

Community Partnership Funding Program Guidelines



The Community Partnership Funding Program provides up to three-year funding towards operational expenses to community organisations whose operations or services make a significant contribution to the Sunshine Coast community, and whose activities are closely aligned to council's vision for the future as described in its Corporate Plan.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with council's Community Grants Policy. You can view the policy at www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants

Eligibility

Who can apply?

Community organisations who meet all of the following criteria:

- Operate within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area or are able to demonstrate that the program will benefit residents of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area.
- Are solely based in and focussed on the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area (not state or Australia wide), and do not have access to funding from other tiers of government.
- Are Incorporated, or are an Australian Public Company-Limited by Guarantee
- Have appropriate insurance and adhere to sound Workplace Health and Safety practices
- Are able to demonstrate viability
- Have no debt to council, or have entered into scheduled payment arrangements with council which are being adhered to, and/or have met acquittal conditions for previous council grants.

Who cannot apply?

- Government agencies or departments of local, state or federal government
- Educational, religious or medical organisations, where the application is for the organisation's core business
- Businesses
- Individuals
- Organisations eligible under the Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program
- Organisations seeking funding for Festive Season activities
- Organisations where the application is connected to political activities.

Activities eligible for funding?

Funding is available for a broad range of operational expenses. It is not for one-off projects.

Application

Applications forms for the Community Partnership Funding Program are available at www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants and must be submitted online.

The delivery of the Community Partnership Funding Program is subject to annual budget allocations.

Assessment

Applications are assessed by panels in each of the nine partnership categories, based on the general and specific eligibility criteria. Panel members include council staff experienced in each category.

In some instances, part-funding may be offered.

Panel recommendations are reported to council for endorsement.

Payment

Community Partnership Funding Program funds must be claimed within three months of notification, except where an extension has been granted.

In some instances, there may be specific funding conditions that need to be met before payment can be made.

Acquittal

All Community Partnership Funding must be acquitted annually by 31 August. Organisations will not be considered for further funding from council where previous acquittals conditions have not been met.

Assessment Criteria

General assessment criteria

Corporate Plan

- Achieve one or more of council's Corporate Plan priorities

Community Need and Support

- Demonstrate clear and identified community need for the services, facilities or programs
- Demonstrate clear evidence of community support for the services, facilities or programs

Planning and Delivery

- Proven engagement with the community
- A collaborative approach to the development of the service, facilities or program

- A well-planned and achievable strategic/ operational/ business plan for delivery
- A clear evaluation framework

Organisational Capacity

- Demonstrated capacity to deliver for the duration of the partnership
- Evidence of:
 - Sound financial management
 - Sustainable budgeting
 - Effective business planning processes
 - Clear risk assessment
 - Principles of good governance

Budget

- Realistic budget reflecting proposal scope and scale
- Appropriate budget allocation reflecting the importance of community benefit/ service provision over operational expenditure

Category assessment criteria

- Meet specific category priorities

Categories

Funding is offered under the following categories:

- Community Capital
- Community Facilities
- Community Pools
- Creative and Cultural Development
- Cultural Heritage
- Economic Development
- Emergency Services and Community Safety
- Environment
- Sport and Recreation

Applications must align with the specific aims and assessment criteria of the selected category.

Community Capital

Programs/services meeting community need and providing significant benefit.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- provide programs and/or support services in line with demonstrated and specific community need
- provide of programs/ services which benefit a significant proportion of the local community
- regular review of programs and/or services to ensure relevance for the local community
- encourage involvement, interaction and partnerships between local individuals and community organisations
- contribute to the continued development of a positive sense of community
- programs and/or services that support council's strategic commitments as outlined in council's strategies and action plans, including the Positive Ageing Strategy, Youth Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Access and Inclusion Plan.

Community Facilities

Ensuring access to community halls and facilities which are safe, accessible, available and well-used.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- provide infrastructure which enable opportunities to participate in recreation or community wellbeing
- ensure hours of community access are aligned to community need
- demonstrate significant level of engagement, participation and utilisation by the local community
- adhere to the principles of access and equity
- has tenure over the facility
- have a current maintenance schedule in place.

Community Pools

Enabling community participation and access to the facility and programs.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- ensure appropriate hours of community access throughout the year or the season
- demonstrate significant level of community engagement and participation
- review level of operating costs incurred by the applicant organisation, noting that some applicants will not have responsibility for maintenance and other operating costs of running the pool
- ensure capacity for the applicant community organisation to continue pool operations
- provide programs which encourage attendance and participation in activities relevant to the specific community e.g. squads, aqua aerobics, learn to swim classes.

Creative and Cultural Development

Contributing to the development of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area as a creative community and providing significant and lasting community benefit.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- build community capacity through creative practice or activities
- demonstrate a creative or innovative approach to program delivery
- improve artistic or cultural performance
- provide significant information, expertise or resources to other cultural organisations
- demonstrated experience in delivering high quality cultural and/or artistic outcomes
- build and support the diversity of cultural practice
- encourage activities that are inclusive and accessible.

Note: Festive Season activities (1 December to 31 January) are not eligible in this category, but may be applied for under the Festive Season category of council's Community Grants Program.

Cultural Heritage

Supporting community organisations whose prime purpose is to ensure the preservation, access and promotion of regionally significant cultural heritage items, collections, places and events.

All applicants are required to discuss their proposal with a cultural heritage officer prior to submitting their application. Contact a grants officer for more information. Specific category assessment criteria.

Engage in activities that:

- identify, record and protect the region's cultural heritage, including Aboriginal heritage
- preserve items, collections, places and events of significance through conservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance
- document and promote those items, collections, places and events that define the stories, history and values of the communities of the region
- establish partnerships that have the capacity to enhance the preservation of heritage items, collections, places and events.

Economic Development

Contributing to the development of a robust regional economy.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- provide programs and/or services on a non-commercial basis that support the development and retention of local business investment
- contribute to the development of a positive image of the region as an attractive business investment location
- establish partnerships and linkages with external agencies and other spheres of government to deliver initiatives that attract investment in the region and generate employment opportunities

- encourage involvement by - and advocate on behalf of – a specific sector or sectors of the regional economy
- provide significant information, expertise or resources to an identified sector(s) of the regional business community.

Emergency Services and Community Safety

Ensuring a significant level of community safety, including times of disaster.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- attain significant outcomes for the safety of the community, aligned to community safety initiatives and key current and emerging priorities
- provide significant community outcomes in the event of, or in the planning for, a disaster, aligned to council's Disaster Management Plan
- provide air and sea services to the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area in order to increase the overall safety of residents and visitors
- play a significant role in the welfare, re-homing and general care of abandoned domestic animals, both in general circumstances and in the event of a disaster. Form a vital part of the community fabric in dealing with emotional issues when family pets are lost or displaced.

Environment

Ensuring a sustainable approach to the protection of the local landscape, waterways and biodiversity.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- contribute to the achievement of environmental outcomes which assist with the realisation of council's vision for the region
- contribute to the implementation of strategies and actions outlined in Council's environment policy and strategic documents related to biodiversity, waterways, climate change, sustainability, peak oil and energy transition

- contribute to landscape protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity and address major ecological threatening processes (e.g. rural and urban runoff, clearing of vegetation, riparian corridors and linkages, pest management)
- promote waterways and catchments health, and reduce erosion and sediment runoff into waterways
- establish partnerships and links with external agencies and residents which improve the protection, restoration and/or management of the region's environment, (particularly on lands adjoining or lying within the immediate vicinity of existing conservation areas, Land for Wildlife properties, conservation/vegetation protection covenants and Voluntary Conservation Agreement properties) and extension activities, for example, property vegetation management planning
- facilitate investment by state government, regional bodies for natural resource management, research organizations, community groups and industry in priority environmental projects in the region
- foster the establishment of not-for-profit community-based enterprise partnerships, which include, but are not limited to, farm forestry, native plant products, nature-based recreation and ecotourism activities
- manage environmental research projects that are directly relevant to improving the protection, restoration or management of the region's environment and are guided by existing environmental strategies.

Sport and Recreation

Providing infrastructure/services for participation in sport, recreation and community wellbeing.

Specific category assessment criteria:

- provide infrastructure/services to increase or enhance opportunities to participate in sport, recreation or community wellbeing
- ensure hours of community access are aligned to community need
- demonstrate significant level of community engagement and participation

- has tenure over the facility
- have a current maintenance schedule in place
- adhere to the principles of access and equity.

Applicant Support

For further information or help completing on-line applications, please contact council's grants team:

- (07) 5441 8616
- grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Note: Office hours are 8.15 am – 5.00 pm, Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays).

Grant Development Officers can also help you to develop your application and explore other funding opportunities.

If you do not have your own computer, you can access a computer at any of council's libraries at no cost.

If you have difficulty speaking English, contact council's Customer Service Centre on (07) 5475 7272 to organise an interpreter to assist you.