

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the council's position in considering requests for financial assistance from community groups and organisations.

The council acknowledges that it is accountable to the community for the responsible and prudent management and disbursement of its funds and that this must to be undertaken in a fair, transparent and equitable, manner that maximises community benefit.

The policy assists the council to achieve consistency of council processes and procedures when assessing, monitoring, evaluating and acquitting grants. Additionally, the recipients of council's grants have a responsibility to expend those funds for the purposes for which they were given to meet all legal and reporting obligations.

Scope

This applies to all requests from community groups, organizations and individuals that apply for and received financial assistance from Wodonga Council through the community grants program.

Definitions

The policy provides direction for two specific streams of community grants/assistance:

Community Impact grant is a funding program, awarded twice a year, that provides direct financial contributions provided by the council to a group or organisation towards programs, services or initiatives that will benefit the community. This grant is competitive.

Community impact partnership grant is a funding program that provides direct financial contributions provided by the council to a group or organisation towards programs or services through Memorandums of understanding (MOU's) or contractual agreements between the council and the funded organisation that will benefit the community. These agreements are over one, two or three years.

Policy Statement

The council commits to the following policy principles:

Accountability, transparency and equity

The policy supports a framework that:

- Ensures that financial assistance and in kind support to community groups/organizations is fair and equitable and undertaken within a system of accountability for the recipient that fosters public confidence and meet transparency requirements;
- Provides an approved transparent and effective decision making process for groups and organisations when applying to the council for financial assistance, through a council resolution;
- Ensures applicants understand the information they will be required to provide under the different financial assistance programs;
- Ensures that the council fulfills its legislative requirements under the Local Government Act 1989;

Alignment with the council plan and adopted strategies

The policy supports a framework that:

- Ensures that the initiative links to outcomes listed in the Council plan, and the council's adopted strategic plans;
- Ensures the initiative provides community benefit beyond a specific interest group;
- Ensures that the purpose of the grants must be consistent with community values as defined in the council plan;

Value for money

The policy supports a framework where:

- The grant provided will be used for a purpose that is approved and in the public interest;
- The desired outcome of the program/activity or event/initiative to be funded are clear, monitored and evaluated;
- The two grant programs, community impact grant and community impact partnership grants, are reported to the council for final approval before the grants are released; and
- All unspent funds must be returned to the council.

Attachments

Nil.

Related policies

- Social Inclusion Policy
- Human Rights Policy
- Wodonga Council Staff Code of Conduct

Related legislation

- Section 195A of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Section 3C (1), 3C (2) (b), 3D (2) c, of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Victorian Disability Act 2006*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*
- *Family Violence Prevention Act 2008*

References

Local Government Act 1989

Review

Council may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy eg: typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

Title:	Community Grants Policy
Business Unit:	Community Planning and Well Being
Category:	Policy
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Next Review:	November 2021