Wodonga Council Community Impact Grants was introduced in 2015. It aims to empower community organisations and individuals to grow ideas in an innovative and creative way, as well as looking to improve the city.

Projects and events which are looking for one-off funding and target specific groups (for example, people who self identify as Aboriginal, culturally diverse, on a low income, have a disability, aged, at risk of suffering poor health and/or children and young people) will be highly recommended.

An individual can apply for a grant for less than $500 by telling the council about your idea (see criteria). Community organisations, workplaces and individuals auspiced by a community organisation can apply for grants ranging from $500 to $5000.

Applicants can only apply for funding once a year, unless auspicing another event/project. Community groups are encouraged to consider how they can work in partnership when developing their application.

Partnerships can help to:
• Maximise scarce resources;
• Share knowledge and skills and strengthen community groups;
• Stimulate innovation and creativity; and,
• Create understanding and acceptance.

The grant program links to the outcomes and key priorities in the Council Plan. The program provides funding to support projects/events under the categories listed below.

All events, activities and projects must be held in the Wodonga municipality.

Community groups must identify which category is relevant to their proposed project in their application (more than one category may apply). All applicants must meet at least two of the criteria under the selected category.
The program provides funding and supports projects, programs and events that link to the following categories:

**Building stronger communities**

This is for projects which encourage people to strengthen their community.

This category has a special focus on developing community skills, connection, access and inclusion, social enterprise leadership, cultural diversity, the utilisation of the Neighbourhood Power principles and community health and well being.

**Examples could include:**

- Recruiting volunteers to take part in and strengthen community groups;
- The building or enhancement of community gardens;
- Bringing people together in celebrations and community events;
- Helping to build a social enterprise or encourage social entrepreneurship;
- Improved access for all abilities, genders, cultures and ages;
- Promotion of equality and respectful relationships;
- Increased healthy lifestyles;
- Provide training opportunities for community groups which will assist in building their skill base;
- Supporting emerging community leaders;
- Increasing the skills and training of volunteers within organisations;
- Starting up activities that encourage people to be active, such as a neighbourhood walking group;
- Running a neighbourhood fitness challenge; and,
- Promotion of healthy food options in workplaces.

**Criteria:**

- Must be able to demonstrate how this will bring significant improvement to your community and how it has community support;
- Must demonstrate how the improvement of skills will be shared with the community;
- Must be able to demonstrate how any social enterprise will be sustained and have significant impact on the community;
- Identify what health outcomes will be achieved; and,
- Demonstrate who you will be working in partnership with.

**Environmental sustainability**

This is for those projects which will improve the natural environment of Wodonga.

**Examples could include:**

- Projects that encourage the community to look after the care and maintenance of neighbourhood green spaces, such as adopt a park;
- Developing strategies that address climate change and a changing neighbourhood; and,
- Tree plantings or neighbourhood enhancements, such as a sensory garden.

**Criteria:**

- Must demonstrate how this will benefit Wodonga’s environment in the long-term; and,
- Must be a project which will not rely on the council’s ongoing maintenance or upkeep.
Community events
This is for events both small and large where there is a demonstrated benefit to the community.

Examples could include:
• Multicultural festival;
• State sporting event;
• National conference; and,
• Street festival.

Criteria:
• Opportunities for a maximum number of Wodonga residents to engage and tap into events and festivals within the municipal boundary of Wodonga;
• Cater for diverse community members and celebrate the cultural, social and recreational diversity within the city;
• Nurture a sense of community identity and positive engagement; and,
• Attract visitors from outside of the region to the city and contribute to the economic growth of the city.

Arts and culture
This is to celebrate and showcase artistic abilities in a wide cross-section of areas and mediums.

Examples could include:
• Public art development and installation;
• Community cultural workshops; and,
• Program of performing arts.

Criteria:
• Develop and promote art and cultural works produced in the region;
• Preserve and interpret the history, heritage and contemporary stories of the people of Wodonga, their city and region; and,
• Cultivate professional development of the arts in Wodonga and foster partnerships between artists, cultural workers and the wider community.

Tell the council your idea (up to $500)
Individuals and community organisations looking for funding under $500 can arrange a meeting with the council to describe their idea and how it meets one of the above categories.

Ideas will be assessed internally and applicants will be notified within seven days.

APPLICATIONS
All applications $500 - $5000 must be submitted on the Community Impact Grants application form. Incomplete application forms will not be considered by the assessment panel.

Funding is only provided for the purpose for which it has been granted. Application forms are available from the council or the council’s website.

What you need to know for a successful application
Applicants should be aware the grant process is competitive and funding cannot be guaranteed.

Please carefully read the guidelines and ensure you answer all questions in the application form to avoid error or misunderstanding.
Allocations made via the Community Impact Grants program are limited by the total amount of funding available.

Successful projects/events cannot be guaranteed continual funding; the council recommends that organisations work towards a sustainable model of funding for projects/events that are intended to be ongoing.

This will be key criteria which the council will want demonstrated when assessing the applications.

**Applications will be accepted from:**
- Local, not-for-profit organisations, groups and associations which are incorporated or have an auspicing body;
- Community groups planning a project, program, activity or event within Wodonga Council’s municipal boundary which would directly benefit the local community;
- Individuals who have an idea which has demonstrated support and which will be able to be used by the wider community; and,
- Interest groups in the community.

**In the case of a large scale event:**
- Event plan must be submitted with the grant application; and,
- Proof of Public Liability Insurance to the value of at least $10 million.

**Applications will not be accepted if:**
- It does not meet the grant funding assessment criteria;
- You are a group who has not reported back on a previous grant, either via an acquittal or progress report;
- You are a government organisation;
- You are an educational providers (however applications may be from an organisation within or linked to a school, for example a student group doing something for the community);
- Your application is for ongoing organisational operating costs (for example, wages, utilities or insurances);
- You are applying for funding for monies already spent or for an event or project which has already been held;
- Your project/event is already receiving financial support from the council;
- You are applying for funding for prizes, trophies and gifts;
- You are applying for repairs or maintenance to council-owned facilities or property;
- Your project/event is for political purposes or is an event where there is demonstrated political or intent;
- You are applying for interstate or international travel costs;
- Your project/event will rely on ongoing funding from the council; or,
- Funding will directly involve alcohol and gambling related activities.

**Funding conditions, requirements and extra information.**
- All planning and building permits and other applicable authorisations, including public liability insurance, remain the responsibility of the applicant and must be received from the relevant authorities prior to starting the project/event. The council can assist with providing advice on these permits.
- Applications which come from a body which leases or rents a facility from another body must have that body’s written permission submitted with the grant application.
- If the council is already supporting an event through either in-kind or financial support, supporting funds will not be provided to another organisation for the same event.
- All events, activities and projects must be held in the Wodonga municipality.
- An offer of a grant does not mean any ongoing funding commitment or obligation by the council;
- Wodonga Council’s assistance must be acknowledged on any promotional material related to the project/event;
- The council’s support must be acknowledged in any media relating to the project and the council’s media team notified so that this publicity can be maximised through the council’s own communications channels.
KEY DATES AND TIMES

- Applications must be lodged by the second Tuesday of each month;
  - November 10, 2015
  - December 8, 2015
  - January 12, 2016
  - February 9, 2016
  - March 8, 2016
  - April 12, 2016
  - May 10, 2016

- The assessment committee will meet on the third Tuesday of the month to assess and allocate funding;
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the third Friday of any month; and,
- Consideration will be given to well-planned events and activities which allow the council a good lead time to assess the application and provide feedback.

WORKSHOPS

Information workshops will be hosted by Wodonga Council throughout the year.

For more information, please contact the council’s Community Impact Grants team on (02) 6022 9300.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS

Send completed applications marked ‘Community Impact Grants program’ to:

Mailed:  
Community Impact Grants team,  
Wodonga Council,  
PO Box 923,  
Wodonga VIC 3689

Hand delivered:  
Wodonga Council,  
104 Hovell St,  
Wodonga VIC 3690

Email: info@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Faxed applications will not be accepted.

If you require advice or help with lodging your application please contact the council’s Community Impact Grants team on (02) 6022 9300.

The council acknowledges the support of Ballarat City Council in helping use its community grants as a reference point for the Wodonga Council grants structure.