

7.2.1 2026/27 MONASH COMMUNITY GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Responsible Manager:	Fee Harrison, Manager Community Strengthening
Responsible Director:	Tanya Scicluna, Director Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program Policy for the 2026/27 program.

INTRODUCTION

Each year Council provides funding to community groups, incorporated associations and not-for-profit organisations through the Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program (MCGPP).

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the updated Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program Policy. This report seeks to summarise the funding principles and program framework outlined in the Policy and the associated governance considerations.

The MCGPP Policy has been informed and is aligned with the recent Monash Grants program review and recommendations that were adopted by Council at the 26 August 2025 Council meeting.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Sustainable City

Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality.

Inclusive Services

Community development and advocacy to support the Monash community.

Deliver high performing services.

Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

Good Governance

Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation.

Effectively communicate and engage with the community.

Maintain the highest standards of good governance.

BACKGROUND

The Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP) has been a major source of funding to the Monash community since 1995. The program aims to -

- develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve Council's strategic directions;
- support local groups, activities and foster community connectedness;
- support community organisations to develop skills and increase community participation;

- d. direct resources to address both emerging and specific needs for groups and people who experience intersecting forms of discrimination including, but not limited to people from multicultural communities, LGBTIQ+, people with disabilities and First Nations; and
- e. develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues.

These community grants primarily provide funding for small to medium-sized projects and initiatives that respond to the social, cultural, creative and recreational needs of the Monash community.

DISCUSSION

Each year, community-based incorporated and not-for-profit organisations operating within the City of Monash are invited to apply for funding to support their projects, activities, events and/or services. This has previously been through the Monash Community Grants Program, which from 2026/27 will be known as the **Monash Community Grants & Partnerships Program (MCGPP)**.

All applications must meet specified eligibility criteria; the most significant of which relates to the organisation type, community participation, alignment with Council's objectives, location of the funded project and insurance coverage.

A full list of eligibility criteria is outlined in the MCGPP Policy (Attachment 1). The MCGPP Policy is revised into user friendly guidelines (Attachment 3) for all potential applicants to access on Council's website and hard copies can be requested on an as-needed basis.

All past eligible applicants will receive information regarding the upcoming program, including a link to the MCGPP guidelines via email in January 2026.

The MCGPP allows for cash and/or in-kind grants to be allocated across:

- Year-round funding through:
 - Quick Response Grants
 - Cultural Celebrations Subsidy
- Annual streams that include:
 - Small Grants
 - Medium Grants
 - Large Grants
- Multi-year funding through:
 - Partnership grants
 - Seniors club support
 - Monash Hall subsidy
- Service agreements for Neighbourhood Houses and Community Service organisations.

Details of each stream's objectives, assessment criteria and types of funding available are outlined in the MCGPP Policy (Attachment 1). To be considered for funding, projects, services and events must be consistent with Council's strategic plans and policy positions.

The MCGPP is a competitive, fair and equitable funding program. All applications are assessed on their individual merit, however not all applications received can be funded, as typically, the total value of funding requests received via the MCGPP exceeds the available program budget.

Support for Applicants

All potential applicants will be able to seek direct assistance from Council officers in the following ways:

- **Information and Budget Sessions**

Information sessions are designed to give a general overview of the MCGPP beyond the guidelines. These sessions can help applicants to decide which categories they should apply for and if they're eligible.

These sessions will also cover grant budgets. Grant budget workshops were introduced in 2023 to provide prospective applicants greater information on how to complete the financials and budget section of the application form. These workshops can be attended as a standalone, or for those that have participated in the workshops above and would like more information, and to obtain a greater understanding of the financial component of the grant application.

- **Application Support Sessions**

These support sessions are open to all potential applicants to attend. The sessions are an opportunity for potential applicants to speak with officers from across a range of function areas that reflect the diversity of our community. During these one-on-one sessions, applicants can discuss their grant ideas, seek advice on eligibility and alignment with Council priorities and receive guidance for project planning and application preparation. The sessions are also designed to support community groups with the online component, assisting applicants to complete the online application forms. These sessions will be scheduled to run over a three-week period from 31 January to 25 February 2026 to encourage prospective applicants to begin applications early and avoid rushed, last minute submissions.

- **Effective Grant Writing Workshops**

Due to the success of the 'Effective Grant Writing' workshops that have been held in previous years these will again be made available to prospective applicants. These workshops help to build the capacity and confidence of community members and have proven to increase the quality of the applications received from previous recipients. The sessions will be tailored to the requirements of the MCGPP. Council officers also use this as an opportunity to add further insight, information and answer questions relating to the program. Two sessions will be scheduled in early and mid-February 2026, with one being in-person during business hours and one being delivered online after hours to ensure these are accessible to members of the community to attend.

- **Event Plan & Risk Management Workshops**

Members of Council's Events team will hold workshops for applicants wishing to apply for funding in the range of categories on how to effectively create Events and Risk Management Plans. Providing guidance and information on these plans will also build the capacity of the community in event planning, whether they apply for or receive a grant. These workshops will be held in February, again both in-person and online.

Monash Community Grants Assessment Panel

The Monash Community Grants Assessment Panel (the Panel) consists of three Council officers who have oversight and carriage of the MCGPP and who reflect the diversity of our community. The Panel will seek the advice of other relevant Council officers throughout the assessment period, to ensure their expert advice and knowledge is captured. This model provides consistency and transparency across the entirety of the program and specialist insight for specific categories to ensure equitable funding outcomes.

Commencing in March 2026, Council officers will convene a series of Assessment Panel meetings.

Once the Panel has reviewed all grant requests, a Council Report will be prepared to seek Council's endorsement of the Panel's funding recommendations at the May 2026 Council meeting.

Advice to Applicants

Following Council's endorsement of the Panel recommendations and adoption of the Budget, all applicants will receive advice of the outcome of their application, whether successful or unsuccessful.

Grant recipients will then be advised when the Funding Agreement documentation will be available online.

The review of the MCGPP recommended a shift from applications by Neighbourhood Houses and some services organisations to a model of service agreements. Service agreements will be provided to these organisations from 1st July 2026. A consultation process with relevant organisations will be held to assist in determining the relevant clauses that will be inserted into these service agreements.

Program Timelines

The following program timelines are proposed for the 2026/27 MCGPP:

MILESTONE	DATE
Program Guidelines made available online	November 2026
Advertising	November 2025 – March 2026
"Invitation to Apply" emails sent to all previous applicants.	January 2026
Applications open for submissions	27 January 2026
Grant information, support sessions and workshops	30 January – 27 February 2026
Applications close for submissions	3 March 2026
Pre-assessment eligibility checks undertaken on applications.	4 – 7 March 2026

MCGPP assessments undertaken	11 – 28 March 2026
Officers prepare budget, recommended allocations and report for Council	31 March – 24 April 2026
Report to Councillors by officers on recommended allocations	Early May 2026
Report to Council	26 May 2026
Successful and unsuccessful advice sent to all applicants and funding agreements made available for all successful recipients	Once budget adopted

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total annual allocation for the MCGPP is \$2,180,352, subject to the adoption of the 2026/27 Council budget.

\$60,000 of this budget was approved by Council at the meeting held on 25 May 2021 to be quarantined for the continued delivery of the Quick Response Grant Program, and it is anticipated \$360,000 will be allocated to service agreements.

The 2026/27 MCGPP is anticipated to have a total budget allocation of \$1,760,352.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of the Monash Community Grants & Partnerships Program Policy (Attachment 1) is based on Council's values and strategic objectives outlined in the Monash Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular "An Inclusive Community".

Monash Council has a proud history of working in partnership with community-based organisations to meet the needs of local residents and to deliver positive community outcomes. To further strengthen this partnership approach, as per the Monash Community Grants & Partnerships Program Policy, organisations seeking funding will be required to demonstrate how their project/initiative will support key Council strategies including but not limited to -

- Council Plan 2025-2029;
- Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029;
- Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy;
- The Gender Equity Framework;
- LGBTIQ+ Action Plan;
- Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Active Sports Club Framework 2022-2027; and
- Monash Arts and Culture Strategy 2025.

CONSULTATION

The MCGPP review included a range of consultations both internally and externally. The updated Policy reflects the outcomes of this review.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The social implications of the MCGPP are significant. Grant funding will:

- Strengthen a sense of community by facilitating cultural and artistic activities, stakeholder participation, recognition of diversity, cultural heritage and social cohesion.
- Provide support for community services to support the diverse needs of our Monash community (e.g. children and families, young people, older adults and people with disabilities) and facilitate the accessibility of community services.
- Strengthen community health and well-being through public safety initiatives and facilitate participation of community members in healthy lifestyles and community festivals.
- Foster education and skills development by supporting the number and quality of education options for the community in life-long learning opportunities.

In response to the needs of local services, Council has maintained its priority of supporting agencies and groups that are locally focused and responsive to municipal needs.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The 2026/27 Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program is entirely consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. In particular, the program supports:

Section of the Charter	Impact and Justification
Right to recognition and equality before the law.	The Community grants and partnership program offers all community groups the opportunity to apply, noting that guidelines and an assessment criterion needs to be met.
The right to freedom of movement, expression, thought, conscience, religion and belief.	All community groups can apply for a range of activities / programs that may involve religious and cultural celebrations and supporting a cohesive community.
The right to freedom of expression	The Community grants and partnership program is renowned for enabling continued freedom of expression by a range of community groups via the funding that is made available.
Cultural rights	The Community grants and partnership program affirms cultural rights of all groups who wish to apply to this program.

Right to a fair hearing	All applications to be considered fairly and equitably, by use of an assessment matrix and unconscious bias training as a part of the assessment process.
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GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Because this policy and program is considered to have a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment has been undertaken on the updated policy.

Feedback is received from grant recipients each year as part of the acquittal process, including questions specific to gender and diversity that provided information for this process, and a review was also undertaken on the policy that revealed:

- We ask applicants to nominate how many people of different genders will benefit from their activity. Whilst this data is not verified it does suggest that more women than men benefit from the funding provided through the MCGPP. Note that whilst we collect data for people of all genders, there is currently limited data for the impact of the grants program on gender diverse people.
- As a result of the GIA that was undertaken as part of the 2024/25 MCGP, a question was added to the application form to ascertain where the administrative burden for the grants falls. The information provided demonstrates that most of the burden falls on women, however the binary gender split is consistent with the beneficiaries of the program (60% women, 40% men). This could also indicate that there are a higher proportion of women in committee positions that complete the applications.
- Sports organisations (which are still predominantly male-dominated) often do not apply for grants. The recent changes to the MCGP and eligibility criteria now allow for purchases of uniforms and equipment which will benefit sports organisations.
- There is limited information available for the community to understand the type of programs, events and activities that have been funded in previous rounds and that are priority areas for funding.
- There is currently no requirement for the assessment panel to be reflective of the community in terms of diversity.

The program has been and will continue to be delivered by applying an intersectional lens on how it is delivered and the projects that are funded. Some changes that will be implemented in this round to ensure gender equity and diversity continue to be embedded in the program are:

- Additional areas have been included in the guidelines to explicitly identify intersectional gender equality as a priority of the program, including prevention of gender-based violence. These will now be in the community facing guidelines document.
- Officers will create case studies of previously delivered initiatives that are priority areas of funding, such as primary prevention, gender equality and diversity. These will be shared on the grants page of the website and as stories from the community that can be shared on Council's social media.
- Continue to explicitly call for applications from underrepresented communities, such as LGBTIQ+, First Nations people and people with disabilities. Utilisation of Council's advisory committees will assist.

- Include images in the MCGPP guidelines that reflects our diverse community, including images of people from a diverse range of genders, ages, abilities and backgrounds including First Nations peoples and people who identify as LGBTIQ+.
- Continue to provide MCGPP guidelines in multiple priority languages (Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Sinhalese, Tamil, Vietnamese), as well as English and text only/accessible versions.
- Continue to provide multiple opportunities for assistance and through various formats and at various times - after hours, during business hours, in person and online to ensure people from various backgrounds and with different responsibilities can access this support.
- Continue to collect demographic and other data to track changes over time to better understand who in the community is benefiting and/or those potentially missing the benefits of the program, and who are the people that are managing the grant process.
- The assessment panel will reflect the diversity of experience of our community and unconscious bias training will be provided to panel members prior to the assessment process.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program is an important community development and capacity building program for the Monash community that recognises and supports the voluntary and community sector in Monash.

In 2026/27 Council expects to allocate \$2,180,352 in community grants through the program to enable Council to support and work collaboratively with community organisations, local agencies and service providers, utilising their expertise, with the aim of delivering services in response to community needs.

The 2026/27 Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program will open for application submissions from Tuesday 27 January 2026 and close on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Monash Community Grants Partnerships Program Policy 2026 27 [7.2.1.1 - 17 pages]
2. MCGPP Assessment Criteria 2026-27 - Policy Attachment 1 [7.2.1.2 - 7 pages]
3. 2026-27 Monash Community Grants & Partnerships Program Guidelines [7.2.1.3 - 16 pages]



Community Grants and Partnership Program Policy

Community Strengthening. Community Services

The City of Monash acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Diversity statement

The City of Monash is inclusive and welcoming, celebrating the diversity of our community and employees. We want every individual to feel safe, respected and celebrated regardless of our differences of age, race and ethnicity, sex, gender identity and sexuality, ability, faith, and religious beliefs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait identify and /or socio-economic status.

● 293 Springvale Road (PO Box 1) Glen Waverley VIC 3150 **Web** www.monash.vic.gov.au **Email** mail@monash.vic.gov.au
● **T** (03) 9518 3555 **National Relay Service** (for the hearing and speech impaired) 1800 555 660
● **Interpreter Services** 普通话 4713 5001 廣東話 4713 5002 Việt Ngữ 4713 5003 Ελληνικά 4713 5004 हिंदी 4713 5005
Other languages 4713 5000 Italiano 4713 5008 한국어 4713 5010 සිංහල 4713 5020 தமிழ் 4713 5021



OVERVIEW:

This policy outlines guidelines and procedures for Community Grants and Partnership Program. It is essential for Council to have this policy in place to ensure that a robust and transparent process is in place to guide the most effective decision-making for community benefit.

RESPONSIBLE MANAGER: Fee Harrison

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: Community Strengthening

APPROVED BY:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE: [insert date adopted]

EDNA NO: [insert EDNA reference number]

REVIEW DATE: [insert review date]



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1. Introduction

The Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program (MCGPP) provides funding to support incorporated associations and not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects, activities and events to strengthen, enhance and benefit the Monash community.

The purpose of the Monash Community Grants and Partnerships policy is:

- Providing guidance and criteria for applications to the community grants and partnership program.
- Ensuring compliance with Council's overall budget as provided to the program.
- Creating a transparent, accountable and fair process for all community groups, incorporated associations and not-for-profit organisations who wish to apply to this program.
- Setting clear expectations for officers assessing applications.
- Ensures the assessment process aligns with this Policy.

2. Scope

The Monash Community Grants and Partnership Policy applies to direct financial and in-kind funding to local community groups and not for profit organisations that may:

- Deliver a service or program/s that respond to community need/s
- Build community capacity and resilience
- Create opportunities for community members to participate in civic life and connect socially
- Support Council's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Promote and foster a fair and inclusive community
- Provide opportunities for cultural and artistic contributions to the Monash community
- Organise community events of festivals that are open, welcoming and accessible to all
- Make effective use of Monash community assets and maximises their value to the community. This includes community centres, libraries, recreation and sporting facilities, parks and open space, arts and cultural venues, and neighbourhood houses.

3. Background

Monash has provided annual financial support to the community through the Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP), now known as the Monash Community Grants and Partnership Program, since 1995 and has prided itself on being one of the largest Council grants program in Victoria. Widely recognised and applauded, this program plays a vital role in supporting diverse and vibrant communities by empowering groups to deliver projects, activities and events that fosters connection, inclusion, wellbeing and cultural expression. It consistently demonstrates Council's commitment to strengthening civic life and investing in community capacity and is highly valued by the community.



Over several years, the program has been reviewed and modified to keep up with community feedback and to ensure the relevance of the program. In 2025, a comprehensive review of the program was undertaken that strengthens the program and streamlines the application process that also provides greater community benefit. As part of the review, three consultations sessions were held with 21 representatives from current and previous grant recipients. A special consultation session was held with Neighbourhood House co-ordinators, and a benchmarking exercise was undertaken with several neighbouring Councils who also manage and coordinate a community grants program. In addition, consultations were held with internal stakeholders who are involved in the assessment process and implementation of the grants program.

4. Legislative Context and Governance Statement

- This policy aligns with the Local Government Act 2020, Section 94 (1) as this program forms part of the Council plan 2025- 2029, specifically, A healthy, safe and connected community.
- This policy aligns with the 2025-2029 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, under the priorities of strengthening mental health and social connection and promoting and support a fair and inclusive community.
- This policy aligns with Local Government Act 2020, Section 91 (1) as it forms part of the Council financial plan adopted by Council annually.
- This Policy aligns with the Local Government Act 2020, Section 88 (1) as it forms part of the Community Vision, a strong sense of community and an engaged community.
- The Policy aligns with the Gender Equality Act 2020 Section 7 (a), part 2, that requires Councils to consider and promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services.
- This policy aligns with the Community Engagement policy as defined in the Local Government Act 2020, Section 55 (1) as community engagement has formed part of the review process and led to several recommended changes resulting from the community engagement undertake.
- Responsible officer Statement:

In generating this Policy, Council confirms that its development, implementation, and review comply with the overarching governance principles outlined in the Act. This Policy has considered the importance of engagement, strategic planning, financial management, transparency, and service performance.

5. Definitions

Word	Definition
Acquittal	Means the process of providing evidence of expenditure and outcomes following receipt of Council funding.
Applicant	Means an individual, group or organisation submitting a request for responsive assistance funding.
Assessment Matrix	Means a tool used by Council officers to evaluate funding applications against set criteria.
Auspice	An arrangement where one organisation (the auspice organisation) manages grant funding on behalf of another organisation or group that is not eligible to apply directly. This organisation takes on financial liability and other risks.
Budget	A Council must prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year.
Community Benefit	Means the positive social, cultural, environmental, or economic impact an activity has on the Monash community.
Community Grants Program	Means Councils competitive funding initiative designed to support community-led projects that promote social inclusion, cultural diversity, civic engagement, community development and other initiatives outlined in the Council Health & Wellbeing Plan.
Connection to Monash	Means where the applicant resides in, or is based in Monash Council or the activity benefits the Monash Community
Council	Means Monash City Council
Council Officer	Means an employee of the Council
Council Plan	Means the strategic document outlining Monash City Council's priorities and objectives.
Eligibility Criteria	Means the conditions that must be met for an application to be considered for funding.
Incorporated Association	Means a legal entity registered under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).
Responsive Assistance	Means financial support provided by Council outside of formal grant programs, typically in response to emerging or urgent community needs.
Value for Money	Means the extent to which the proposed activity delivers outcomes efficiently and effectively relative to the funding requested.

Table 1 – Definitions

6. Responsibilities and Roles

Who	Role
Director Community Services	Approve the grants program assessment and draft recommendations prior to a Council decision.
Manager Community Strengthening	Review the grants program assessment and draft recommendations prior to a Council decision.
Co-ordinator Economy, Place and Connected Communities	Ensure the grants program is conducted in accordance with this policy, application guidelines and assessment procedures.
Team Leader Connected Communities	Co-ordinates the day-to-day operations of the MCGPP from when applications open to the final assessment and draft recommendation process.
Connected Communities Officer	Co-ordinates and administers operations of the MCGPP and QRG throughout the year, including management of documentation and liaising with funded organisations and community groups. Also works to build the capacity of funding organisations and community groups through a range of workshops and forums.

Table 2 – Roles and Responsibilities

7. Program Principles & Priorities

The MCGPP focuses on strengthening the Monash community through its people. Community development principles underpin the approach that Monash takes to grant making. These principles include:

7.1 Partnerships

What this means

Partnerships are important to strengthen and build relationships between community organisations and individuals.

Partnerships foster social cohesion and broaden understanding of difference and build on the strengths and assets that exist within the community.

What will we do

Council will continue to support organisations who identify different partners that can form part of their program, event or initiative.

Council will provide advice to community groups around potential partners that may be able to assist or provide advice.



7.2 Intersectionality

What this means

We recognise the diversity, complexity and intersecting factors that shapes community experience, and prioritise approaches that remove system and social barriers to achieve full and active participation, are inclusive, accessible and responsive to intersecting needs.

What will we do

Council will support community groups to learn more about our diverse community through our community capacity building program, education and advice.

We encourage grant applications that are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the unique needs of these priority population cohorts outlined in the Guidelines and Health & Wellbeing Plan.

7.3 Health and Wellbeing Priorities

What this means

Council has set out a number of priorities as part of its Health and Wellbeing plan. These are:

- Healthy eating and active living
- Building a respectful and safe community
- Strengthening mental health and social cohesion.
- Tackling climate change and its impact on health.
- Promoting and supporting a fair and inclusive community.

What we will do

Council will ask community groups/ organisations to prioritise one or more of the above Health and Wellbeing priorities.

Council will provide community organisations with relevant information around these health and wellbeing priorities that will strengthen their application and program.

These principles guide both how Council works with the community and the types of services and projects that will be prioritised for funding.

Funding priority will be given to applicants that deliver health and wellbeing outcomes within a community setting, which contributes to community cohesion and enrich people's lives.

8. Eligibility

To be eligible to receive funding through the MCGPP, all organisations must:

- Be an incorporated association or organisation with not-for-profit or ACNC status OR auspiced by an eligible organisation.
- Hold a current ABN.



- Deliver the funded activity/service within the City of Monash boundaries.
- Maintain a minimum of \$20 million public liability insurance cover.
- Have **no** debts or outstanding documentation to Council.
- Ensure all requirements for maintaining incorporated association or ACNC registration, including ensuring all submissions to Consumer Affairs Victoria, are current and up to date.
- Align with Council's Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy, including not regularly meeting or holding funded activities in a venue that have electronic gaming machines (EGMs)
- Apply for no more than two applications across the annual program to a total of \$30,000.

Quick Response Grant applicants must adhere to all MCGPP criteria in addition to the following. All applicants must:

- Be an incorporated association or organisation with not-for-profit or ACNC status OR auspiced by an eligible organisation OR be an individual artist with an ABN
- Have not received funding for the same project in any Monash grants program previously.
- Are only eligible to receive funding for one QRG project per year.

Further information on ineligible activities and items that cannot be funded are outlined in Section 20.1.

8.1 Item caps

Item	Cash Cap
Assets & equipment	\$1,000
Uniforms & costumes	\$1,000
Administration expenses	\$250
Marketing & promotion expenses	\$500
Catering	20% of total requested grant funds (75% of total requested cash for Seniors Club Support)

Table 3 – Item Caps

9. Funding Streams

The City of Monash will provide annual funding across three streams of the MCGPP.

These are:

9.1 Year-Round Funding

Quick Response Grants – up to \$5k

Quick Response Grants are available all year round, closing 7 weeks before the end of the financial year or when all funding has been allocated. The same application criteria as MCGPP applies, noting that individual artists with an ABN are eligible to apply, and a project may only be applied for once.



These grants encourage applications for projects that are responsive to community needs throughout the year.

Cultural Celebration Subsidy – up to \$1k

Cultural Celebration subsidy is available for incorporated community groups all year round, closing 7 weeks before the end of the financial year or when all funding has been allocated, and the same MCGPP eligibility criteria is applicable for one celebration per year.

The Cultural Celebration Subsidy offers a simple and accessible way for community groups to host small, member-focused cultural events. These projects should foster meaningful cultural exchange, encourage connection among participants, and provide creative opportunities to celebrate and share cultural traditions.

9.2 Annual Funding

The streams under the annual funding program will be provided on an annual basis and will be cash only.

Small Grants – up to \$5k

This stream aims to fund small projects that address community needs and support priority cohorts outlined in the Health & Wellbeing Plan. This stream will have a simplified application and acquittal process, with five (5) criteria that applicants will need to align with. Projects are expected to create opportunities for community connection and learning.

Medium Grants – up to \$10k

This stream will support more substantial projects and will involve a moderately detailed application process with seven (7) criteria to be addressed. This stream is aimed at larger and more ongoing projects that address priority actions and cohorts from the Health & Wellbeing Plan.

Projects in this stream are expected to demonstrate innovation and demonstrate the potential for their services to remain sustainable for the community beyond Council funding.

Large Grants – up to \$20k

This stream will fund large-scale projects with significant community impact. Applicants in this stream will need to address these requirements across nine (9) criteria. Projects in this stream are not only expected to demonstrate innovation and financial sustainability but will need to demonstrate their capacity to undertake the project with a project plan and a minimum 50% contribution to the project.

9.3 Multi-Year Funding

Partnership Grants – up to \$85k

This funding program will be for three (3) years to align with the Council Health and Wellbeing Plan. A funding of up to \$85k in cash can be provided based on the application process.

This stream of grants is for projects delivered by specialist service organisations delivering in the City of Monash.



These projects will deliver on projects that address priority actions and cohorts in the Health and Wellbeing Plan across the three (3) year term of the grant. These organisations will work in partnership with Council to deliver the project and services as they should be addressing needs in the area not already addressed by Council and reduce barriers for marginalised members of our community.

Projects in this stream should also demonstrate economic outcomes for the community, whether through opportunities for local businesses or employment, or through provision of low-cost services.

This stream also welcomes applications for delivery of major festivals that will provide a range of opportunities for creative and cultural expression in Monash.

Seniors Club Support – up to \$5k cash & up to \$30k hall hire

This grant stream is available to Senior Citizens clubs in Monash to apply for cash funding, based on the number of Monash members, with a cap of 75% for food/catering expenses, and in-kind hall hire for regular meetings.

Projects within this stream should support social inclusion for Monash residents and create opportunities for interpersonal connection with the aim of reducing loneliness. Projects should also aim to address Health & Wellbeing needs of older adults through activities like provision of healthy meals or physical activity.

Number of Monash members	Cash funding available
201 or more	\$5,000
151 to 200	\$4,000
101 to 150	\$3,000
51 to 100	\$2,000
20 to 50	\$1,000

Table 4 – Seniors club membership as it relates to cash funding available

Probus Clubs within Monash will be eligible to apply for a subset of this stream to access \$500 cash funding in addition to in-kind hall hire.

Monash Hall Subsidy – up to \$15k

All requests for in-kind Monash Hall hire, except for those receiving funding through Seniors Club Support, are to be submitted through this stream of funding. Community groups can apply for up to \$15,000 per annum of in-kind support to cover the cost of hall hire for community-based activities. This support is available for a period of up to three years, aligning with the same cycle as other multi-year streams.

Service agreements

Service agreements will be provided as a part of the MCGPP to essential service providers. This will provide greater consistency for these organisations and improve their planning capacity over the term of the agreements.



An updated service agreement will be provided to each organisation, and these agreements will be for three years. These service-based organisations will not need to apply to the grants program to access this funding, however, they will need to agree to the service agreement and provide an annual monitoring and evaluation report to Council.

A service agreement will provide predictable timelines and streamlined reporting requirements, assisting the organisations with their ongoing planning and programming for the community. Service agreements will encourage consistency of service delivery for organisations delivering essential services to the Monash community.

Any changes to current funding arrangements will depend on Council's annual budget process.

Neighbourhood Houses

The City of Monash has 10 Neighbourhood Houses within its municipal boundary. Neighbourhood Houses provide a range of programs and services at a local level. They are a community conduit and are a valuable, social connection point for many communities. Neighbourhood Houses are funded by the State Government, however, 8 out of the 10 houses operate in a Council owned facility. Council officers work with Neighbourhood Houses on a range of events and programs that promote community strengthening and community cohesion.

A service agreement will be provided to each Neighbourhood House for a three-year period. Neighbourhood Houses will not need to apply to the grants program to access this funding, however, agree to the terms of a service agreement and provide a monitoring and evaluation report to Council on an annual basis.

Other Service Organisations

The City of Monash has existing agreements with a number of service organisations. These arrangements have been in place for a number of years due to the level of discrete service that these organisations provide. The funding will vary across each organisation.

10. Application Process and Assessment

Applications for the MCGPP will open the first business day after 26 January each year for a period of 5 weeks. Applications will need to use the online application portal to submit their applications in addition to speaking to a relevant Council officer to confirm their eligibility.

Officers will be available by phone to discuss application eligibility. In person and online officer support will be provided to all potential grant applicants between the opening and closing dates of the program. Officers are only able to assist with the recording of assessable answers for accessibility purposes. Additionally grant writing workshops and budget workshops will be made available to potential applicants.

Interpreter services will be promoted and made available as a part of the application assistance process.



Council is committed to providing translated communications material, including guidelines, in our priority languages, as well as an accessible text version of guidelines for use on a screen reader.

Assessment of all applications will be conducted by a group of internal officers, that as best as possible reflect the diversity of experience of our community, against a scoring matrix to ensure consistency, equity and transparency over a period of 8 weeks, with assessments concluded by the end of April. Unconscious bias training will be provided to all assessment panel officers prior to the assessment process.

A Council report will review the recommendations made by officers at the May Council meeting.

All successful and unsuccessful grant applicants will receive acknowledgement of their application within 2 weeks of the Council report.

Limited in person and online officer support will be provided for acquittals of grants. It is an expectation that grant applicants will provide their acquittals to Council within the given timelines.

Each applicant will need to address the criteria of the program as outlined in the guidelines to be eligible for a community and partnership grant.

10.1 Budget

The MCGPP operational budget is allocated through the annual Council budget approval process, for the financial year 1 July – 30 June each year. MCGPP is allocated as cash and in-kind grants, subject to Council approval. Apportionment of funding across the stream remains at the discretion of Council.

11. Grant Documentation

At the commencement of the financial year in which the grant is awarded, all successful applicants are required to complete a Funding Agreement and comply with the conditions outlined therein to access the approved funds. The Funding Agreement serves as a formal contract with Council and outlines the reporting requirements expected of the grant recipient.

All grants are subject to an annual acquittal process, which includes both financial reporting and program outcome reporting. If a recipient organisation fails to deliver the agreed outcomes or does not expend the funds in accordance with the Funding Agreement, Council may require the return of the grant funds, either in part or in full.

11.1 Returning Grant Funds

A successful recipient of a MCGPP grant must comply with all conditions outlined in this policy, the MCGPP Guidelines and the agreed to Funding Agreement, as well as any other such additional conditions specified by Council in approving the Grant. If these conditions are not met or the grant is spent on ineligible items, as identified in the expenditure statement provided in the acquittal report, Council reserves the right to request the funds to be returned.

Any unspent funds at the end of the project must be returned to Council.



11.2 Late Documentation

Late submission of grant documentation may impact eligibility for future funding.

Cash payment will not be made until all relevant documentation is submitted.

Where grant funding includes hall hire, acquittal and all supporting must be submitted within six (6) weeks of 1 July. Submissions received after this deadline may result in hall hire expenses not being backdated, with funding only applicable from the date the documentation is received.

12. Dispute Resolution Pathway

Applicants that do not agree with an outcome are able, in the first instance, to contact the Team Leader, Connected Communities (Team Leader) to seek further information and feedback relating to their application provided by the Assessment Panel.

Should this not be resolved, the applicant is not comfortable or considers it inappropriate to contact the Team Leader the applicant can apply for a review to the Manager, Community Strengthening (Manager). The Manager will acknowledge receipt of the dispute within five (5) business days and provide an outcome of the review within ten (10) business days.

Should this not be satisfactory a further review can be submitted to the Director, Community Services. The Director will finalise their review of the original decision within 14 days of receiving the request and advise the outcome in writing.

13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Annual audits (programmatic and financial) will be carried out with a selection of grant recipients. A full external audit of the MCGPP will be conducted every three years. Details of the MCGPP will be available for inspection as required by the Local Government (General) Regulations (2015).

The program will aim to collect and disaggregate data by gender and other demographic characteristics where possible, in order to better promote intersectional gender equality in the program and enable greater understanding of the applicants and beneficiaries of the funding.

The MCGPP policy will be reviewed every three years to coincide with the funding cycle.

14. Gender Impact Assessment

Council has a legislative responsibility under the Gender Equality Act 2020 to conduct a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) on all new policies, programs, and services (and those that are up for formal review) which have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Council recognises that the introduction of a Community Grants and Partnership Program Policy can have a direct and significant impact on the community. A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed, and several changes have been made to the Policy that strengthen our commitments to gender equality. These include:



- Under Section 7 - Program, principles and priorities section, a statement around our commitment to intersectionality has been included, what it means for the applicant and what Council will do.
- Under Section 7 – Council's Diversity Statement is now included.
- Under Section 10 – Application Process and Assessment, a range of new actions have been added.

Council is committed to providing translated communications material, including guidelines, in our priority languages and assisted by our language aides, as well as accessible text version of guidelines for use on a screen reader. Any images or graphics in communications material will also be reflective of our diverse community.

Assessment of applications will be conducted by a group of internal officers, that as best as possible reflect the diversity of experience of our community, against a scoring matrix to ensure consistency, equity and transparency over a period of eight weeks, with assessments concluded by the end of April. Unconscious bias training will be provided to all assessment panel officers prior to the assessment process.

Under Section 13, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review – a statement around the collection of gender disaggregated data in order to promote gender equality in the program has been added. This information will form part of the Council report recommending approvals of grant applications.

15. Human Rights Considerations

The funding provided by Council through the grants program is entirely consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2026. This policy supports:

Section of the Charter	Impact and Justification
Right to recognition and equality before the law.	The Community grants and partnership program offers all community groups the opportunity to apply, noting that guidelines and an assessment criterion needs to be met.
The right to freedom of movement, expression, thought, conscience, religion and belief.	All community groups can apply for a range of activities / programs that may involve religious and cultural celebrations and supporting a cohesive community.
The right to freedom of expression	The Community grants and partnership program is renowned for enabling continued freedom of expression by a range of community groups via the funding that is made available.
Cultural rights	The Community grants and partnership program affirms cultural rights of all groups who wish to apply to this program.

Right to a fair hearing	All applications to be considered fairly and equitably, by use of an assessment matrix and unconscious bias training as a part of the assessment process.
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Table 5 – Human rights considerations

16. Administrative Amendments

From time to time, circumstance may require minor amendments be made to this Policy. Where this does not materially alter the Policy, such amendments may be made administratively by the Chief Executive Officer.

Any amendment which materially alters the Policy must be approved by Council.

17. Review

This policy will be reviewed by Team Leader Connected Communities, every three (3) years.

18. Document Version

Version Number	Date	Author	Reviewed By	Approved By	Comments
1.0	19/09/2025	Coordinator Economy, Place and Connected Communities	Manager, Community Strengthening	Council	

19. Contact

If you have any questions about this Policy, please contact Council:

 By emailing: monash.grants@monash.vic.gov.au

 By calling the Connected Communities team on 9518 3555.

20. Appendix

20.1 Expanded Eligibility

Eligibility is outlined in Section 8 of this policy. This expanded eligibility details specific activities and items that cannot be funded under this program.

20.1.1 What activities are not eligible?

Council is unable to fund the following:

- Late applications.
- Activities outside the scope of Local Government, e.g. housing, education.
- Activities that take place in a private residence.



- Activities that are held for political purposes or seeks to influence a person's political beliefs.
- Activities that are held for specific religious purposes or seeks to proselytise or influence a person's religious beliefs (this may not include community celebrations of annual calendar religious festivals).
- Seniors Club Grant applicants who have less than 75% of members over 60 and less than 20 Monash Residents as members who regularly participate in the funded activities (with the exception of seniors groups with significant First Nations membership).

20.1.2 What cannot be funded

- Employment of staff in an ongoing position (or a contract that is longer than the timeframe of the funded activity)
- Research
- Food relief
- Activities that are primarily commercial
- Fundraising activities
- Activities that are inconsistent with Council's objectives
- Conferences or conference sponsorship
- Debt payment
- Travel expenses, including bus hire, public transport.
- An individual person's expenses
- Capital infrastructure
- Utilities, such as water, electricity, gas and rates
- Insurance
- Activities that duplicate existing services or programs in Monash
- Gifts and prizes
- Alcohol
- Digital equipment, including tablets, computers, phones, etc.

21. Attachments

21.1 MCGPP Assessment Criteria



Monash Community Grants and Partnership Program Category Assessment Criteria

Priority areas:

All projects funded by Monash Council will be expected in some way to meet the priorities and objectives outlined in Council's Health & Wellbeing Plan.

1. Healthy Eating and Active Living
 - a. Improve healthy eating and food security
 - b. Increase active lifestyles
2. Building A Respectful and Safe Community
 - a. Strengthening gender equity and prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women and children
 - b. Improve community safety
 - c. Reduce harm from gambling, tobacco and alcohol
3. Strengthening Mental Health and Social Connection
 - a. Increase connection and engagement in community life
 - b. Improve mental wellbeing and resilience across the lifespan
4. Tackling Climate Change and Its Impact on Health
 - a. Support adaptation to the health and wellbeing impacts from climate change
5. Promoting and Supporting a Fair and Inclusive Community
 - a. Minimise health & wellbeing inequities across the community
 - b. Partner and advocate to improve equitable access to social & affordable housing options
 - c. Celebrate and promote a diverse and inclusive community



The MCGPP and QRG also encourage applications that benefit the health and wellbeing of priority cohorts outlined in the Health & Wellbeing Plan:

- First Nations peoples,
- Multicultural communities,
- People with Disability & Carers,
- Young People & Children,
- Older People,
- LGBTIQ+ communities,
- Financially vulnerable.



Stream	Priority Areas	Assessment Criteria	Funding Available
Quick Response Grants	These grants encourage applications for projects that are responsive to community needs throughout the year.	• Addresses an evidence-based community need (30%) • Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing plan. (15%) • The number of Monash residents who benefit (20%) • The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (20%) • Budget expenditure (15%)	Up to \$5k
Cultural Celebration Subsidy	The Cultural Celebration Subsidy offers a simple and accessible way for community groups to host small, member-focused cultural events. These projects should foster meaningful cultural exchange, encourage connection among participants, and provide creative opportunities to celebrate and share cultural traditions.	• Increases community engagement particularly through diversity and inclusion • Number of Monash residents • Budget expenditure These criteria will not be scored, but should be addressed to an acceptable degree in the application.	Up to \$1k
Small Grants	This category aims to fund small projects that address community needs and support priority cohorts outlined in the Health & Wellbeing Plan. Projects are expected to create opportunities for community connection and learning.	1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (30%) 2. Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing plan (15%) 3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (20%) 4. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (20%) 5. Budget expenditure (15%)	Up to \$5k



Medium Grants (7)	This category is aimed at larger and more ongoing projects that address priority actions and cohorts from the Health & Wellbeing Plan. Projects in this category are expected to demonstrate innovation and demonstrate the potential for their services to remain sustainable for the community beyond Council funding.	1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (20%) 2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan (15%) 3. Demonstrates innovation (10%) 4. The number of Monash residents who benefit. (15%) 5. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%) 6. Budget expenditure (15%) 7. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond council funding (10%)	Up to \$10k
Large Grants (9)	This category is aimed at large scale projects that address priority actions and cohorts from the Health & Wellbeing Plan. Projects in this category are not only expected to demonstrate innovation and financial sustainability, but will need to demonstrate their capacity to undertake the project with a project plan and a minimum contribution to the project.	1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (15%) 2. Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing plan (15%) 3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (15%) 4. Demonstrates innovation (10%) 5. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%) 6. Budget expenditure (10%) 7. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond council funding (10%) 8. Provides evidence of a minimum 50% cash or in-kind contribution to the project (5%) 9. Outlines a commitment to environmental sustainability. (5%)	Up to \$20k



Partnership Grants (11)

This category of grants is for projects delivered by specialist service organisations operating in the City of Monash.

These projects will deliver on projects that address priority actions and cohorts in the Health and Wellbeing Plan across the three (3) year term of the grant. These organisations will work in partnership with Council to deliver the project and services as they should be addressing needs in the area not already addressed by Council, and reduce barriers for marginalised members of our community. Projects in this category should also demonstrate economic outcomes for the community, whether through opportunities for local businesses or employment, or through provision of low cost services.

This category also welcomes applications for delivery of major festivals that will provide a range of opportunities for creative and cultural expression in Monash.

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (15%)
2. Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing plan (15%)
3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (10%)
4. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%)
5. Provides a comprehensive project plan (5%)
6. Evidence of partnerships with Council or other organisations in Monash. (10%)
7. Economic benefit (5%)
 - a. Procurement of local businesses
 - b. Engage with local traders and trader associations
 - c. Provide opportunities for local employment
 - d. Economic benefit to participants by providing financial relief/low cost access to an essential service
8. Budget expenditure (10%)
9. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond council funding (5%)
10. Provides evidence of a minimum 50% cash or in-kind contribution to the project (5%)
11. Outlines a commitment to environmental sustainability (5%)

Up to \$85k



Seniors Club support	Projects within this category should support social inclusion for Monash residents and create opportunities for interpersonal connection with the aim of reducing loneliness. Projects should also aim to address Health & Wellbeing needs of older adults through things like provision of healthy meals or physical activity.	• Supporting the health and wellbeing of seniors (50%) • Applicants must have at least 75% of members over 60 and a minimum of 20 Monash residents' members that actively participate in the group's activities (Regular Monash residents) (25%) • Budget expenditure (25%)	Up to \$5k cash and up to \$30k hall hire
Monash Hall subsidy	This category of funding provides an easy way for groups to access funding for use of Council owned halls. Criteria in this category will not be assessable, but all applications should support Monash residents to participate, address a need in the community, and should offer opportunities for meaningful engagement.	• Number of Monash residents participating in the funded activity • Addresses an evidence- based community need • Outline of the service provided to the Monash community These criteria will not be scored, but should be addressed to an acceptable degree in the application.	Up to \$15k in-kind hall hire



Service Agreements

A service agreement will provide predictable timelines and streamlined reporting requirements, assisting the organisations with their ongoing planning and programming for the community.

Service agreements will encourage consistency of service delivery for organisations delivering essential services to the Monash community.

Service Agreements will cover the following organisations for the financial period of 2026-2029:

- Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre
- Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre
- Fusion Oakleigh Youth and Community Centre
 - Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House
 - Mackie Road Neighbourhood House
 - Mount Street Neighbourhood House
 - Notting Hill Neighbourhood House
 - Power Neighbourhood House
- Waverley Community Learning Centre
 - Wavlink
- Monash Waverley Community Information and Support
- Monash-Oakleigh Community Support and Information Service
 - Monash Men's Shed
 - South-East Volunteers
 - Wavecare

A photograph of several women, likely of Chinese descent, performing a traditional dance or cultural activity. They are wearing black short-sleeved blouses with colorful floral embroidery and long, flowing green skirts. They are holding hands and have red flowers in their hair. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in similar attire. The image is framed by a large, dark blue circular graphic element.

Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program 2026/27 Application Guidelines

Application Enquiries

Monash Connected Communities Team

📞 9518 3555

✉️ monash.grants@monash.vic.gov.au

Monash Interpreter Service

If you would like to speak to someone about the Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program in a language other than English, please phone one of our Language Assist lines:

普通话	4713 5001	Việt Ngữ	4713 5003	हिंदी	4713 5005	한국어	4713 5010	தமிழ்	4713 5021
廣東話	4713 5002	Ελληνικά	4713 5004	Italiano	4713 5008	සිංහල	4713 5020	Other languages	4713 5000

Acknowledgement of Country

Monash City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Diversity Statement

The City of Monash is inclusive and welcoming, celebrating the diversity of all our community and employees.

We want every individual to feel safe, respected and celebrated regardless of our differences of age, race and ethnicity, sex, gender identity and sexuality, ability, faith and religious beliefs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, and/or socio-economic status.

Monash Council – Commitment to Child Safety

Monash Council values all children and young people and is committed to being a child safe organisation. Monash Council has zero tolerance to child abuse and takes all child abuse allegations seriously. Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's responsibility and Monash Council is committed to building a community that is safe and inclusive of all children and young people.

All grant applications involving work with children and young people must comply with applicable child safety legislation and regulations.

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Welcome

The Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program (MCGPP) provides funding to support community groups and organisations to deliver projects, activities and events to strengthen, enhance and benefit the Monash community.

Council invests in the community to increase access to services, build social connections and empower residents to address local issues. Grants support emerging needs, foster inclusion and celebrate our diverse cultures through creative programs and events.

Principles

The MCGPP focuses on strengthening the Monash community through its people. This funding is guided by three main principles:

1. Partnerships

We aim to foster social cohesion, broadening our understanding of difference and building on the strengths and assets that exist within our community.

2. Intersectionality

We recognise the diversity, complexity and intersecting factors that shapes community experience, and prioritise approaches that remove system and social barriers to achieve full and active participation, so that we can be inclusive, accessible, and responsive to intersecting needs.

3. Health and Wellbeing Priorities

Council has identified several priorities as part of its Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 (MHWP). These are:

- » Healthy eating and active living.
- » Building a respectful and safe community.
- » Strengthening mental health and social cohesion.
- » Tackling climate change and its impact on health.
- » Promoting and supporting a fair and inclusive community.

Learn more about the MHWP at monash.vic.gov.au/MHWP

Timelines and Process

Applications Open	9am, Tuesday 27 January 2026
Information and Support Sessions	January - February 2026
Applications Close	2pm, Tuesday 3 March 2026
Assessment	March 2026 - April 2026
Funding Notification	June 2026
Projects Active	1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027
Reporting and Acquittal	1 July 2027 - 12 August 2027

Information and Support Sessions

Throughout the application phase, we will offer a range of support options to help applicants prepare applications:

- » **Information Sessions** will provide an overview of the program structure, highlight key changes introduced this year and include training on how to develop a budget.
- » **Workshops** will focus on grant writing skills to help applicants clearly articulate their project, its impact and outcomes.
- » **1-on-1 Assistance Sessions** will offer tailored support to help groups check their eligibility and refine their project ideas. A limited number of these sessions will also offer assistance to complete an online application.

While applicants are encouraged to access these support opportunities, it is not a requirement.

Bookings are required for all sessions, and details are available on the website.
 monash.vic.gov.au/community-grants

Grant Assessment

Once applications are submitted, they are reviewed for eligibility and assessed by a panel of Council officers based on the criteria specific to each funding stream.

Recommendations are made according to the scores each application receives. These recommendations are then presented to Council for consideration and final decision at the May 2026 Council meeting.

Please note:

If your group has previously submitted grant documentation such as acquittals and funding agreements after the due date, you will still be eligible to apply, however full funding may not be awarded.

Our Grants

Annual Funding

Applicants can apply for small, medium or large annual cash grants in February 2026.

Small Grants	Medium Grants	Large Grants
Up to \$5,000	Up to \$10,000	Up to \$20,000

Multi-Year Funding

Applicants can apply for up to three years of recurrent funding in February 2026.

Partnership Grants	Seniors Club Support	Monash Hall Subsidy
Up to \$85,000 cash	Up to \$5,000 cash Up to \$30,000 in-kind hall hire	Up to \$15,000 in-kind hall hire

Year-Round Funding

Applicants can apply for year-round grants from 1 July 2026 until 12 May 2027 or until funding runs out.

Cultural Celebration Subsidy	Quick Response Grants
Up to \$1,000	Up to \$5,000



Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

There are several factors which determine an applicant's eligibility for funding, but **ALL** applicants must meet the following essential criteria:

- » Be an incorporated community group or organisation with not-for-profit or ACNC status or auspiced by an eligible organisation.
- » Hold a current ABN.
- » Deliver the funded activity/service within the City of Monash boundaries.
- » Maintain a minimum of \$20 million public liability insurance cover.
- » Have no debts or outstanding documentation to Council.
- » Align with Council's Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy, including not regularly meeting or holding funded activities in a venue that has electronic gaming machines (EGMs).
- » Apply for no more than two applications across the annual program to a total of \$30,000 cash.

Priority Population Groups

Health and wellbeing matters affect everyone, but not all individuals or groups in our community have the same opportunities, knowledge, skills and/or resources to achieve and maintain optimum health and wellbeing.

MHWP recognises these inequities by identifying priority population groups and integrating their needs throughout health and wellbeing planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Council is committed to addressing these disparities. We encourage grant applications that are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the unique needs of these priority populations.

First Nations peoples, multicultural communities, people with disability and carers, young people and children, older people, LGBTIQA+ communities and those financially vulnerable.

We welcome initiatives that promote gender equity, prevent gender-based violence, and foster inclusion, safety, and respect. Projects that address these priorities and contribute to a healthier, more connected and equitable Monash community will be prioritised for funding.

What activities are not eligible?

Council is unable to fund the following:

- » Late applications.
- » Activities outside the scope of Local Government, e.g. housing, education.
- » Activities that take place in a private residence.
- » Activities that are held for political purposes or seeks to influence a person's political beliefs.
- » Activities that are held for specific religious purposes or seeks to proselytise or influence a person's religious beliefs (this may not include community celebrations of annual calendar religious festivals).

What cannot be funded

- » Employment of staff in an ongoing position (or a contract that is longer than the timeframe of the funded activity).
 - » Research.
 - » Food relief.
 - » Activities that are primarily commercial.
 - » Fundraising activities.
 - » Activities that are inconsistent with Council’s objectives.
 - » Conferences or conference sponsorship.
 - » Debt payment.
 - » Travel expenses, including bus hire and public transport.
- » An individual person’s expenses.
 - » Capital infrastructure.
 - » Utilities, such as water, electricity, gas and rates.
 - » Insurance.
 - » Activities that duplicate existing services or programs in Monash.
 - » Gifts and prizes.
 - » Alcohol.
 - » Digital equipment, including tablets, computers, phones, etc.

Item Caps

Item	Cash Cap
Assets and Equipment	\$1,000
Uniforms and Costumes	\$1,000
Administration Expenses	\$250
Marketing and Promotion	\$500
Catering	20% of total cash allocation (75% of total requested cash for Seniors Club Support).



Annual Grants

Small Grants

For smaller projects that create opportunities for community connection and learning.

» Apply for up to \$5000 cash

Small Grants Criteria

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (30%).
2. Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan (15%).
3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (20%).
4. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (20%).
5. Budget expenditure (15%).

Medium Grants

For larger and more ongoing projects that embrace new ideas and demonstrate the potential for their services to remain sustainable for the community beyond Council funding.

» Apply for up to \$10,000 cash

Medium Grants Criteria

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (20%).
2. Relevance to Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan (15%).
3. Demonstrates innovation (10%).
4. The number of Monash residents who benefit (15%).
5. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%).
6. Budget expenditure (15%).
7. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond Council funding (10%).

Large Grants

Larger scale or innovative projects that demonstrate significant community impact.

» Apply for up to \$20,000 cash

Large Grants Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (15%). | 6. Budget expenditure (10%). |
| 2. Relevance to Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan (15%). | 7. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond Council funding (10%). |
| 3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (15%). | 8. Provides evidence of a minimum 50% cash or in-kind contribution to the project (5%). |
| 4. Demonstrates innovation (10%). | 9. Outlines a commitment to environmental sustainability (5%). |
| 5. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%). | |



Multi-Year Grants – 2026-2029

Partnership Grants

For specialist service organisations operating in Monash or major event organisers.

- » Apply for up to \$85,000 cash

Partnerships Grants Criteria

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need (15%).
2. Relevance to Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan (15%).
3. The number of Monash residents who benefit (10%).
4. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project (15%).
5. Provides a comprehensive project plan (5%).
6. Evidence of partnerships with Council or other organisations in Monash (10%).
7. Economic benefit (5%).
8. Budget expenditure (10%).
9. Demonstrated potential for sustainability beyond Council funding (5%).
10. Provides evidence of a cash or in-kind contribution to the project (5%).
11. Outlines a commitment to environmental sustainability (5%).

Seniors Club Support

- » Up to \$5,000 cash.
- » Up to \$30,000 in-kind hall hire.
- » Up to \$500 cash funding for Probus groups.
- » A cap of 75% can be spent on food/ catering expenses.
- » Cash funding will be based on the number of Monash residents in the group (see table below).

Number of Monash Members	Cash Funding Available
201 or More	\$5,000
151 to 200	\$4,000
101 to 150	\$3,000
51 to 100	\$2,000
20 to 50	\$1,000

Monash Halls Subsidy

- » Apply for up to \$15,000 in-kind hall hire for Council owned venues.
- » Hire of non-Council owned venues will need to be applied for in a cash grant annually.



Year-Round Funding

Grants will open from 1 July 2026 until 12 May 2027, or until the funding runs out, for projects that take place across the 2026/27 financial year.

Cultural Celebration Subsidy

- » Apply for up to \$1,000.
- » Small community group celebrations.
- » Apply for things like food, decorations, and entertainment.

Quick Response Grants

- » Apply for up to \$5,000.
- » Incorporated organisations or individual artists with an ABN can apply.
- » For projects that are responding to ideas and needs in the community outside of the annual grants cycle.
- » Only apply for a project once.
- » The same criteria as Small Grants.



Submitting an Application

All applications must use the application form that represents the stream of funding that they wish to apply for. Applications can then be submitted online via  **SmartyGrants**.

Applications for the 2026/27 MCGPP round will open **9am, Tuesday 27 January to 2pm, Tuesday 3 March 2026**. Late applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

The SmartyGrants online application system will allow you to save, edit and print out applications before you submit them. Supporting material can also be attached to your online application.

Reminder!

2026/27 applications will provide funding for activities taking place between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2027.

Essential Documentation

The following documents must be attached with your application:

- ✓ ABN number.
- ✓ Incorporation number.
- ✓ Latest financial statements (income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement).
- ✓ Working With Children Checks.
- ✓ If applying for Monash in-kind hall hire, a quote/estimate from Monash Halls. Please note that a Hall Hire Agreement form will not be accepted.
- ✓ If applying for cash for a non-Council venue, a booking confirmation for the venue.
- ✓ A draft project plan (for Large Grant and Partnerships Grants applicants).
- ✓ A draft Event Management Plan, including site plans and risk management plans (for outdoor event or festival applicants).

Apply via SmartyGrants at

 monash.vic.gov.au/communtiy-grants



Monash Civic Centre | 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 | 8.30am to 5.15pm | Monday to Friday
Oakleigh Service Centre | 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166 | 8.30am to 5.15pm | Monday to Friday
9518 3555 | www.monash.vic.gov.au | mail@monash.vic.gov.au
National Relay Service (for people with hearing or speech impairments) 1800 555 660

Monash Interpreter Service

普通话	9321 5485	Ελληνικά	9321 5482	廣東話	9321 5481	සිංහල	7005 3002	Italiano	9321 5483
हिंदी	7005 3000	Việt Ngữ	9321 5487	தமிழ்	7005 3003	한국어	9321 5484	Bahasa Indonesia	7005 3001