

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS POLICY

PURPOSE

To guide the delivery of Council's Community Assistance Grants Program.

Policy intent

To provide financial assistance to eligible community organisations and individuals to deliver projects which respond to community need, align with Council's *Corporate Plan 2017-2025* and enhance the social, cultural and community development of the Gympie region.

Scope

This policy applies to community assistance grants administered by the Corporate and Community Services Directorate.

Regulatory Provisions

This policy is compliant with the community grant program requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (sections 194 and 195). The policy is implemented through Council's Community Assistance Grants Guidelines (CS1710) and the Regional Arts Development Fund Grant Guidelines (CS1713).

Responsibility

The Director of Corporate and Community Services will ensure the internal system is maintained and resources are available to achieve the implementation of this policy.

Grant Eligibility

Grant applications must meet general eligibility criteria in relation to applicant type, project type, funding amount and project delivery timeframes. Applications must also meet category specific eligibility criteria as detailed in Council's endorsed grant guidelines.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation, or auspiced by an incorporated not-for-profit organisation (including co-operatives and companies limited by guarantee)
- hold appropriate levels of public liability insurance and other forms of insurance relevant to the project type
- have no outstanding debt with Council
- have satisfied requirements of previous Council grant funding
- be based in, or provide direct benefits to, the Gympie region

The following applicants are ineligible:

- individuals (except for Regional Arts Development Fund category wherein individuals can apply)
- commercial businesses and enterprises
- local, state or federal government agencies and/or entities
- educational institutions, kindergartens and pre-school centres
- Parents and Friends or Parents and Citizens Associations
- medical organisations or primary health care providers
- religious organisations where the application is for the organisation's core business
- political organisations
- organisations that hold a gaming machine licence

- organisations with a liquor licensed supporters/associated club that commercially trade seven days a week

To be eligible, projects must:

- meet specified eligibility and assessment criteria in this policy and related grant guidelines
- be delivered in the public interest, responding to community need and contributing to community benefit
- demonstrate alignment with Council's priorities as outlined in Council's Corporate Plan, strategies, plans or policy positions
- meet specified project delivery timeframes
- have not commenced

Council will not provide grant funding to projects that:

- are primarily a commercial venture
- are run solely for fundraising purposes, without broader community benefit
- are conducted for the purpose of raising charitable funds for a third party
- have a sole religious or political purpose
- are considered to be the core responsibility of other levels of government
- have already commenced or occurred

The following expenses are ineligible:

- ongoing operational or administrative costs (e.g. ongoing salaries, rent, rates, insurance, maintenance of equipment)
- debt or the costs of litigation
- prizes, awards or trophies
- merchandise
- donations to individuals or organisations
- purchase of alcohol
- retrospective funding for activities that have commenced or already occurred

Grant Categories

Community Assistance Grants Program funding is available in the following standard categories:

- Community Capacity Building
- Facilities Development
- Community Events
- Equipment
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

Council may establish other grant categories for specified grant rounds to respond to emerging community needs or issues.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed against eligibility and assessment criteria detailed in the Community Assistance Grants Guidelines (CS1710) and the Regional Arts Development Fund Grant Guidelines (CS1713).

Standard assessment criteria apply to all grant applications:

- Community need or support
- Community benefit
- Project management capability (including sound budgeting, planning and capacity to deliver)

Consideration is also given to:

- Distribution of grant funding across the region
- Prior Council grant funding to applicants
- Other forms of Council support to applicants
- Financial position of the applicant
- Council planning and development issues that may impact on the project or the applicant's capacity to deliver the project

Type of Assistance

Grant assistance will take the form of a financial payment to the successful applicant.

Amount of Funding Available

As part of its annual budget process, Council will determine the amount of funding available under the Community Assistance Grants Program. Funding is then distributed through the grants program in accordance with this policy and the endorsed grant guidelines.

Related Policies

Environment Levy for Community Group Grants (PDPOL011)

Sponsorship Policy (CSPOL301)