

Community Development Fund (CDF)

Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is for organisations considering applying to the Community Development Fund (CDF) and should be read alongside the Knox Community Grant Guidelines.

1. What is the Community Development Fund (CDF)?

The Community Development Fund (CDF) is an annual grants program that supports one-off projects, activities and initiatives that benefit the Knox community. It helps strengthen community connection, inclusion and wellbeing, and aligns with Council priorities in the Knox Council and Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029.

2. What does “project-based funding” mean?

Project-based funding supports specific, time-limited activities rather than ongoing operational costs. This can include events, short-term programs, or equipment required to deliver a project.

3. What is the most important thing applicants must demonstrate?

Applicants must clearly demonstrate a community's need, a measurable benefit to Knox residents, and alignment with Council priorities and outcomes.

4. How is CDF different from other Knox grant programs?

CDF supports one-off or short-term projects. In comparison, CPF supports ongoing service delivery (operational funding), and Minor Grants supports smaller or immediate needs.

5. What types of projects can be funded?

Eligible projects include community programs and events, cultural celebrations, arts activities, environmental initiatives, social inclusion programs, and small equipment essential to project delivery.

6. Can our organisation apply for CDF and other Knox grants?

Yes. Organisations may apply across multiple Knox grant programs in the same funding round provided each application is for a different purpose.

- Different projects or services may be submitted to different programs
- The same service, activity or expense cannot be funded twice

This includes:

- No duplicated projects across CPF, CDF or Minor Grants
- No “split” applications for the same service

7. How much funding can be requested and what categories are available?

Funding amounts range from \$2,501 up to \$15,000, depending on the category.

Applicants must apply under one of the following categories:

- Active Ageing (\$2,501–\$5,000)
- Community Strengthening (\$2,501–\$15,000)
- Cultural Celebrations & Community Events (\$2,501–\$3,000)
- Arts & Events (\$2,501–\$15,000)
- Environment & Sustainability (\$2,501–\$5,000)
- Active Communities (\$2,501–\$5,000)
- Small Equipment Grants (\$2,501–\$5,000)

Applicants should select the category that best aligns with their project and request only the amount required to deliver the activity.

8. What will CDF funding not support?

Funding will not support ongoing operational costs (e.g. salaries, utilities), everyday sporting equipment, capital works, retrospective expenses, transport costs, prizes, sponsorships, or fundraising activities.

9. How are CDF applications assessed?

Applications are assessed based on community need, organisational capacity, financial viability, benefit to Knox residents, and partnerships/collaboration.

10. What do I need to include in my application?

Applications must include public liability insurance, financial statements, two quotes, evidence of legal status, and a project plan with risk assessment.

11. What happens if my application is successful?

Successful applicants must sign a funding agreement within three weeks, deliver the project as approved, and submit an acquittal report at completion.

12. What happens if my application is unsuccessful?

Applicants will be notified by email and are encouraged to seek feedback from the Grants Team.

13. What if we're unsure whether CDF is right for us?

Contact the Community Grants Team for advice before applying.

grants@knox.vic.gov.au

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