in the in-kind contribution section.
- Applicants that do not meet this requirement will be deemed eligible for a maximum of $5,000.

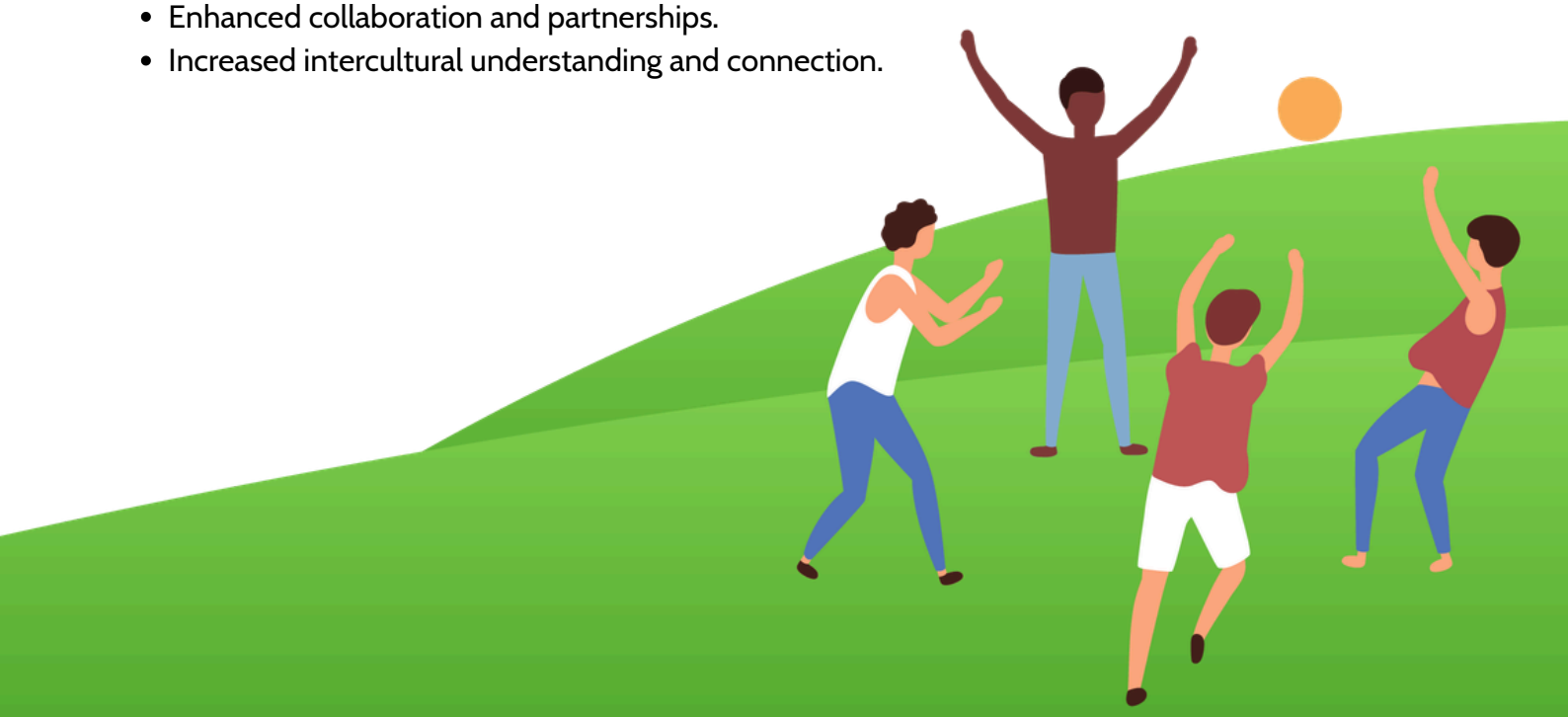
This stream supports not-for-profit groups and organisations to:

- Build community capacity and foster social inclusion.
- Promote healthy partnerships and intercultural connections.
- Prevent family violence, advance gender equity, and strengthen community harmony.

Expected Outcomes

Projects should aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- Build community skills, inclusion and wellbeing - including gender equity and prevention of family violence.
- Provide access and inclusion of individuals or groups at risk of exclusion.
- Improve safety, health, wellbeing, and gender equity, including prevention of family violence.
- Enhanced collaboration and partnerships.
- Increased intercultural understanding and connection.



Stream 1: Community Development

Priority Project Areas

Projects addressing emerging community needs are encouraged, especially those focused on:

- Family violence prevention and gender equity.
- Women and girls' participation in sport.
- Social support for newly arrived women.
- Health and wellbeing of CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) women.
- Promoting healthy eating in the community.

Priority Populations

Projects that support the following groups will be viewed favourably:

- CALD communities.
- Refugees and asylum seekers.
- Children, youth and families.
- People experiencing homelessness.
- People with a disability.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Seniors.
- LGBTIQA+ individuals.
- Women.

Additional Notes

- Refer to **Appendix 1** for the detailed assessment criteria for this grant stream

Stream 2: Climate Change Action

Funding Available - up to $10,000

Requests up to $5,000:

- Supplementary project funding or income is not required, although encouraged.

Requests between $5,001 and $10,000:

- Requests over $5,000 must include at least **$2,000 in confirmed supplementary funding or income** (from the applicant or other sources, such as additional grants).
- Supplementary funding must be clearly **listed as income in the budget section** of the application form and should not be included in the in-kind contribution section.
- Applicants that do not meet this requirement will be deemed eligible for a maximum of $5,000.

This stream supports not-for-profit groups, organisations, and schools, to:

- Deliver projects that help tackle climate-related change and improve environmental outcomes.

Expected Outcomes

Projects should aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- Increase climate awareness and community action.
  - Project examples: climate science education for diverse communities; school workshops on reducing carbon footprints and waste / how to garden and compost.
- Improve preparedness and resilience for climate-related challenges.
  - Project examples: community workshops on making homes more energy efficient / combating heat stress.
- Promote sustainable practices, including reduced water use, lower carbon footprint, and greener, sustainable transport choices.
  - Project examples: native verge planting; community garden setup up or expansion; community bike programs; school biodiversity programs.
- Support for vulnerable communities in adapting to climate impacts.
  - Project examples: climate-adaptation education for diverse communities; workshops on climate-related health impacts (e.g. sun stroke); community emergency management responses.

Additional Notes

- Infrastructure projects (e.g. solar panels), are not eligible under this program
- Refer to **Appendix 2** for the detailed assessment criteria for this grant stream



Stream 3: Arts, Festivals and Events

Funding Available - up to $10,000

Requests up to $5,000:

- Supplementary project funding or income is not required, although encouraged.

Requests between $5,001 and $10,000:

- Requests over $5,000 must include at least **$2,000 in confirmed supplementary funding or income** (from the applicant or other sources, such as additional grants).
- Supplementary funding must be clearly **listed as income in the budget section** of the application form and should not be included in the in-kind contribution section.
- Applicants that do not meet this requirement will be deemed eligible for a maximum of $5,000.

This stream supports creative initiatives that **strengthen community life in Greater Dandenong.** Arts, festivals, and cultural programs play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and enriching the city's vibrancy.

Not-for-profit groups and organisations can apply for delivery of arts projects, festivals, and events that foster community connection, celebrate cultural diversity, and activate public spaces.

Art Projects Outcomes

Projects should aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- High artistic merit.
- Innovative and contemporary approaches.
- Engagement with emerging local issues.
- Inclusive and accessible community engagement.
- Activation of public spaces.

Festivals and Events Outcomes

Projects should aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- Strong community connection and cultural exchange.
- Accessibility for the broader community.
- Collaboration and partnerships.
- Activation of public spaces.

Additional Notes

- Individual artists seeking more than $5,000 must partner with a locally based organisation. The organisation will submit the application under this stream and manage the project.
- Refer to **Appendix 3** for the detailed assessment criteria for Festivals and Events Projects under this grant stream
- Refer to **Appendix 4** for the detailed assessment criteria for Arts Projects under this grant stream

Stream 4: Individual Artist

Funding Available - up to $5,000

Requests up to $5,000 ONLY

- Supplementary project funding or income is not required, although encouraged.
- Individual artists seeking more than $5,000 must partner with a locally based organisation. The organisation will submit the application under Stream 3: Arts Festivals and Events Grants and manage the project.

This stream supports **individual artists** to lead community-based arts or cultural projects that respond to local needs and build meaningful community relationships.

Expected Outcomes

Art projects should aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- High artistic merit.
- Innovative and contemporary approaches.
- Engagement with emerging local issues.
- Inclusive and accessible community engagement.
- Activation of public spaces.

Additional Notes

- Individual artists seeking more than $5,000 must partner with a locally based organisation, who will need to submit the application under Stream 3: Arts Festivals and Events Grants and manage the project.
- The stream utilises the same assessment criteria as Stream 3: Arts, Festivals and Events Grants.
- Refer to **Appendix 4** for the detailed assessment criteria for this grant stream



Application Attachments

Essential Documents (All Applicants except Individual Artists)

- Financial Statement. Must include:
  - Profit and Loss (income and expenses).
  - Balance sheet (assets and liabilities).
  - Statements to be the most recent available.
- Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance (required only if successful).

Essential Documents (Auspiced Projects)

- Letter from the Auspice body, outlining the arrangement.
- Financial Statement of Auspicing body (document requirements as per above).
- Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance from Auspicing body (required only if successful).

Essential Documents (Individual Artists)

- Resume or short biography.
- Examples of previous work.
- Certificate of Currency for Public Liability insurance (required only if successful).

Optional Supporting Documents (All Applicants)

- Letters of support or recommendation from partner organisations, or consulted groups.
- Quote/s to support major budget items over $500.
- Evaluations or assessments of previous projects.
- Links to short videos or media coverage related to your project.



How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online via Council's website:
www.greaterdandenong.com/medium-grants-program

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF copy of your application. If you don't receive this email, your application has not been submitted.

Council staff cannot view applications that have not been submitted.

Grant Conditions

Successful applicants will receive a Grant Agreement outlining the terms. Key conditions include:

- **Claiming grant funds** - must be made within the same financial year and within one month of approval.
- **Use of funds** - must be used for the approved activity only.
- **Unspent funds** - must be returned to Council.
- **Grant Acquittal Report** - must be submitted within one month of completing the activity.

Grant Acquittal Report

After your project ends, you must submit a Grant Acquittal Report via your SmartyGrants portal within one month. The report includes:

- **Activity summary:** What was delivered.
- **Financial breakdown:** How the grant was spent.
- **Outcome progress:** Achievements and challenges.
- **Participation data:** Number of beneficiaries and other relevant metrics.
- **Evidence:** Surveys, case studies, or similar, to support your claims.
- **Additional supporting materials:** Photos, promotional flyers, testimonials.
- **Key learnings:** Insights for future projects.



Auspiced Applications

If your group is not incorporated or doesn't have an ABN, you can still apply through an auspice organisation. The auspice organisation:

- Must be incorporated and have an ABN.
- Takes legal and financial responsibility for the grant if successful.
- Will receive the grant funds directly from Council.

You'll need to provide:

- The auspice organisation's contact details.
- A letter from the auspice organisation confirming the arrangement.
- Their ABN.
- Their most recent financial report.

Auspice for Individual Artist

For the purpose of the Medium Grants Program Individual Artist Stream, a number of agencies offer grant auspice services. For a list of agencies offering auspice service please contact Council's Arts and Cultural Development Team on arts@cgd.vic.gov.au or 8571 5408.

Child Safe Standards

All Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities to children are required by law to comply with the Child Safe Standards.

There are 11 Child Safe Standards. These Standards commenced on 1 July 2022 and replace the Child Safe Standards that were established in 2016. The Child Safe Standards aim to protect children and young people, by requiring organisations to put policies, procedures and processes in place to prevent and respond to abuse.

The Child Safe Standards help organisations to:

- Promote the safety of children.
- Prevent child abuse.
- Ensure effective processes are in place to respond to and report allegations of child abuse.
- Encourage children to 'have a say', especially on issues that are important to them or about decisions that affect their lives.

For further information on the Child Safe Standards see:
https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/

Support with Your Application

The **Community Development Funding Team** is here to help!

Contact us for assistance with:

- Eligibility criteria and grant processes.
- Submitting your application online.
- Connecting with other relevant Council teams.

On request, officers can review a draft application and provide feedback before submission if provided sufficient time.

Book a meeting to discuss your project and ask questions, in a one-on-one consultation with a Community Funding Officer.

Please schedule an appointment online before visiting Council, to ensure someone is available to meet with you. Interpreters can be arranged if needed.

Community Development Funding Team
03 8571 1432
commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au
Book A Meeting Time

Grant Information Sessions

The Community Development Funding Team runs information sessions during the application period to help applicants understand:

- The Medium Grants Program.
- Eligibility requirements, including important documentation.
- The application process.

Details on session dates and booking instructions will be made available on the Council's Medium Grants Program webpage and Bookings page. Please advise the team in advance if you require an interpreter for these sessions.

System Access

If you are having trouble accessing your SmartyGrants user account, please contact:

SmartyGrants
03 9320 6888
service@smartygrants.com.au

Other Relevant Teams Across Council

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project proposals, relevant permit and other project requirements with the relevant teams across Council.

Access and Inclusion
DisabilityInclusion@cgd.vic.gov.au

Arts and Cultural Development
03 8571 5408
Arts@cgd.vic.gov.au

Children's Services
ChildrenServAdminSupport@cgd.vic.gov.au

Community Advocacy
03 8571 1624
CommunityAdvocacy@cgd.vic.gov.au

Community Safety
CommunitySafety@cgd.vic.gov.au

Festivals and Events
03 8571 5090
Events@cgd.vic.gov.au

Greater Dandenong Libraries
1300 630 920
cgdlibraries@cgd.vic.gov.au

Placemaking and Revitalisation
Placemaking@cgd.vic.gov.au

Positive Aging
03 8571 5556
PositiveAgeing@cgd.vic.gov.au

Public Health
PublicHealth@cgd.vic.gov.au

Sports and Recreation
Recreation@cgd.vic.gov.au

Sustainability Planning
03 8571 5333
Sustainability@cgd.vic.gov.au

Volunteer Program
03 8571 1000
Volunteers@cgd.vic.gov.au

Youth and Family Services
03 8571 1620
YouthServices@cgd.vic.gov.au



APPENDIX 1 - Community Development Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the criteria outlined below:

Funding Streams	Weighting
Community Need	
Does the application demonstrate need or desire within the community for the project? • Has evidence of this need been provided? • Is supporting this program a priority of the Council plan?	10%
Will the project contribute to the achievement of the Medium Grants Program Outcomes?	10%
Is the project open to the wider Greater Dandenong community?	10%
Community Benefit	
Does the project provide evidence of community collaboration and partnership?	5%
Does the project target groups which may be at increased risk of experiencing exclusion?	10%
Does the project address one or more of the following emerging community needs: • Family violence and gender equity. • Women's/girls sport participation. • Social support and connection for newly arrived women. • Health and wellbeing of CALD women. • Community health and wellbeing	15%
Applicant Capacity	
Does the applicant have a demonstrated capacity to successfully implement the project?	20%
Budget	
Is the budget realistic and does it reflect the scope, scale and cost of the project?	15%
Does the organisation have a financial or in-kind contribution?	5%

APPENDIX 2 - Climate Change Action Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the criteria outlined below:

Funding Streams	Weighting
Community Need	
Does the application demonstrate need or desire within the community for the project? • Has evidence of this need been provided? • Is supporting this program a priority of the Council plan?	10%
Will the project contribute to the achievement of the Medium Grants Program Outcomes?	10%
Is the project open to the wider Greater Dandenong community?	10%
Community Benefit	
Does the project demonstrate accessibility for the broader community?	15%
Does the project further community-led climate and environmental action at a local level and deliver climate related outcomes?	15%
Applicant Capacity	
Does the applicant have a demonstrated capacity to successfully implement the project?	20%
Budget	
Is the budget realistic and does it reflect the scope, scale and cost of the project?	15%
Does the organisation have a financial or in-kind contribution?	5%

APPENDIX 3 - Festivals and Events Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the criteria outlined below:

Funding Streams	Weighting
Community Need	
Does the application demonstrate need or desire within the community for the project? • Has evidence of this need been provided? • Is supporting this program a priority of the Council plan?	10%
Will the project contribute to the achievement of the Medium Grants Program Outcomes?	10%
Is the project open to the wider Greater Dandenong community?	10%
Community Benefit	
Does the project demonstrate accessibility for the broader community?	10%
Will the proposed project activate public space?	5%
Does the project provide evidence of community collaboration and partnership?	5%
Will the proposed project increase community connection and cross-cultural exchange.	10%
Applicant Capacity	
Does the applicant have a demonstrated capacity to successfully implement the project?	20%
Budget	
Is the budget realistic and does it reflect the scope, scale and cost of the project?	15%
Does the organisation have a financial or in-kind contribution?	5%

APPENDIX 4 - Arts Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the criteria outlined below:

Funding Streams	Weighting
Community Need	
Does the application demonstrate need or desire within the community for the project? • Has evidence of this need been provided?	15%
Will the project contribute to achievement of the Medium Grants Program Outcomes?	10%
Community Benefit	
Does the project have high artistic merit?	5%
Will the proposed project attract new audiences and be accessible and inclusive?	10%
Will the proposed project develop innovative and contemporary approaches to the production and presentation of the art form?	10%
Will the proposed project activate public space?	10%
Applicant Capacity	
Has applicant provided evidence of previous experience delivering similar projects? • If required, has the applicant demonstrated compliance for any required approvals for the project?	20%
Budget	
Is the budget realistic and does it reflect the scope, scale and cost of the project?	15%
Does the applicant have a financial or in-kind contribution?	5%

Community Development Funding Team
03 8571 1432
commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au
Book a Meeting Time