

Community Grants Program Guidelines

Updated December 2021

Melton City Council



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Community Grants Program

Melton City Council recognises the contribution that community groups, clubs and organisations give to making our City a thriving community where everyone belongs.

Council's Community Grants Program provides opportunities for community organisations to apply for funding to support them to establish themselves, and lead projects and initiatives that benefit the Melton community.

These Guidelines provide information on the application and assessment process for funding.

Available Grants

The available grants and categories are listed below:

Grants	Description/Category	Applications Open	Page
Semi-Annual Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Project category may apply for up to \$10,000 (matching dollar-for-dollar threshold over \$5,000) Entry-Level category for groups with limited grant experience may apply for up to \$2,000 	February & June	13
Responsive Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that demonstrate requirement for responsive support may apply for up to \$2,000 	Bi-Monthly	14
Establishment Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New groups seeking funds for key establishment costs may apply for up to \$1,500 	Bi-Monthly	15
Resident Achievement Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents participating in activities at a 'higher' level than local participation can apply for up to \$750 	Bi-Monthly	16
The Club Caroline Springs Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Project category may apply for up to \$10,000 (matching dollar-for-dollar threshold over \$5,000) 	October	19
HRV/Tabcorp Park Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry-Level category for groups with limited grant experience, may apply for up to \$2,000 	October	20

General Guidelines

The following general guidelines apply to all grant categories offered under the Community Grants Program unless specifically stated otherwise under the relevant grant funding categories.

Who is eligible to apply for Community Grants?

Applications are accepted from the following organisations:

- Incorporated not-for-profit community groups or organisations located in and providing the support, service or program within the City of Melton;
- Incorporated not-for-profit community groups or organisations located elsewhere, but providing support, services or programs to people living in the City of Melton; **OR**
- Unincorporated community groups or organisations with auspice support from an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, providing the support, service or program within the City of Melton.

Applicants must have:

- 80% of project participant's living in the City of Melton;
- an ABN;
- Public Liability Insurance of up to \$20 million;
- discussed the project application with the Community Grants & Awards Officer and a relevant Council Officer (see page 10 for a list of Officers that will be able to assist with your project idea); and
- obtained quotations for goods and services from reputable suppliers such as industry accredited suppliers (we encourage applicants to source from suppliers within the City of Melton):
 - **one** quote for goods or services valued at over \$250
 - **two** quotes for goods or services over \$1,000.

Applicants must provide the following documents:

- Certificate of Incorporation;
- Statement of Supplier if no ABN provided;
- quotations (as above);
- copy of Public Liability Insurance of up to \$20 million; and
- any other supporting documentation, e.g. project plan, letters of support (as applicable).

What will be funded?

Grants offered under Council's Community Grants Program support community groups and organisations to lead projects and initiatives that provide a benefit to the community.

Funding is available for projects that:

- increase community participation;
- provide services and facilities that strengthen community health and wellbeing;
- promote and develop local pride (including in the field of arts and the environment); and
- promote community leadership.

If you would like further information about the priorities for Council, please refer to the Council Plan (2017-21) at www.melton.vic.gov.au or speak to the Community Grants & Awards Officer.

What won't be funded?

The following list identifies the types of projects that cannot be funded under this Program. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Council's Community Grants & Awards Officer or refer to Council's website www.melton.vic.gov.au to identify alternative options for support and funding assistance.

Funding will not be available for projects:

- that are facilitated by local schools/education providers that are limited to students only;
- that are the clear responsibility of other levels of government, e.g. school curriculum, infrastructure, concerts;
- seeking support over \$1,000 for exclusive celebrations (those that do not include broad community participation);
- seeking support for ongoing operational costs, e.g. permanent staff, ongoing salaries, maintenance, venue hire;
- already receiving Council funds to do the same or similar activity;
- deemed to be duplicating existing services in the municipality;
- that facilitate routine and regular maintenance work to existing facilities;

- based at facilities where there is little or no public access;
- that operate solely for the purpose of fundraising for individual gain;
- that are the responsibility of Council to deliver or where the funds will be administered or managed fully or in partnership by Council;
- that are profit making ventures;
- for purchase of equipment and material to address Occupational Health and Safety issues; this is considered to be the responsibility of the agency or organisation concerned; and
- that take place outside the City unless it is an element of an ongoing project and has a demonstrated and direct benefit to the City of Melton community.

General grant conditions:

1. Funding is allocated on a competitive basis. Once the allocated funds are exhausted, no additional funding will be available within the financial year.
2. Funds must be spent on the project as described in the application, and/or as directed by the Funding Agreement.
3. Applications where participants are charged entry or participant fees, must declare the charge per participant and the expected number of participants.
4. Successful applicants will be required to complete the grants acquittal process as outlined on page 9.
5. Applicants who have previously received funding through Council grants will only be considered if they have met all acquittal conditions for that previous funding.
6. Successful grant recipients are strongly encouraged to participate in capacity building training opportunities identified by Council Officers.
7. Community Projects must commence within **six months** and be completed within **twelve months** from the **date of notification of approval**. Retrospective funding will not be provided for Community Projects already commenced.
8. Schools are not eligible to apply directly to the Community Grants Program, however, they may be the beneficiary and/or partner with other community organisations.
9. Retrospective funding will not be provided to Community Projects.

Application Process

How do I apply?

Applications for grants under Council's Community Grants Program are made online. You will need to go to the SmartyGrants website: <https://melton.smartygrants.com.au> to view the application form and to make an application. If you are unable to access the internet, Council can support you by directing you to one of the community facilities that provide public internet access.

Applicants are required to submit their applications by the closing date and time of the Program, as late applications will not be accepted.

To assist you in completing your application, please note the following tips:

1. You will need access to internet and an email address to make your application.
2. Access to the Application Form will not be available until the opening date.
3. The online system will not accept incomplete applications.
4. All questions marked with an asterisk* must be completed.
5. Review your application carefully before submitting, as once submitted you cannot go back to make any more changes.
6. When you apply online, you will receive an application number. Please make a note of this and, where possible, keep a copy of your application for future reference.

Applicants will be notified via automatic email that their application has been received.

Grant support and workshops

Council provides FREE Grant Writing Workshops to community members. Details of upcoming workshops will be listed on the Community Groups training calendar section of the webpage.

If you require any further information about Council's Community Grants Program, or assistance in completing your application online, please contact Council's Community Grants and Awards Officer well in advance of the closing date of the grant round:

Phone: 9747 7247 - Interpreters can be booked if requested.

Email: communitygrants@melton.vic.gov.au

How are applications assessed?

- Step 1 Council officers will check eligibility of all grant applications.
- Step 2 Internal review by relevant Council Officers (if applicable).
- Step 3 Eligible applications are assessed by an independent assessment panel against specified assessment criteria (see grant categories for details).
- Step 4 Recommendations are submitted to Council for final approval.

Please note that meeting the assessment criteria does not automatically guarantee funding.

Applicants should also note that the level of funding available through the Community Grants Program grant rounds is limited and applications are considered against the criteria in competition with other applications.

Acquittal Report

Successful applicants are required to complete the grant acquittal **within 12 months** of receiving funding or **2 months of completion of the project** (whichever is sooner).

The acquittal report outlines the key achievements of your project and reports on how funding was spent. An acquittal form is linked to your online application and should be submitted the same way.

If required, a close-out meeting will be scheduled between relevant grant applicant members and Council Officer(s). This is a short meeting that allows Council Officer(s) to check funding expenditure, gain greater understanding of project success and challenges, and assist the applicant to identify future sources of funding for their projects.

Auspice Organisation

If your group is not incorporated or does not hold current public liability insurance, you may apply for a grant through an auspice arrangement.

An auspice is an organisation that is incorporated and holds current public and products liability insurance. The auspice organisation receives the funding on your behalf and distributes the funds to your group for the delivery of the project. A letter confirming the auspice arrangement must be attached to the application along with proof of the auspice's incorporation and current insurance.

A suitable auspice organisation might be an organisation you have worked with previously or a larger organisation working in a similar field that could be approached.

Please contact the Community Grants & Awards Officer for more information.

Who to contact?

All applicants must speak to a relevant Council Officer regarding their project idea. Please refer to the table below for suitable contacts. If unsure, please contact the Community Grants & Awards Officer.

My project relates to:

Area	Contact	Contact number & email
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	TBC	9747 7200 communitygrants@melton.vic.gov.au
Arts	Madeleine	9747 5913 madeleinemc@melton.vic.gov.au
Children	Belinda	9747 7338 belindad@melton.vic.gov.au
Culture	Essan	9747 7206 essand@melton.vic.gov.au
Disability advocacy & inclusion	Nicole	9747 7238 nicolemig@melton.vic.gov.au
Event/festival	Heidi	9747 7187 heidit@melton.vic.gov.au
Families	Aaron	9747 7312 aaront@melton.vic.gov.au
Health	Jayde	9747 5917 jaydem@melton.vic.gov.au
New Community Groups	Sunita	9747 7127 sunitam@melton.vic.gov.au
Seniors	Darren	9747 7332 darrenc@melton.vic.gov.au
Sport	Nicole	9747 5415 nicolew@melton.vic.gov.au
Youth	Katriona	9747 5421 katrionag@melton.vic.gov.au

Semi-Annual Grants

Council’s Semi-Annual Grants have two rounds open each year.

This grant round includes an **Entry-Level category** for clubs and groups with little-to-no experience implementing grant funded projects and/or significant challenges submitting grant applications.

Grant Timelines*

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicant Notified	Funds Distributed
February	March – April	May	May
June	July – August	September	September

**Applications must be made in a timely manner (e.g. initiatives taking place in November should apply in the June round, not in the February round).*

A club/group/organisation is permitted to make multiple applications to a grant round, as long as the total amount requested across all applications for the one round does not exceed \$10,000 and the matching dollar-for-dollar contribution threshold is still met.

Community Project category conditions:

1. Maximum grant amount applicants can apply for is **\$10,000**.
2. Applicants must provide a matching dollar for dollar contribution for applications over \$5,000 (e.g. if you are applying for \$9,000 in grant funding you must contribute \$2,000 towards the project costs).
3. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Melton City Council and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
4. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Entry-Level category conditions:

1. Maximum grant amount applicants can apply for is **\$2,000**.
2. Applications are accepted from community groups/organisations that have little to-no experience implementing grant-funded projects and are assessed by Council Officers to face significant and demonstrated challenges applying for Council’s regular Community Project Grants (contact Community Grants & Awards Officer to discuss).
3. The Entry-Level Grant is available to both incorporated community associations and groups that are unincorporated. Unincorporated groups are expected to have an auspice organisation OR will be matched with a suitable organisation to create an auspice agreement with if their grant is successfully approved funding.

4. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Melton City Council and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
5. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Community Project Category Assessment Criteria

PRIORITY AREA	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
1. Community Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project responds to an existing or emerging community need <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence has been provided to support the identified need <input type="checkbox"/> The identified need is a priority issue for Melton City Council to address 	40%
2. Community Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Who is involved in the project planning and delivery, will new community partnerships and connections be developed <input type="checkbox"/> Clear identification of the individuals, groups or broader local population that will benefit from the project <input type="checkbox"/> Clear demonstrated outcomes of the project beyond the applicant to reflect benefit to the broader community 	20%
3. Ability to Deliver Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan in place demonstrating the steps to be taken to deliver the project <input type="checkbox"/> A complete, realistic and achievable budget provided <input type="checkbox"/> Project includes other sources of funding <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is provided demonstrating how the project will continue into the future if it is an ongoing event or activity 	20%
4. Commitment to supporting the values of the City of Melton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants demonstrated participation and engagement in other community events and activities <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants demonstrated support for the values of Melton City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants demonstrated support to address or promote health & wellbeing outcomes for the community 	20%

Entry-Level Category Assessment Criteria

PRIORITY AREA	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
1. Community Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project responds to an existing or emerging community need 	40%
2. Community Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project is likely to build applicants project and grant management capacity 	20%
3. Ability to Deliver Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Key project activities are defined <input type="checkbox"/> A realistic and achievable budget provided 	20%

4. Commitment to supporting the values of the City of Melton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="553 197 1154 285">☐ Applicants demonstrated participation and engagement in other community events and activities<li data-bbox="553 289 1219 352">☐ Applicants demonstrated support for the values of Melton City Council	20%
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Responsive Grants

Council's Responsive Grants provide funding to community groups and organisations to support them to lead responsive projects and initiatives that provide a community benefit to an **unexpected** or **emerging** community need.

Grant Timelines*

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicants Notified & Funds Distributed
January	February	March
March	April	May
May	June	July
July	August	September
September	October	November
November	December	January

**Applications must be made in a timely manner (e.g. initiatives taking place in December should apply in the September round)*

Responsive Grants are available to eligible community organisations, clubs and not-for-profits to apply for. Applicants **must** discuss their application with a relevant Council Officer prior to submitting an online application.

Responsive Grant conditions:

1. Maximum grant amount applicants can apply for is **\$2,000**.
2. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Melton City Council and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
3. To be eligible for assessment, the applicant must demonstrate why the project could not have been reasonably planned to seek funding under the Semi-Annual, or The Club Caroline Springs Grants,
4. Assessment process for applications made under Responsive Grants are assessed under the Community Project Grants assessment criteria as outlined on page 11.
5. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Establishment Grants

Council's Establishment Grants provide funding to promote and develop the establishment of new community groups, clubs and/or associations.

Grant Timelines*

Establishment Grants run concurrently with Responsive Grants.

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicants Notified & Funds Distributed
January	February	March
March	April	May
May	June	July
July	August	September
September	October	November
November	December	January

*Applications must be made in a timely manner (e.g. initiatives taking place in December should apply in the September round).

Applicants **must** discuss their application with a relevant Council Officer prior to submitting an online application.

Establishment Grant conditions:

1. Maximum grant amount applicants can apply for is **\$1,500**.
2. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Melton City Council and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
3. New groups may seek funding to assist with establishment costs which could include incorporation costs, public liability insurance, promotion and recruitment of new members, venue hire (once-off, for purpose of establishment) and operational items such as stationery and equipment.
4. The maximum amount that a group can request for Incorporation is \$50.
5. The maximum amount that a group can request for Public Liability Insurance is \$1,000.
6. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Establishment Grants Criteria

PRIORITY AREA	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
1. Community Need	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of the group responds to an existing or emerging community need	60%
2. Ability to Deliver Project	<input type="checkbox"/> A realistic and achievable budget and quotes are provided	20%
3. Commitment to Supporting the values of the City of Melton	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicants has demonstrated support for the values of Melton City Council	20%

Resident Achievement Contributions

The Resident Achievement Contributions recognise the achievements that are made by City of Melton residents participating in academic, recreational, community and artistic activities at a 'higher' level than local participation. The Contributions support and recognise City of Melton residents with outstanding talent, ability, achievement and significant community contribution.

Applicants will be notified of an outcome of their grant application within three weeks of close of round.

Grant Timelines*

Resident Achievement Contributions run concurrently with Responsive Grants.

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicants Notified & Funds Distributed
January	February	March
March	April	May
May	June	July
July	August	September
September	October	November
November	December	January

*Applications must be made in a timely manner (e.g. initiatives taking place in December should apply in the September round).

Who can apply?

- Applicants must be permanent residents of the City of Melton.
- Applicants must be participating in an individual sports competition or be a member of a State or National Team.
- Applicants must be representing Australia or Victoria in a recognised International/National/ State event or competition. Applicants will be required to provide evidence from the National/State organisation they are representing. For example, Victoria/Australia in an officially recognised team.
- The event must be of National significance to be considered in the Academic, Community & Arts category.
- For Academic, Community and Arts applications, applicants must provide evidence that they are an emerging or professional Artist;
 - **Emerging** - someone in the first five years of their art form/practice. The person can be emerging at any age providing they prioritise their arts development above everything else.
 - **Professional** - An individual who has a tertiary qualification/s in the Arts or has an extensive history working in the Arts and is recognised by their peers in the Arts industry as holding professional Art status.

- Only **one** contribution per person will be made per financial year and **no more** than **two** contributions in a **five-year period**.

Contribution Category

Individual Competitor

- Competition or event internal to Victoria: \$250 maximum
- Competition or event external to Victoria: \$500 maximum
- Competition or event external to Australia: \$750 maximum

Sporting Events – Definition

1. Must have a set of rules and code of conduct.
2. Must be competitive in nature.

Sporting Events – What will be funded?

1. Travel and accommodation costs of applicant or parents.
2. Equipment and uniform essential for the event.
3. Entry/registration fees to event/s.

Academic, Community & Arts Events – Definition

1. The Contributions assist individual residents with pursuit of professional development opportunities in Academic, Community, and Arts initiatives and activities.

Academic, Community & Arts Events – What will be funded?

1. Attendance fees for professional development workshops/programs.
2. Attendance fees for professional development programs either with a mentor or a professional artist.
3. Conference fees.
4. Master class fees (must be with a leading national or international recognised professional organisation).

Resident Achievement Contributions Conditions:

1. Where the applicant is under 18 years of age, any payments will be made to the applicant's parent/guardian.
2. Applications for coaches will not be funded.
3. In cases where several residents in the City of Melton have applied for funding to participate in the same competition, Melton City Council reserves the right to allocate a maximum amount of funds for the one competition.

4. In cases where multiple persons from one family have applied for funding to participate in a competition, Melton City Council reserves the right to allocate a maximum amount of funds for the one family.
5. Funding is ineligible to applicants that are members of a club or team involved in interstate or overseas competition which is not officially representing the State or Australia.
6. An Acquittal Form must be completed online **within six weeks of the completion of the event**. The information sought through this acquittal will only be used by the Melton City Council for the purposes of exhibiting the programs to which this funding was allocated. It may be published in Council documents and publications.
7. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Documents you must attach to support your application:

For Sporting Events

- A letter of support from your local club/coach/manager;
- Evidence of selection in an official event (State/National); and
- A financial summary of how the contribution will be expended.

For Academic, Community and Arts Events

- A copy of the brochure or promotional material of the program you propose to attend;
- Proof of booking details and costs of the proposed program;
- Letters of offer to the event/s; and
- A one-page CV relevant to your most recent academic achievement, significant community contribution or art form area and to the activity you wish to attend.

Resident Achievement Contributions Criteria

PRIORITY AREA	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
1. Applicant Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has demonstrated achievement at a high sporting level OR <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has demonstrated development at a higher than normal participation level	50%
2. Applicant Need	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of selection/registration in high level participation <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has provided a clear budget of associated costs	50%

The Club Caroline Springs Grants

Council has an arrangement with The Club Caroline Springs and Melbourne Racing Club that commits grants to community groups within the City of Melton. To support those leading projects and initiatives with a community benefit, these Grants provide funding to eligible community groups and organisations, providing them the opportunity to apply for funding for a Community Project

This grant round includes an **Entry-Level category** for clubs and groups with little-to-no experience implementing grant funded projects and/or significant challenges submitting grant applications.

Grant Timelines

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicant Notified	Funds Distributed
October	November-December	February	February

A club/group/organisation is permitted to make multiple applications to a grant round, if the total amount requested across all applications for the one round does not exceed \$10,000 and the matching dollar-for-dollar contribution threshold is still met.

The Club Caroline Springs Grant Conditions:

1. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with The Club Caroline Springs, Melbourne Racing Club and Melton City Council, which will document all funding obligations and conditions as well as reporting requirements, and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
2. Assessment criteria has been adopted from the Semi-Annual Grants. See the table on pages 13/14 for relevant assessment criteria.
3. The Entry-Level Grant is available to both incorporated community associations and groups that are unincorporated. Unincorporated groups are expected to have an auspice organisation OR will be matched with a suitable organisation to create an auspice agreement with if their grant is successfully approved funding.
4. Applications for Entry-Level Grant are accepted from community groups/organisations that have little-to-no experience implementing grant-funded projects and are assessed by Council Officers to face significant and demonstrated challenges applying for Council's regular Community Project Grants (contact Community Grants & Awards Officer to discuss).
5. Applicants are **not** permitted to make an application to both the Council's Semi-Annual Grants or the HRV/Tabcorp Grant and The Club Caroline Springs Grants for the same project.
6. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Harness Racing Victoria/Tabcorp Park Grants

Council has an arrangement with Harness Racing Victoria & Tabcorp Park that commits grants to community groups with the City of Melton. To support those leading projects and initiatives with a community benefit, these Grants provide funding to eligible community groups and organisations, providing them the opportunity to apply for funding for a Community Project.

This grant round includes an Entry-Level category for clubs and groups with little-to-no experience implementing grant funded projects and/or significant challenges submitting grant applications.

Grant Timelines

Round Opens	Administration & Assessment	Applicant Notified	Funds Distributed
October	November-December	February	February

Harness Racing Victoria/Tabcorp Park Grant conditions:

1. Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Harness Racing Victoria, Tabcorp Park & Melton City Council, which will document all funding obligations and conditions as well as reporting requirements, and grant payments will be made according to this agreement.
2. Assessment criteria has been adopted from the Semi-Annual Grants. See the table on pages 13/14 for relevant assessment criteria.
3. The Entry-Level Grant is available to both incorporated community associations and groups that are unincorporated. Unincorporated groups are expected to have an auspice organisation OR will be matched with a suitable organisation to create an auspice agreement with if their grant is successfully approved for funding.
4. Applications for Entry-Level Grant are accepted from community groups/organisations that have little-to-no experience implementing grant-funded projects and are assessed by Council Officers to face significant and demonstrated challenges applying for Council's regular Community Project Grants (contact Community Grants & Awards Officer to discuss).
5. Applicants are not permitted to make an application to both the Council's Semi-Annual Grants or the The Club Caroline Springs and HRV/Tabcorp Grant for the same project.
6. All conditions under General Guidelines, unless specified above, apply.

Community Grants & Awards

Need more help?

If you require any further information or assistance about Melton City Council's Community Grants Program, please contact the Community Grants & Awards Officer or the Community Capacity Team.

Phone: 9747 7247

Email: communitygrants@melton.vic.gov.au