

# City of Whittlesea Community Grants Guidelines 2023–2024



# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community's vision of A Place For All.



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# Community Grants Overview

The City of Whittlesea is offering new grants to support individuals, groups and businesses in line with our community vision of **Whittlesea 2040: A place for all goals**;

- Connected Community,
- Liveable Neighbourhoods,
- Strong Local Economy and
- Sustainable environment
- High Performing Organisation.

The proposed guidelines will open up funding opportunities to a wider range of community groups and localities with funding to be available all year round rather than via programs with specific dates for applications. The key highlights of the new program are:

- the introduction of all year-round grants with approval rounds being conducted on a monthly or quarterly basis;
- the introduction of grant categories that will open up funding opportunities to individuals and unincorporated groups;
- the introduction of emergency grants to support community organisations and businesses requiring immediate assistance;
- a centralised and holistic process for receiving and assessing community grant applications which will ensure we can collect data and can develop outreach/ awareness programs where necessary to ensure funding is shared among a wider range of groups and individuals in the City of Whittlesea;

- to ensure funding is fair and equitable, all applicants will need to meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - are located in the City of Whittlesea;
  - deliver an event or project in the City of Whittlesea;
  - have no outstanding debts to Council;
  - have acquitted all previous Council grants;
  - proposed projects or events align to Council 2040 vision;
  - honouring and continuing existing agreements and partnerships with groups who are delivering community services; and
  - a proposed increase as per the 2023/24 draft budget from \$2.03m to \$2.69m.

The new guidelines have been informed by feedback we have received in recent years and through examination of best practice across the local government sector and beyond.



# Who is eligible to apply?

The City of Whittlesea is offering grants to Individuals, Unincorporated groups, Not-for-profit groups, incorporated groups, social enterprise and businesses that all meet the following mandatory eligibility requirements;

- are located in the City of Whittlesea,
- deliver the event or project in the City of Whittlesea
- have no outstanding debts to Council,
- have acquitted all previous Council grants,
- proposed projects or events align to Council 2040 vision.

There are specific requirements per grant type noted further below. The following table provides a summary of the eligible applicants for each grant type.

Grant Type	Eligible Applicants					
	Individuals	Unincorporated Groups	Not-for-Profits	Incorporated Groups	Social Enterprise	Business
Individual	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Small	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medium	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unincorporated Groups	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Emergency Grant	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓



# What won't be funded

Council encourages applications from all individuals, groups, organisations and businesses who meet the eligibility requirements of the grant they are applying for. The following are activities, projects or events Council will not fund across all grants;

**1. Day to Day operational expenses**

Applicant's day to day operational expense or core business that are part of the applicant's every day expense (for example, salaries, electricity, lease or rent payments etc)

**2. Regular Activities**

Projects or events that are part of the applicant's regular activity (for example, if an individual applies to support a morning tea for their existing group who meet would also meet for morning tea, this is not a new project or event),

**3. Outstanding Debts to Council**

Individuals, groups or businesses with existing debts owing to Council will be ineligible.

**4. Building Projects, Capital Works or Facility Maintenance**

**5. Seek support or assistance from Councillors**

Seeking or lobbying for Councillor input or support will automatically exclude your application.

**6. Profit and Advertise Gambling**

Organisations or Businesses that undertake or promote gambling unless a significant benefit to the community is demonstrated. For example, RSLs can be funded for ANZAC Day Dawn Service, however, the RSL will not be funded for a new tv in the members lounge to benefit members.

**7. More than two applications per applicant per grant type per year**

To ensure a fair and equitable distribution of grants, organisations are limited to two applications per year.

**8. Aupsice organisations supporting more than four other applications**

**9. Political Activities**

**10. Projects or Activities that are the responsibility of the State or Federal Government**

Applicants can include State or Federal government funding as co-contribution in their application.

**11. Catering not integral to the project or event**

Applicants applying for catering not linked to the purpose of the event can not be funded. For example, catering for a group who meet regularly to cover morning tea is not integral, however, community groups meeting to share a meal due to Ramadan or other significant cultural event would be considered integral to the event.



# When is funding available?

To ensure community are supported all year round, the timing for each of the grant types below will allow time to deliver these grants and ensure community have the opportunity to apply for grants specific to their needs.

The following table provides a summary of the grant type, maximum amount per grant available, timing of when these grants are offered and the opening and closing dates.

Grant Type	Maximum Amount	Timing	Open Date	Close Dates
Individual	\$1,000	Monthly	14th each month	14th each Month
Small	\$3,000	Monthly	14th each month	14th each Month
Medium	\$20,000	Quarterly	Q1 – 1st February	Q1 – 30th April
Large	\$40,000	Quarterly	Q2 – 1st May Q3 – 1st August	Q2 – 31st July Q3 – 31st Oct
Unincorporated Groups	\$1,000	Quarterly	Q4 – 1st Nov	Q4 – 31st Jan
Emergency Grant			On needs basis	

## Auspices

Unincorporated groups or organisations ineligible to apply may seek support from an eligible not-for-profit community group or organisation to auspice their application for a grant. The applicant must include a letter of support from the auspice organisation identifying the following details;

- 1) Auspice organisation name and ABN
- 2) Applicant Name
- 3) Grant type
- 4) Project or Event Name
- 5) Grant amount applied for and
- 6) Signed by the correct delegate in the auspice organisation.

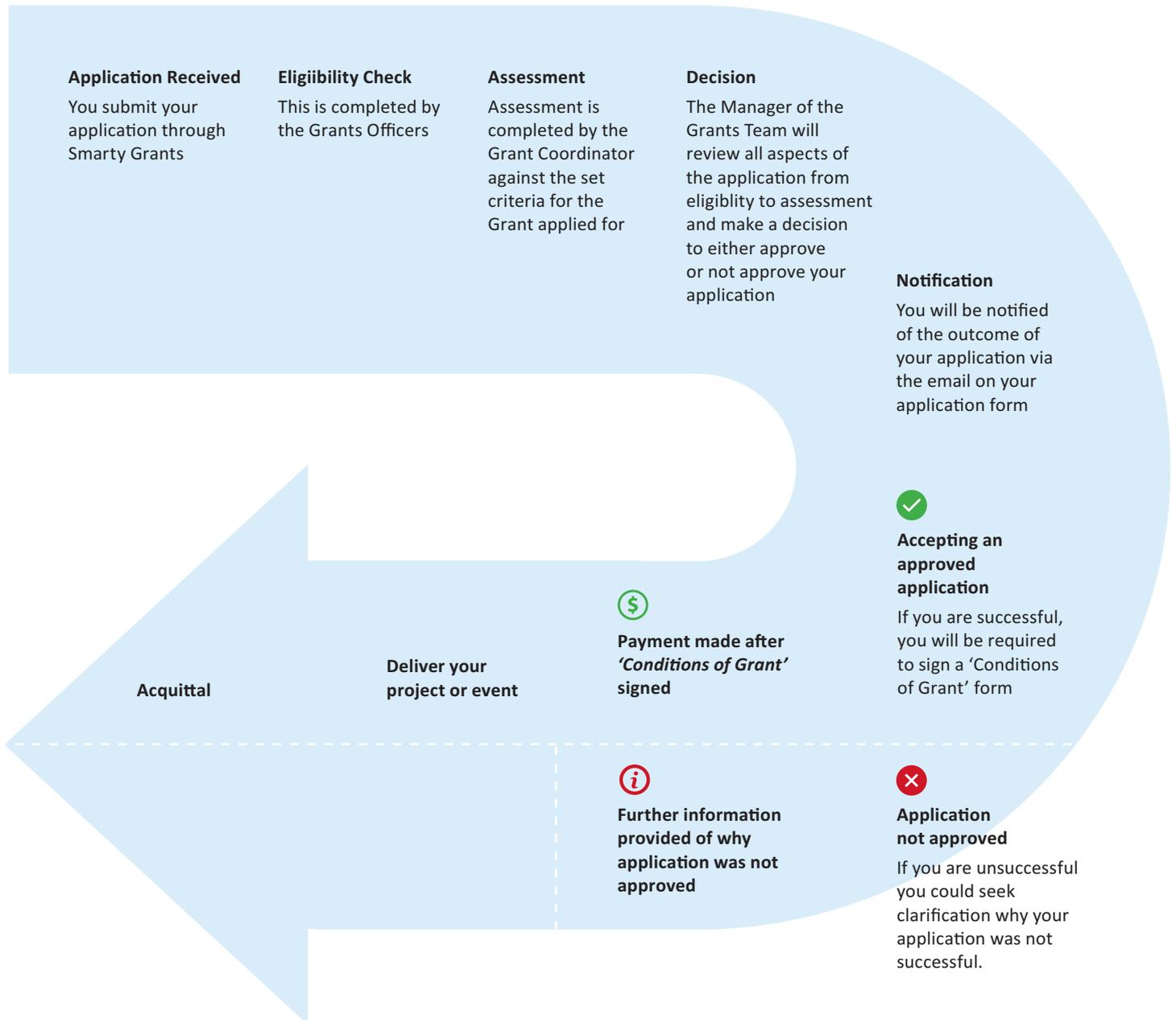
The auspice group or organisation will be required to meet all eligibility requirements for the grant and co-contribution requirements explained further in the small, medium and large grants. If the application is approved for funding, the auspice will be required to sign the Conditions of Grant to agree to manage the grant funds and accept legal accountability for the funds ensuring the funds are spent for the purpose of the grant. The auspice will also be required to meet all reporting requirements.

An auspice organisation is limited to auspice a maximum of four other applicants throughout the year.

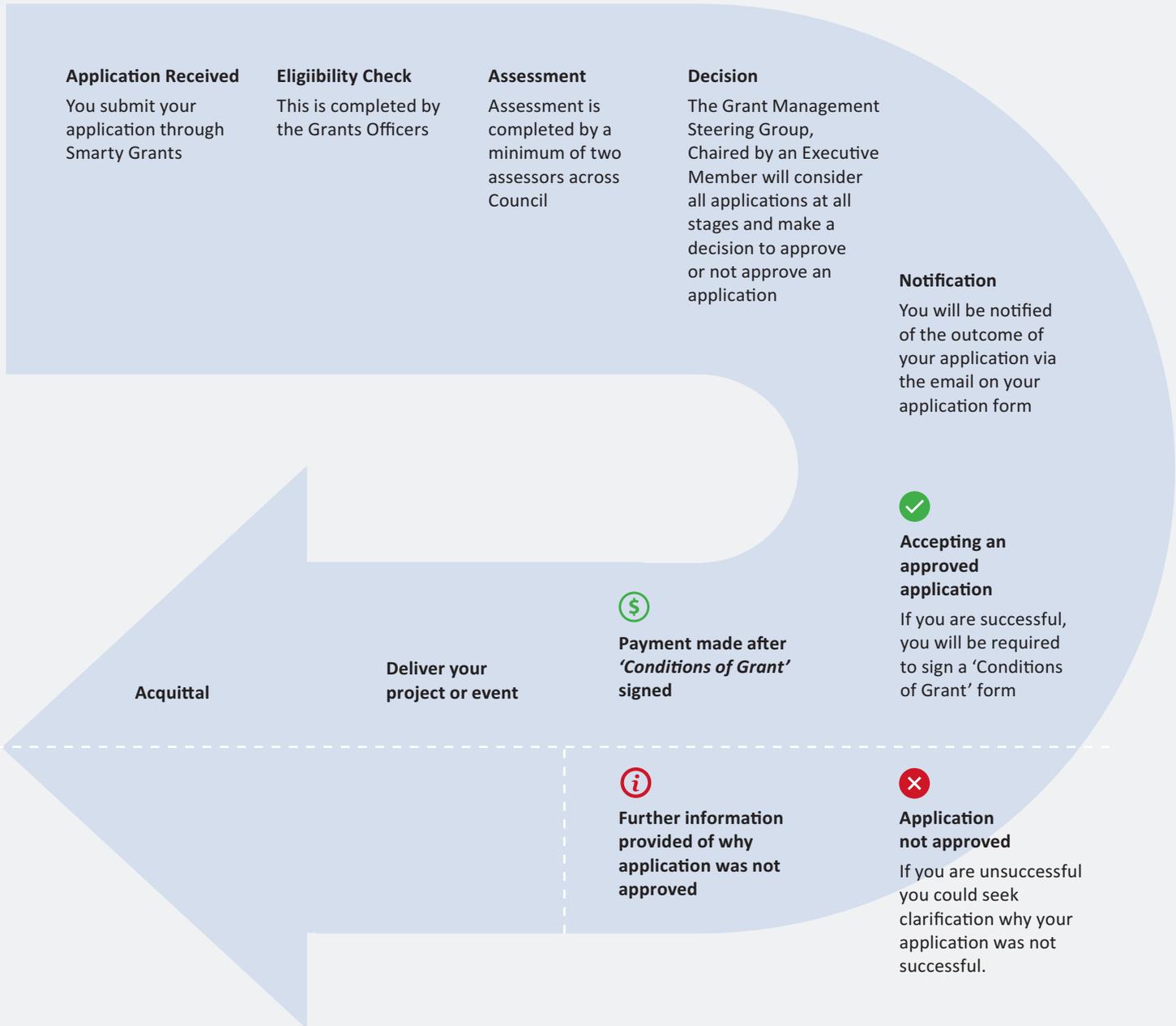
# Grants Application Process Summary

To ensure there is fair consideration for all applications, the following process shows what happens after you submit your application for the grant.

## Individual, Unincorporated Groups, Emergency Grants and Small Grants Application Process



## Medium and Large Grants



# How do I apply

All applications for our grants will be on-line through SmartyGrants. You will require an email address to apply for the grants. This email address will be the main form of communication for any details regarding your application, conditions of grant, grant variations and acquittal.

## Navigating (moving through) the application form

On every screen (page of the form) you will find a Form Navigation contents box, this links directly to every page of the application. Click the link to jump directly to the page you want.

You can also click 'next page' or 'previous page' on the top or bottom of each page to move forward or backward through the application.

## Saving your draft application

If you wish to leave a partially completed application, press 'save and close' and log out. When you log back in and click on the 'My Submissions' link at the top of the screen, you will find a list of any applications you have started or submitted. You can reopen your draft application and start where you left off.

You can also download any application, whether draft or completed, as a PDF. Click on the 'Download PDF' button located at the bottom of the last page of the application form.

“We see a lot of great applications come through and unfortunately are made ineligible due to not attaching the required or supporting documents with their applications”.

## Submitting your application

You will find a **Review and Submit** button at the bottom of the Navigation Panel. You need to review your application before you can submit it.

Once you have reviewed your application you can submit it by clicking on 'Submit' at the top or bottom of the screen or on the navigation panel. You will not be able to submit your application until all the compulsory questions are completed and there are no validation errors.

Once you have submitted your application, no further editing or uploading of support materials is possible.

When you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your submitted application attached. This will be sent to the email you used to register.

**If you do not receive a confirmation of submission email then you should presume that your submission has NOT been submitted.**

*Hint: also check the email hasn't landed in your spam or junk email folder.*

## Attachments and support documents

You may need to upload/submit attachments to support your application. This is very simple, but requires you to have the documents saved on your computer, or on a storage device.

You need to allow enough time for each file to upload before trying to attach another file. Files can be up to 25MB each; however, we do recommend trying to keep files to a maximum of 5MB – the larger the file, the longer the upload time.

## Completing an application in a group/team

A number of people can work on an application using the same log in details as long as only one person is working at a time. Ensure you save as you go.

## Individual Grants

<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All applicants must apply two months prior to enable a solid month to process. For example, if you require the grant for attendance to a leadership workshop in October, you must apply by August.</li> <li>No grant will be funded retrospectively.</li> <li>One application per individual</li> </ul> <p><b>Arts and Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creative performers, artists</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attending leadership development opportunities to support their community</li> </ul> <p><b>Sports &amp; Recreation Competitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals 25yo or younger (Parents/Guardians apply for those under 18 years old)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Environment Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All individuals. Under 18 years old must have a Parent/Guardian apply on their behalf.</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Timing Frequency</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
<b>Eligible Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration fees</li> <li>Course fees delivered by a Registered Training Organisation</li> <li>Travel and accommodation – up to \$500 per application</li> <li>Clothing or uniforms</li> <li>Materials and equipment</li> </ul>
<b>What won't be funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Documents</b>	<p>It is essential for your application to have supporting documents as priority will be given to applicants with all supporting documentation. In addition, Council staff will contact third parties to verify details of your application where required.</p> <p><b>Arts and Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artist's CV and/ or</li> <li>Evidence of the opportunity relevant to their art or cultural practice</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A demonstrated history of volunteering, participation and taking leadership in the community/ community group,</li> <li>Evidence of the leadership development opportunities to support their community</li> <li>Courses that are delivered by a Registered Training Organisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Sports &amp; Recreation Competitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of financial need (e.g. Health care card holder)</li> <li>Evidence of selection in the event/ competition</li> <li>The list of costs to participate</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Environment Initiatives</b></p> <p>In line with the Sustainable Environment Vision, the applicant must complete;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Project plan of the initiative they want to achieve,</li> <li>Clear objectives of the plan</li> <li>Impact of the initiative</li> <li>List of costs</li> </ul>

## Unincorporated Group Grants

<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group has been meeting on a regular basis for at least six months at the time of application</li> <li>• The group has a minimum of six members</li> <li>• A minimum of 50% of members reside in the City of Whittlesea</li> <li>• The group is established in the City of Whittlesea</li> <li>• The group has Rules of Association or a Statement of Purpose or a Mission Statement</li> <li>• Unincorporated groups can only apply once for this grant</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Timing Frequency</b>	<b>Quarterly</b>
<b>Eligible Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Liability Insurance to cover organisation/group.</li> <li>• Incorporation costs.</li> <li>• Materials and equipment to support organisation set-up.</li> <li>• Group promotion and member recruitment.</li> <li>• Costs for regular meeting venues.</li> <li>• Costs to set up a webpage.</li> <li>• Facilitators to support development of strategic plans, governance systems.</li> <li>• Costs for activities associated with starting up a social/ business enterprise.</li> </ul>
<b>What won't be funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups of a political nature</li> <li>• Groups already incorporated</li> <li>• Incomplete applications</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes for costs associated with setting up your group</li> <li>• A business plan showing the proposed start up social/ business enterprise</li> <li>• Evidence supporting your proposed business plan or project could including (but not limited to) minutes of a meeting confirming proposed move to start up social/ business enterprise.</li> </ul>

## Emergency Grants

<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not-for-profit community groups, incorporated organisations, social enterprises and businesses</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Timing Frequency</b>	<b>As received</b>
<b>Eligible Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce financial impact of emergency and unforeseen events</li> <li>• Enable eligible applicants to continue to operate or quickly return to normal operations</li> </ul>
<b>What won't be funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency initiatives already delivered in community by other key community organisations or the State.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes</li> <li>• Evidence of current financial status</li> <li>• Other documents relevant to the proposed emergency project or activity</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impact on the normal operations of the applicant.</b> Applicants need to show evidence of how the event occurred and its detrimental effect on normal operations.</li> <li>• <b>Financial hardship or risk the fee will create for the applicant.</b> Applicants need to describe how the fee will create financial hardship or risk. Applicants will need to provide evidence of their financial status by means of bank statements, proof of loss, recent copy of financial accounts or letter of current standing from a financial accounts.</li> <li>• <b>How the community will be impacted if normal operations are interrupted.</b> Applicants need to describe how their normal services/activities help their local community</li> </ul>



# Small, Medium & Large Grants

The small, medium and large grants offer supports to social enterprises, not-for-profit community groups, organisations and businesses to undertake activities that have a broad community benefit.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for grants to deliver projects and events that have a broad community benefit in line with Whittlesea 2040 vision:

- Connected Community through;
  - a. Social cohesion
  - b. Physical activity
  - c. Safety in public areas and
  - d. Civic participation
- Liveable Neighbourhoods
  - a. Use of town centres
  - b. Access to services and facilities
- Strong Local Economy
  - a. Increased local employment
  - b. Education opportunities for all
  - c. Successful and innovative local businesses
- Sustainable Environment
  - a. Valued natural landscapes and biodiversity
  - b. Climate ready
  - c. Leaders in Clean, Sustainable living

All Small, Medium and Large Grants have three sub-categories;

- **Council Programs**

Council will offer programs as a result of identified need in community through community planning and feedback. Programs will be added upon identified need. The Council programs on offer at this stage will include;

- a. Female Participation in Sports

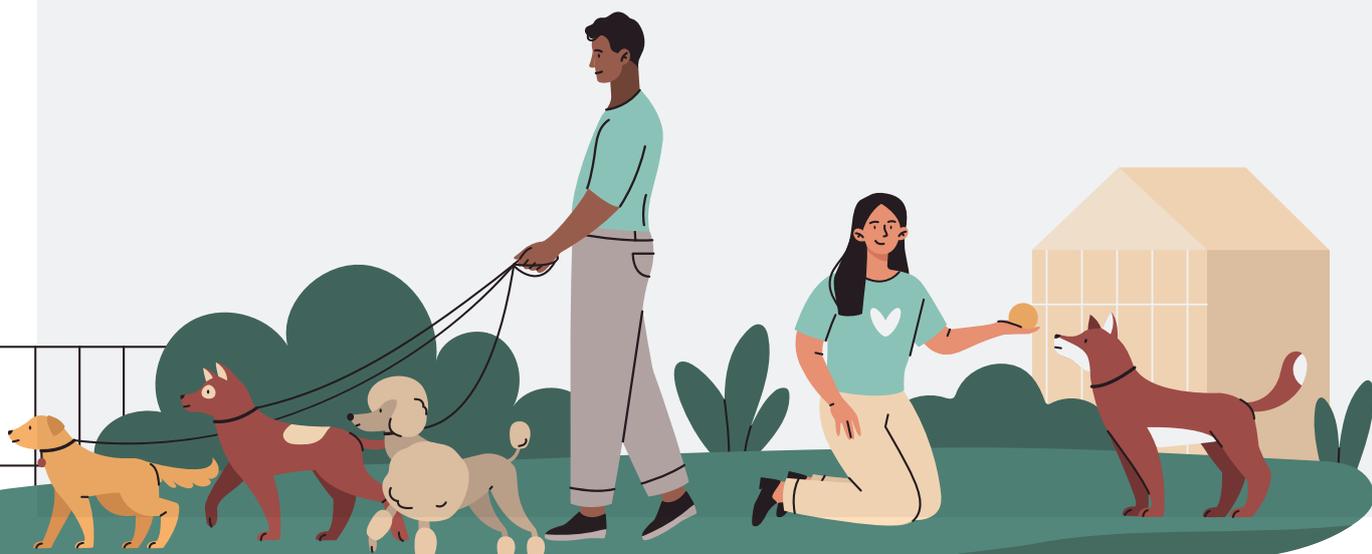
- **Projects**

Community groups, social enterprises and businesses have the opportunity to apply for grants to deliver projects that meet any of the Whittlesea 2040 vision noted above.

- **Events and or Festivals**

To celebrate our diverse community eligible applicants are encouraged to apply to run events or festivals that celebrate who you represent in the City of Whittlesea. Applications for events must ensure it meets all the Festival and Events Framework including;

- a. Traffic management strategy
- b. Health and safety considerations and permits where applicable
- c. Risk management strategy
- d. Communications and/ or media plan



## Eligibility

Across all small, medium and large grants, the following are eligible;

- Be a registered Not-for-profit classified by the Australian Tax Office
- Incorporated Groups
- Social Enterprise and
- Businesses
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or qualify to submit a Statement by Supplier
- Hold current public liability insurances appropriate to the proposed project or event
- Provide all supporting documentation to support your application
- Provide legitimate quotes showing ABN from potential supplier for items costing over \$500
- Applicants must apply three months in advance for their proposed event to ensure it meets all requirements for the Festival and Events Framework. Events applied for must be delivered in the following quarter. For example, an applicant has an event in August. The application must be submitted by end of April quarter.

## Co-contributions

To enable equitable distribution and consideration for all groups who are applying for these grants the following requirements for co-contribution is mandatory for all applicants as follows;

### 1. Not-for-profits

Any not-for-profit groups or not-for-profit organisations agreeing to auspice an application, with an annual turnover or gross income of \$300,000 or more per year, must match the grant amount applied for dollar for dollar. This can be in the form of;

- a. Cash contributions,
- b. Grants from other funding bodies,
- c. In-kind support (venue, donated goods, services),
- d. Volunteer hours.

### 2. Businesses

Businesses that apply or auspice other applicants for grants must invest and match the same amount of funding they are applying for dollar for dollar.

For example, if an event company agrees to auspice a not-for-profit group, then the auspice agency or business with a commercial gain must agree to match the funding amount requested by the not-for-profit group dollar for dollar.

### 3. Auspice organisations

Any organisations that agree to auspice an organisation will be required to meet the eligibility and co-contribution requirements for each of the grants in this category.

## What won't be funded

- Individuals
- Projects, activities or events that are political in nature
- Anything towards the applicant's day to day operational expenses or core business (for example, lease or rent, salaries for permanent staff, lease or rent payments, existing activities, equipment for regular activities)
- Gifts vouchers, gifts, prizes, trophies, scholarships, donations, other grant programs
- Promote gambling, drugs and/ or alcohol and tobacco
- Projects already completed or committed to prior to submitting an application
- Projects already underway
- New building projects, capital works, maintenance or renovations projects,
- Activities or Events that do not comply with relevant government orders of the day,
- Air travel or accommodation
- Catering costs where provision of food is not considered essential to the project.
- Not open to the public or where access is restricted.

# Mandatory Conditions

To ensure fair and equitable consideration towards all applications submitted, **all grant types** will have the following **mandatory** Conditions included;

## 1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

All Grants are open to all residents within the City of Whittlesea including staff. To ensure fairness and transparency a Declaration of a Conflict of Interest must be completed all applicants who are affiliated with Council with any of the following roles;

- a. Council Officer
- b. Volunteer
- c. Appointed to Committee or working group
- d. Contractor or Consultant

Failure to disclose your affiliations and subsequent completion of the Conflict of Interest section in your application, will result in your individual or group, organisation or business application being deemed **'Unsuccessful'** due to not disclosing your Conflict of Interest'.

## 2. Acknowledge Council Support

All grant recipients are required to acknowledge Council for their support as follows in website, social media post, speeches or radio advertisements;

- a. **Individual Grants and Unincorporated Group Grants and Small Grants** (up to \$3,000)  
Acceptable acknowledgement for recipients of these grants may include any of the following;
  - (i) Verbal  
"Thank you to the City of Whittlesea for their support through the **Individual Grants/ Unincorporated Group** Program"
  - (ii) Events and Festivals will be required to include the City of Whittlesea logo in accordance with Council's brand guidelines on any promotional material. Council's Public Affairs Department will provide the logo and guidance on co-branding.
- b. **Medium and Large Grants**  
Use of Council logo and a more formal acknowledgement is required for any Programs/ Projects or Events supported through these Grants.

If your application for a grant is successful, you will be expected to sign a Funding Agreement that will include a Schedule of Requirements including acknowledge Council's contribution. You will be connected to Council's Public Affairs Department for logo and branding requirements and advice.

### 3. Co-contribution

Co-contribution will be required for **Small, Medium and Large Grant categories only** with the following requirements per entity type;

#### a. Not-for-profits

Any not-for-profit groups or not-for-profit organisations agreeing to auspice an application, with an annual turnover or gross income of \$300,000 or more per year, must match the grant amount applied for dollar for dollar. This can be in the form of;

- i. Cash contributions,
- ii. Grants from other funding bodies,
- iii. In-kind support (venue, donated goods, services),
- iv. Volunteer hours.

#### b. Businesses

Businesses that apply or auspice other applicants for grants must invest and match the same amount of funding they are applying for dollar for dollar. For example, if an event company agrees to auspice a not-for-profit group, then the auspice agency or business with a commercial gain must agree to match the funding amount requested by the not-for-profit group dollar for dollar.

### 4. Acquittals Summary

Council values the impact grants can have on an individual, community group, organisation or business and has an acquittal approach that reflects grants issued. Acquittals must be completed to;

- Capture the great initiatives delivered across City of Whittlesea through Grants,
- Be sure successful grant recipients use the grants for the intended purpose they applied for,
- Benefits realisation on the impact of the project or event,
- To recover any unspent funds

### 5. Consent

Through the application process, Council will seek consent to contact third parties noted in your application in order to verify details of your application where required.

To facilitate delivering all year grants that are open and competitive, if consent is not provided at the application stage and we cannot verify information on your application, therefore causing a delay in processing your application, priority will be given to applicants who have provided all information and consent to liaise with third parties.

Contact with third parties noted in your application will be to verify only details specific to your application for the grant, where applicable.



# Supporting documents minimum requirements

It is essential for your application to have supporting documents as priority will be given to applicants with all supporting documentation.

## Letters of Support

Any letter of support you provide must have the following details;

- Provided on letterhead or email from supporting group,
- Acknowledgement of the support for your;
  - Group Name
  - Grant Type you are applying for
- The reason they support your grant
- Signed off by the Authorised contact of the support group or organisation

## Quotes

Any quotes submitted with the application form must include at a minimum;

- ABN details of the organisation or company providing the quote and
- An itemised break-down of what is included and costs.







**Council Offices**

25 Ferres Boulevard  
South Morang VIC 3752

**Email:** [info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

**Website** [whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

**Postal address**

City of Whittlesea  
Locked Bag 1  
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

**Phone:** 9217 2170

National Relay Service: 133 677  
(ask for 9217 2170)

Connect with us in your  
preferred language:

Free telephone interpreter service  
 **131 450**