

Community Partnership Funding Policy

Policy Endorsement:	Endorsement required by Council		
Policies Superseded by this Policy	Not applicable		
Directorate	Community Services		
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Wellbeing		
Policy Type	Discretionary		
File Number:	A2055433	Version No:	2
1st Adopted by Council	8 July 2013 Minute No.241	Last Adopted by Council:	25 March 2019 Minute No.1004
Review Period:	Three (3) years	Next Review:	March 2022

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for the operation and delivery of the Community Partnership Funding Program.

2. Background

Council recognises that fit-for-purpose funding programs can support capacity-building of important local services, support the delivery of projects that contribute to achievement of Councils Plans and Strategies, and provide social and economic benefit to the City of Greater Dandenong. Council also recognises that purpose-built funding programs that create collective action can provide value for money solutions to important issues.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to monetary grants provided through the Community Partnership Funding and applies to Council staff, Councillors, grant recipients and other parties that may become involved in the grants process.

4. Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter – Compatibility Statement

The aims of this Policy support and uphold the intentions of the Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter.

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5. References

- Endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 March 2019
- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Community Development Framework November 2015.

6. Definitions

The following definitions apply in the reading of this Policy.

Grant	A payment of money by Council to a not-for-profit incorporated association or similar incorporated legal structure for an agreed purpose and subject to conditions.
Community Services	Not-for-profit service organisations, charities or voluntary service groups that provide services to support the community.
School based Community Hubs	Community Hubs based in schools in the City of Greater Dandenong only in relation to grant applications for activities that are not part of core school curriculum and student welfare based.

7. Council Policy

Policy Statement

The Community Partnership Funding Program offers opportunities to a range of non-profit organisations and charities to apply for fit-for-purpose outcomes focused funding to support them build-capacity and deliver important services for the City of Greater Dandenong community.

Policy Principles

The Policy builds on the Commonwealth Grant Guideline principles (2013), adapting these for the City of Greater Dandenong context:

- Collaboration and partnerships between funder and recipient
- Building-capacity of funded organisations
- Open and accessible funding programs
- Timely and efficient administration processes
- Transparent decision processes and outcomes
- Strategic alignment between funding and Council business
- Measurable outcomes from funded programs.

Program Principles (Community Development Framework)

- Building resilience by identifying the strengths that exist within a community and helping harness these to address issues that affect them (Asset based)
- Focusing on neighbourhoods and places where people meet to identify community needs and understand opportunities for improvement (Place based)
- Involving residents in finding solutions to their needs and helping community leaders to foster positive change in their communities (Needs and outcomes focused)
- Supporting residents' active participation in their local community and encouraging them to work together on common goals (Connecting people)
- Supporting and linking residents together to make a difference in the civic life of their community and developing the skills, knowledge, values, and motivation to make the difference through political and non-political processes (Civic participation)
- Establishing partnerships and relationships with community members and organisations to develop trust and collaboration with council (Partnerships and relationships)
- Helping to secure community funding and resources that support community initiatives (Funding focus)
- Delivering initiatives that are developed in a manner that is respectful of diversity and promotes equity and equal access for all (Access and equity).

Implementation Principles

- Budget – will be determined by Council through the annual budget process. Sub-category budgets will be determined at an operational level.
- Assessment and Decision making
 - Officers will conduct an eligibility check on all applications received
 - Multi-stakeholder Advisory Panels will assess applications against assessment criteria and make recommendations for funding
 - Funding recommendations and summary rationale for Building-Capacity Grants, Strategic Project Grants and Sponsorships will be presented to Council for final decision and endorsement
 - Reporting to the public after each round on Council's grant website and in the Annual Report.

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- **Conditions**
 - Grants are subject to conditions which will be outlined in the grant agreement
 - Advisory Panels may recommend additional conditions for funding
 - Grant recipients will be required to complete period reports and acquit grants, including reporting on expenditure of funds and project outcomes
 - Where grant recipients fail to comply with conditions Council shall take appropriate action, such as designating the organisation as ineligible for further grants or taking action to reclaim funds already paid, dependent on the specific circumstances of the case.
- **Promotion and Communications**
 - The grant program will be widely promoted to ensure program is accessible to all suitable organisations.

Related Documents

- Community Partnership Funding Guidelines.
- Diversity Access & Equity Policy