

COVID-19 Community Response Grants

The Sunshine Coast Council has released Community Response Grants targeted at providing financial assistance to community organisations impacted by COVID-19. These grants provide a fantastic opportunity for Sunshine Coast Not-for-Profit organisations to assist with business sustainability post COVID-19.

The intention of these grants are to:

- assist community organisations to meet ongoing costs
- support community organisations to keep operating, alter the way they deliver services and maintain connection with each other and with the community
- strengthen the capacity and resilience of community organisations to prepare, respond and recover from emergency and disaster events
- stimulate the local economy by enabling community organisations to engage local contractors and procure from local businesses to undertake priority projects.

There are four categories of grants that are available:

1. Operational and Maintenance;
2. Continuity and Connectivity;
3. Capacity Building; and
4. Facility Improvement

Eligibility

Not-for-profit organisation who:

- Operate in the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area, OR, can demonstrate benefits are those to the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area
- are able to demonstrate viability pre-COVID-19
- have no debt to Council, or have entered into scheduled payment arrangements with Council, which are being met.
- have appropriate insurance and adhere to sound workplace health and safety practices
- are a legal not-for-profit entity or recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a not-for-profit type
-

Projects Eligible for funding:

- respond to a COVID-19 impact
- demonstrate a purpose that is in the public interest with significant community need and benefit
- demonstrate strong alignment with Council's priorities as described in current Council strategies, plans or policy positions
- adhere to the terms and conditions of this funding program.

Table Summary of Categories:

Category of Grant	Description	Funding Types	Category Priorities
1. Operational & Maintenance: Funding up to \$5,000	Ongoing operational and maintenance funding to support not-for-profit community organisations experiencing financial hardship	<p>Ongoing operational costs (eg, electricity, insurance, water, communications, affiliation fees)</p> <p>Statutory or recurrent maintenance and repairs to maintain the safety, hygiene and integrity of a community facility (eg, annual safety checks, cleaning, mowing, gutter clearing, pest control, solar panel maintenance).</p>	<p>Must address all of the below:</p> <p>Demonstrated financial hardship</p> <p>Have primary responsibility for payment of costs</p> <p>Evidence that options to cover these costs through community organisation's own cash reserves or other funding sources have been thoroughly explored.</p>
2. Continuity & Connectivity: Funding up to \$5,000	Project funding to support business continuity, maintain service delivery and promote digital connectivity.	Technical equipment, software and/or professional advice and assistance for committees and members of community organisations to continue operating, remain connected and deliver services.	<p>Must address ONE or more:</p> <p>Enhance capacity to continue to provide core services to the community</p> <p>Support adjustments to delivery models in order to respond to changing community need</p> <p>Maintain connection between board, committees and members</p> <p>Promote collaboration and partnerships.</p>
3. Capacity Building: Funding up to \$3,000	Project funding to build skills, capacity and governance of community organisations.	<p>Fees to upskill members and volunteers</p> <p>Fees to procure services of consultants, mentors or professionals to assist with governance, financial management and planning.</p>	<p>Must address ONE or more:</p> <p>Enhance financial management of community organisations</p> <p>Engage broad range of members in planning for the future</p> <p>Preparation for successful and sustainable operations during and post COVID-19.</p>
4. Facility Improvement: Funding up to \$10,000	Project funding for one-off community facility improvement works.	<p>Must have formal tenure on Council or Crown Land or own the facility freehold</p> <p>have primary responsibility for maintaining the facility on a regular basis for all or a specified part of the year</p> <p>have a current maintenance schedule in place</p>	<p>Must address ONE or more:</p> <p>improvements that are more easily completed when facility is closed</p> <p>works identified in maintenance plans or required to be completed under Council leasing arrangements</p> <p>reduction in environmental impact of facility operation and/or provide energy, water and waste efficiencies</p> <p>Increase self-sufficiency of community organisations</p> <p>address issues of risk management or compliance with Australian Standards.</p>



Applications

All applications must be submitted by 11:59pm **1 June 2020**. Applicants will be notified approximately 3 weeks after round closes.

Each category of grant has a specific purpose to address a particular area of the community who requires assistance. Therefore, each category will have different priorities/requirements to satisfy should you wish to apply.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact our Sunshine Coast team on (07) 5301 9957.