

Community Partnership Fund (CPF)

Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. What is the Community Partnership Fund (CPF)?

The Community Partnership Fund (CPF) provides multi-year funding for eligible operational costs to not-for-profit organisations that deliver ongoing services benefiting Knox residents.

CPF supports organisations to:

- Deliver essential or specialist community services
- Address Council-identified priorities and service gaps
- Provide measurable outcomes aligned with the Knox Council and Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029

CPF funding agreements run from 1 January 2027 to 30 June 2030, subject to satisfactory performance and reporting.

2. What does “operational funding” mean?

CPF funding is for the costs required to run and sustain an eligible service, rather than one-off activities.

Examples of eligible operational costs may include:

- Staff costs directly related to service delivery
- Program coordination and delivery expenses
- Essential operational expenses that enable the service to function

CPF is not intended for short-term, project-based or one-off activities.

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

Applicants must clearly show that their service:

- Addresses a specific community need or service gap identified by Knox City Council
- Aligns with priorities in the Knox Council and Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029
- Delivers outcomes that Council is seeking to achieve

General community benefit alone is not sufficient.

CPF applications must align with Council-identified needs, not just organisational priorities.

Applications that do not clearly demonstrate this alignment are unlikely to be competitive.

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

CPF is fundamentally different from project-based grants.

CPF	Other Knox Grants
Operational funding	Project or activity funding
Supports ongoing services	Funds one-off or time-limited initiatives
Multi-year funding	Usually 12 months
Focus on service sustainability	Focus on project delivery

If your request is for:

- A specific project
- A one-off event
- A short-term initiative

then CPF is not the appropriate program

5. What types of organisations is CPF designed for?

CPF is intended for organisations that:

- Deliver essential, specialist or priority services
- Have demonstrated experience and organisational capacity
- Provide services across Knox or to priority populations
- Require operational funding to sustain delivery

CPF funding streams include:

- Specialist Community Support Services
- Community Development
- Volunteer Resourcing and Support

Applicants must apply under the stream that best matches their service model

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

Yes.

Organisations may apply across multiple Knox grant programs in the same funding round provided that 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. What will CPF funding not support?

CPF funding will not support:

- One-off events or short-term projects
- Activities better suited to Community Development Fund or Minor Grants
- Retrospective costs
- Duplicate funding for existing Council-funded services

Projects that do not align with Council priorities

8. How are CPF applications assessed?

Applications are assessed competitively based on:

- Alignment with the relevant CPF funding stream
- How clearly the service addresses identified Council priorities
- Organisational capacity and governance
- Financial need and realistic budgeting
- Scope and accessibility of service delivery across Knox
- Opportunities for collaboration and partnership

Strong applications clearly link service delivery → community need → Council priorities → measurable outcomes.

9. What if we're unsure whether CPF is right for us?

If you are unsure:

- Carefully review whether your funding request is operational or project-based
- Check alignment with the Knox Council and Health & Wellbeing Plan
- Contact the Community Grants Team before applying

Early advice can help ensure:

- You apply to the correct program
- Your application meets eligibility and assessment expectations

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