

C.7 Community Grants Program

Objective

To develop an operating framework that provides funding opportunities to organisations and individuals that is relatively flexible however maintains a level of transparency.

Policy Statement

This policy is to articulate the Council's commitment to develop the Community by providing funding opportunities to community groups, clubs, organisations, not-for-profit organisations and individuals for worthwhile programs, projects, initiatives and events that meet the Shire's strategic vision.

1 Community Grants Program

In pursuit of the objectives of the Community Grants Program, the Shire may undertake or facilitate such activities that:

- promote the Shire of Dundas as an active participant in community activities and events;
- require organisations to complete and submit a Community Grants Program application form;
- meet with grant applicants to discuss their respective proposals further;
- conduct visits to sites or events to ensure applicants are meeting funding guidelines.

2 Criteria for Evaluation

There must be tangible and sustainable benefits demonstrated in order for the Shire to commit to any funding. In determining funding approval, applications will be required to deliver outcomes within the following Shire Strategies;

- Community Development
 - Youth
 - Seniors
 - Community Groups
 - Culture
 - Community Events
 - Community Initiatives
- Sport and Recreation
- Tourism and Area Promotion
- Community Engagement

3 Eligibility

Not-for-profit clubs, groups, organisations and individuals that are providing economic, social, Community or environmental services and benefit to the Shire.

4 Ineligibility

Groups that are ineligible for funding include, local, state and federal government departments, private companies, individuals of private and public schools including employees of these bodies acting on behalf of their employer (excluding relevant community purpose representative bodies such as the P & C).

5 Three Key Categories:

5.1 Sundry Donations

Small grants up to \$1,000 can be applied for at any time through a written request and application form addressed to the Chief Executive Officer outlining details of how the funds are to be utilised.

The Chief Executive Officer may be granted delegated authority to approve sundry donations, and report the donation to the Council via the monthly Ordinary Council Meeting.

5.2 Event Grants

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available through two designated funding rounds each year. The following provides a definition of the three event types for which applicants can apply:

5.2.1 Iconic Event

An event that is of regional significance, that can demonstrate through detailed planning or on past performance that it will generate significant tourism activity, stimulate large scale community interest and participation and is conducted annually at the same time of the year.

5.2.2 Community Event

An event that has local or regional significance that stimulates place activation, community interest and participation.

5.2.3 Sporting Event

A significant sporting event organised by a relevant sporting body that may attract the local community and those on a wider scale.

5.3 Three year service agreements

To support ongoing projects that promote economic development, generate significant tourism activity and stimulate large scale community interest and participation.

6 Operating Guidelines

Operating guidelines will be maintained for the program covering eligibility, application, assessment, evaluation and acquittal requirements.

7 Review

A review of the performance and effectiveness of each grant will be conducted by the Shire to assess the degree of activity, value and other for the Shire of Dundas.

A detailed evaluation and acquittal report must be provided no later than 30 days after the completion of the event.

If community groups or individuals have problems meeting the required evaluation and acquittal deadline, correspondence will be required to outline problems and provide a revised deadline for acceptance by the Shire.

8 Funding

Funding for the Community Grants Program will be sourced from all the current grant programs that the Shire currently offers to the community.

The total funding available will be reviewed each financial year during the preparation of the annual budget or budget review except for the Shires commitment to the "Three Year Service Agreements".

The funds will be grouped into one relevant line item in Shires annual budget.

Funding contributions to sundry donations will be provided as a set amount and the Events Grant will be based on two funding rounds with applications being open from April-May and from October-November of each year and assessed in June and December respectively.

The three year service agreements will be open for application during April-May of each year and assessed in June.