

2026-27 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS

**Information session
Thursday 9 July 2026**



Agenda

- Key dates
- About the grants
- Who can apply
- What you can apply for
- We will not fund
- How we assess
- Resources
- Questions

City's 2026-27 Community Grants

Grant	Applications Open	Applications Close	Notifications to applicants
Community Equipment	27 June 2026	27 July 2026	25 November 2026
Community Events Christmas		27 July 2026	Within 6-8 weeks of closing
Creative Seed		3 August 2026	Within 6-8 weeks of closing
Arts Projects		10 August 2026	9 December 2026
Clean Economy			
Climate Change Partnerships			
Community Events			
Community Strengthening			
Creative Commissions			
Environmental Sustainability			
First Nations			
Community Infrastructure		31 August 2026	January 2027

About this grant

Objectives

Support community groups and not-for-profit organisations to:

- create opportunities for people to get together
- help people to be more active
- promote gender equity and equality
- strengthen community action on food systems and food security
- increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling

About this grant

How much?

- You can apply for up to \$10,000
- Total funding allocated to Community Strengthening Grants is \$203,000
- One application per funding round for this grant

Who can apply

- ✓ Incorporated not-for-profit organisations
- ✓ Unincorporated groups with an auspice
- ✓ Registered charitable organisations

Who can't apply

- ✗ Businesses
- ✗ Individuals operating as sole traders (with an active ABN)
- ✗ Individuals (without an ABN)
- ✗ Schools or learning institutions
- ✗ Previous applicant with an outstanding grant acquittal with the City

What you can apply for

Types of projects ✓

Community events, forums or programs
New community group start up
Strategic plan development
Come and try activities
Food swaps
Cooking classes
Guest speakers
Education and awareness raising

Types of expenses ✓

Advertising the project
Catering
Contractors engaged to deliver project
Equipment and Venue hire
Project materials and supplies
Professional printing
Project specific insurance
Staff wages (if additional work is required)

We will not fund

Types of projects ✖

- Projects outside Greater Geelong
- Core business activities
- Fundraising for charities/own group
- Marketing only projects
- Political or gambling activities
- Website development
- More suited to another City grant
- Start date before funding is approved

Types of expenses ✖

- Cash vouchers
- Equipment only purchases
- Day-to-day operating costs e.g. rent
- Own venue hire
- Prizes, gifts and awards
- Payments to volunteers
- Taxes, levies, fines or penalties

How we assess

Criteria 1: Community Benefit – 50%

Has the applicant:

- Identified if the project specifically includes any of the City's priority groups listed in the guidelines?
- Clearly explained why the community needs the project?
- Have they included relevant evidence or data to show the community need?
- Have they identified the changes expected from doing the project i.e. what are the changes / outcomes they hope to see?
- Do the project outcomes match the grant outcomes?
- Explained how they will measure the impact of the project?

How we assess

Criteria 2: Well-planned – 50%

Has the applicant:

- Clearly described the projects key activities and timelines?
- Demonstrated the skills, knowledge and experience the organising team has to deliver a successful project?
- Researched the permits or approvals they need?
- Made enquiries to book a venue if needed?
- Completed a balanced budget that includes all the income and expenses that relate to delivering the project?
- Attached quotes or evidence to support all expenses that the grant will pay for?

Resources

Grants Team

- Phone: 03 5272 5560 or communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- Online grant writing sessions (Monday 13 July 6pm – registration required)

Website: geelong.link/Grants

- Previous grant recipients
- Grant writing course
- Are you grant ready checklist
- Project plan template
- Funding Centre (SmartySearch)

SmartyGrants

- <https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au>

QUESTIONS

