



CITY OF
MONASH

Monash Community Grants and Partnerships Program 2026/27

Application Guidelines

Application Enquiries

Monash Connected Communities Team

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✉️ 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, LGBTIQ+ 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%).
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%).



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/community-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