

What are Community Development Fund (CDF) grants?

Council provides annual funding for once-off project and annual event grants to not-for-profit community groups in Knox.

The aim of the CDF grants is to develop, enhance and support the involvement of community groups in activities and projects that respond to identified needs in the Knox community.

Why does Knox City Council fund community groups?

Our CDF grants program aims to;

- Support projects which encourage Knox residents to become involved and engaged in their local community
- Improve the health and wellbeing of Knox residents through projects that promote healthy, active lifestyles and community safety
- Build community pride, strength and resilience
- Promote harmony and respect through projects promoting inclusion, cultural development and social interaction
- Improve skills of Knox residents across a range of areas
- Support a positive sense of place and activities that celebrate our community.

What grants are available?

There are 3 categories of grants available through the CDF grants. Grants are allocated annually for projects taking up to 12 months to complete;

Category 1 – General projects, programs, activities, or equipment - \$3,000 up to \$20,000

Category 2 – Community Festivals and Events* – up to \$15,000

Category 3 – Community Group Functions – up to \$5,000.

*An established annual community festival or event that has been held for at least 3 years. The event must be open to the wider community to attend, i.e. membership of any particular group is not a condition of entry.

How do the grants work?

- Applications open 29 May and close 3 July 2023.
- These are one-off grants for a specific project and are not available for recurrent funding.

- Organisations may submit up to 3 applications for separate and distinct projects or events. A separate application form is required for each application.
- Funded projects to be completed within 12 months from November 2023.

Who can apply for Community Development Fund grants?

- Not-for-profit community groups with a committee of management, or similar, and its own legal identity.
- If a group is not incorporated, it can be auspiced (or managed) by an incorporated organisation.
- Applications prepared by professional grant writers must be submitted by the applying organisation.

Projects/Events that could be funded

To be eligible for funding, projects and annual community events **must** meet the following requirements;

- Must have a definitive start* and finish date (* no earlier than 1 November 2023).
- Align with at least one of the Key Directions in the Knox Community Plan 2021-2031.
- Aim to meet a demonstrated need within the Knox community.
- Benefit Knox residents.

Here are some examples of the range of projects that could be considered

Arts and cultural development activities that encourage community participation through shared creativity.

Equipment purchases for community groups.

Developing recreation, leisure and/or social support activities to keep people connected.

Cultural events and/or activities to celebrate diversity and encourage a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Developing collaboration & partnership amongst community organisations to share resources and build community connection.

Implementing strategies that assist people with a disability.

Supporting and celebrating the contribution of volunteers.

Encouraging participation in lifelong learning and skills development in Knox.

Assisting in community safety strategies through community information and involvement.

Who cannot apply for Community Development Fund grants?

- Individuals or profit-making businesses.
- Organisations that owe money to Council that has not been paid by the due date.

- Organisations that have outstanding acquittal documentation, *i.e. the report for a previous grant has not been handed in by the agreed due date.*

The following types of projects cannot be funded

- Fundraising.
- Capital or facility maintenance works.
- State or Federal government responsibilities.
- Retrospective funding (projects that have already commenced before funding period begins).
- Projects that have been funded by the CDF for 3 consecutive years (other than Community Festivals and Events).
- Operational expenses.

Before you apply

Before applying for a CDF grant, Council recommends organisations do the following:

- Ensure all relevant people within your organisation are informed and committed to doing the project and applying for a grant.
- Ensure your organisation and project or event meet the eligibility criteria.
- Discuss your application with Council's Community Partnerships team.
- Attend a Knox City Council grants program information workshop.

Pre-application discussion

Whether community organisations have previously received a CDF grant, or the organisation is submitting for the first time, community organisations are strongly advised to discuss their proposed application with Council's Community Partnerships team. Contact the team on 9298 8000.

The Community Partnerships team can also advise about other relevant Council staff and stakeholders who may be able to provide appropriate information on service delivery and/or alternative approaches in relation to a proposed project.

How to apply

Applications open Monday 29 May and close Monday 3 July 2022. Applications are completed online via the user-friendly SmartyGrants system. To access the application form please visit:

www.knox.vic.gov.au/cdf.

We suggest you do not leave electronic lodgment of your application to the last moment to avoid any unanticipated technical difficulties or unforeseen errors with your application form that will prevent submission.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Incomplete or imprecise applications may disadvantage you in the assessment process.

Assessment and approval

Assessment of all eligible applications will be undertaken by the Community Development Fund Evaluation Panel in August and September. ***Please note applicants applying for grants over \$15,000 may be required to attend an assessment panel meeting to talk about their project.***

The Panel makes recommendations for Council to consider at its October Council meeting.

Applications are assessed on the following criteria:

- clear demonstration of community need and proposed project objectives (30%).
- the capacity of the applying organisation to deliver the project and manage the grant (25%).
- the degree to which the project is shown to have a clear financial need, is feasible and is financially viable (20%).
- the level of benefit to Knox residents (15%).
- demonstration of consultation and/or partnership with others (if applicable) (10%).

What happens if your application is successful?

All submitting organisations will be notified of the outcome of their applications by end of October, early November.

Funding agreements

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a formal funding agreement consistent with the approved grant to ensure that both parties are clear of their roles and responsibilities. The agreement will clearly define accountability of the funded organisation for the achievement of agreed outcomes and will specify terms and conditions to foster effective project delivery and protection of public funds.

Where an organisation is auspiced for the purposes of the grant, the auspice organisation is also required to sign the funding agreement. The period of the funding agreement will be for a maximum of 12 months.

Funded organisations may be required to supply the following documentation:

- Insurance Certificate of Currency.
- Statement by Supplier Declaration.
- Evidence of Current Incorporation Status.
- Evidence of Current Registration for a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Payment of grants

Grant monies will be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the funded organisation, or their auspice organisation, if applicable. Receipt of a grant payment is subject to the provision of a signed funding agreement, compliance with any specific grant conditions and, if applicable, satisfactory reporting of previous grants. GST will be included with grant allocations if applicable. Grant recipients are expected to attend a grant celebration event at the Knox Civic Centre in November.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the conclusion of the project a Project Acquittal Report must be completed, including a financial statement and a brief report about the projects outcomes. Acquittal reports will be due to be submitted in January 2025. The information will assist Council to understand the impact of the Community Development Fund on the Knox community and its focus in future funding rounds. If \$5000 or more is spent on a single purchase/piece of equipment and its use is no longer required after a period of time, Council must be informed before it is disposed of.

What happens if your application is unsuccessful?

After the October Council meeting, a letter/email will be sent to the contact person for each unsuccessful application notifying them of the outcome. Groups are encouraged to seek feedback and make further applications in the future.

The decision of Council is final however, if you have any questions about the outcome of your grant application, you are encouraged to contact the Community Partnerships team.

Help and advice

This document should be used in conjunction with the Grant Lingo @ Knox and the Project Budget Information sheets and other resource documents available through the Community Development Fund web page. If you need any help or advice, contact the Community Partnerships team: cdf@knox.vic.gov.au or call 9298 8000.

Privacy of Information

As part of the Information Privacy Act Statement of Consent, Council collects information from CDF Grants applicants for the purpose of registering and administering grant applications for the specified funding period. The information may also be used to send you information and to ascertain satisfaction with our services. The information will not be disclosed except as required by law. In particular, the information will not be disclosed to others for marketing purposes.