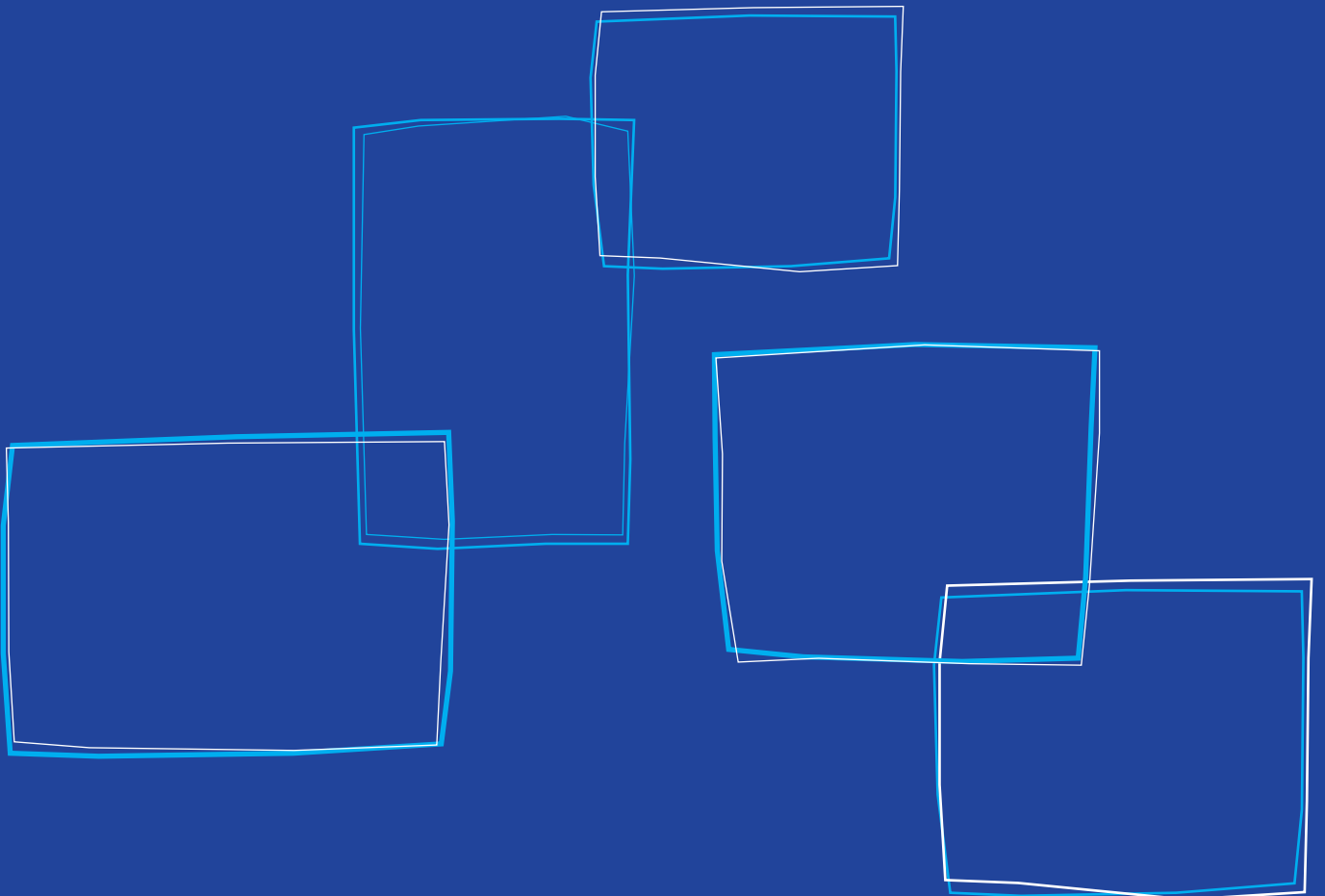




Shire of Esperance 2022-2023 Community Grants Program Guidelines



“The Community Grants Program is offered to assist community groups who provide valuable community, cultural, environmental, sporting and recreational services and activities.”



From the Shire President

The Council of the Shire of Esperance recognises the significant contribution of individuals and community groups towards creating a strong and vibrant community.

One of the most effective means of promoting community growth is through the use of volunteers and non-government organisations. The Council acknowledges and supports the contribution that community members make of their time, labour and expertise toward improving our community's quality of living.

The Community Grants Program gives us an opportunity to recognise and support this great work. The program helps to build upon the partnership between council and community based organisations for projects and activities that respond to local needs.

I encourage you to contact the Community Development Officer to discuss your proposal prior to submitting an application (contact details are outlined in this document).

We look forward to receiving your project proposal and the ongoing partnerships this program creates between council and community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ian Mickel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

**Cr Ian Mickel
Shire President**

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Overview

Program Objectives

The Community Grants Program is the Shire's principal community investment program. Through this program council contributes to community wellbeing by:

- Supporting and stimulating diverse and dynamic projects, programs, events and activities;
- Encouraging collaboration through engagement and participation in the community;
- Facilitating stronger, more sustainable and resilient communities;
- Supporting the maintenance and upgrade of community facilities.
- Encouraging projects and events benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The purpose of the Shire's Community Grants Program is to develop and actively support community organisations and individuals who positively contribute to community wellbeing and the cultural life of the region.

The grants program enables the Shire to recognise leadership and individual achievement, build community capacity and sustainability, develop cultural identity and support initiatives that respond to identified community needs.

Viewpoint

The program is designed with a philosophy of opportunity, support and partnership. The Shire of Esperance will provide a range of grants to encourage and engage groups and individuals in the community to make a positive and ongoing contribution which result in social, environmental, recreational, economic and cultural benefits to the wider community.

These guidelines provide a framework for the grants program which ensures an equitable, accountable and transparent process for the distribution and acquittal of financial assistance to community groups and individuals.

Assistance

For further information or assistance to complete an application form, please contact the Community Development Officer on:

Phone: (08) 9071 0678

Email: shire@esperance.wa.gov.au

Interest Free and Self Supporting Loans

Applications for Interest Free and Self Supporting Loans are separate to the Community Grants Program and may be submitted for Shire of Esperance consideration at any time of the year. If you are planning a major capital works program this type of funding may be suitable to your needs. All enquiries regarding Interest Free and Self Supporting loans are to be directed to the Director of Corporate and Community Services.

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF)

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries administers the CSRFF scheme to assist community groups and Local Government Authorities to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation. The maximum CSRFF grant approved will be no greater than one third of the total estimated project cost with the balance of funds required to be sourced by the applicant.

All CSRFF applications must be lodged with the Local Government Authority where they are assessed, prioritised, and endorsed by Council prior to submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

It should be noted that the CSRFF evaluation process is independently undertaken by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their project application meets both the Shire of Esperance and CSRFF guidelines where appropriate, and that their organisation fully understands all related grant conditions.

Shire Managed Venues

If your project will be held in a venue under the control of the Shire of Esperance, it is recommended that you contact the venue, request a quote and make a tentative booking before you submit your application. Remember to include the cost as an expense for your project. If your grant application is successful, Council will consider the funding level for the cost of hiring the venue.

Access and Inclusion

The Shire of Esperance is committed to providing dignified and equitable access for all. It is important that applications are inclusive of people living with a disability and their carers. This may include considerations to the following:

- Accessible parking at the venue;
- Provision of accessible facilities such as toilets, ramp access and accessible seating;
- Consideration for assistance animals;
- Acceptance of Carer Cards and/or Companion Cards for carers;
- Information available in accessible format, such as large print and signage.

Volunteers

The Shire of Esperance values and recognises the enormous amount of work done by volunteers within our community. We encourage organisations to work within best practice principles with regard to Volunteer Management, in particular the use of Volunteer's Accident Insurance.

If you would like any further information regarding best practice in Volunteer Management please contact the Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre.

Collaborative Approaches & Consultation

All applicants are encouraged to consider collaborating on projects that work towards a common goal or support a common target group. We encourage groups to work together, learn from each other's experience and avoid unnecessary duplication. Applications that provide evidence of early consultation with participants and key stakeholders will be highly regarded.

Categories & Key Dates

at a glance

	Small Grants	Annual Grants
Purpose	<p>Timely grants to support the delivery of projects, programs, events and activities.</p> <p>Supports small equipment purchases, workshops, school holiday programs and community events.</p> <p>Assists with sporting or cultural representation at a national or international level.</p>	<p>For the development of the community through projects or events.</p> <p>Supports capital upgrades, improvements and development of community services and facilities.</p> <p>To provide support and incentive for new and developing local and regional events.</p>
Application Amount	<p>Up to \$3,000</p> <p>Up to \$500 for representing WA or Australia</p>	<p>\$3,000 and over</p>
	<p>Up to 100% of the total project cash expenses</p>	<p>Up to 50% of the total project cost</p>
Availability	<p>Open all year</p>	<p>Open once yearly</p>
Applications Open	<p>August 2022</p> <p>Upon formal adoption of Shire Budget</p>	<p>As soon as possible following January Council Meeting</p> <p>Estimated to be 1st February 2022</p>
Applications Close	<p>26 June 2023 or upon the full allocation of 2022/2023 Small Grants budget</p>	<p>14 March 2022</p>
Decision	<p>Within 4 weeks of application</p>	<p>By Late June</p>
Funding Available	<p>Upon Approval</p>	<p>Upon formal adoption of Shire Budget (Estimated Early August)</p>
Project Delivery / Grant Year	<p>1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023</p>	
Accountability Report Due	<p>60 Days following project completion or 30th September 2023 Which ever falls first</p>	
Examples	<p>A listing of Successful Community Grants Projects can be found at www.esperance.wa.gov.au/community-grants-program</p>	

Eligibility Criteria

General Eligibility Criteria

Applicants can only apply for one application per grant category per budgeted financial year. Applicants can apply for two Annual Grants if one of the applications is for an event.

All funding requests must not exceed 50% of the total project cost (with the exception of the Support category). The total project cost is the value of all cash and non cash items within the project budget.

All projects, programs and activities must be conducted within the budgeted grant year.

Specific eligibility criteria exist for individual grant categories and should be read in conjunction with the following:

General

- Applicants must reside or operate within the Shire of Esperance;
- Projects, programs and activities for which funding is sought must be based within the Shire of Esperance;
- Organisations must be a Not-for-Profit incorporated organisation (unless it is a Support grant for representation);
- Unincorporated groups can still apply, providing they are auspiced by an incorporated organisation that can manage the grant on behalf of the applicant. A letter agreeing to auspice must accompany the application;
- Organisations that have received financial support from Council within the past five years must have met all the requirements of their approval, including acquittal reporting;
- Organisations must have a valid lease with the Shire of Esperance if funding is related to premises on Shire controlled land and comply with insurance and lease conditions;
- Only one application per project can be accepted from an organisation in a single financial year.

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate effective management skills and be financially accountable;
- Provide details of other sources of funding sought and obtained for the project;
- Demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the project through their own financial or in-kind resources;

Projects, programs and activities must demonstrate the following:

- That the purpose of the grant meets a recognised community need in accordance with the relevant funding categories;
- A significant benefit to the Esperance community;
- Have clearly defined, specific objectives and measurable outcomes;
- A substantial degree of community support and representation;
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers;
- Designed to foster community engagement and participation;
- An innovative approach to meeting community needs;
- Encourages a strong sense of community wellbeing that supports the Council's strategic direction and meets the identified goals as outlined in the Shire of Esperance Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027. A copy of this plan can be accessed at www.esperance.wa.gov.au

Who can not apply

- Businesses, commercial or profit making entities;
- Government agencies;
- Political groups;
- Committees of the Shire of Esperance.

Projects, programs and activities that are ineligible include those that:

- Seek funding of the same project more than once in a financial year;
- Have commenced or have been completed prior to the receipt of Council deliberations;
- Are for commercial gain; Seek reimbursement for monies already spent;
- Seek funding to increase existing un-acquitted funds from Council for the same project, program or activity;
- Seek funding for voluntary labour and in-kind contributions/donations;
- Are aimed at promoting political views (including protests);
- Are engaged in activities which promote discrimination, violence or anti-social behaviour;
- Potentially have involvement with organisations that engage in unlawful activities;
- Do not show sustainable strategies.

Grant Categories

Small Grants

This category is designed to support community groups address a need of the community in the delivery of small projects, equipment purchases, programs, events and activities for the benefit of the community.

This grant category also supports Esperance residents, whether as individuals or teams, seeking assistance for representing Western Australia or Australia in sporting, academic, leadership or cultural endeavours.

Funding

Categories of funding apply as follows:

- Arts / Culture / Sport representation \$500 (ex GST)
- Community sponsorship maximum \$3,000 (ex GST)

Eligibility and Conditions

This is to be read in conjunction with the general eligibility criteria referred to in this document p.7 & 10-11

- Organisations can only receive one Small Grant from Council each financial year;
- Applications can be for up to 100% of the total project cash expenses;
- Applications open in August and close late June or upon the full allocation of the Small Grants budget;
- Funding outcomes will be advised within four weeks of application;
- No retrospective funding. Applications must be received prior to an event or competition taking place to allow sufficient time for review and outcomes to be advised;
- Depending on the timing of applications the allocation of funds may occur after the event.
- Where appropriate acknowledgement of the Shire of Esperance funding in associated publicity and promotional material and display of Shire logo and / or promotional material.

Community Sponsorship

- For events, see Eligibility and Conditions p.9.

Applications made under this category must include:

- A copy of Certificate of Incorporation (or equivalent alternative registration);
- Evidence of Public Liability Insurance.

Arts / Culture / Sport Representation Funding

- Representative Applicants must reside within the Shire of Esperance;

Teams / Groups

- A team / group consists of two (2) or more people participating in the same event with a common link;
- If you are a member of a team / group you are ineligible to apply for an individual grant and must apply for a team / group grant;
- One representative from the team / group (e.g. group leader or coach) is to complete the application form on behalf of the team / group. It is the responsibility of this individual to distribute the funds to the team / group in an appropriate manner.

Applications must include:

- For sporting representation written confirmation from a recognised peak body on their official letterhead is required, stating the applicant's name and confirming the level of participation;
- For non-sporting events, written confirmation or an invitation to represent in an area of interest at a high-profile state, national or international event is to be submitted with the application

Applications will not be considered if:

- The representative/s receives payment of any kind for their participation in the event or activity;
- Representative individuals have nominated themselves to participate in an event or activity;
- The application is not accompanied by the required supporting documentation.

Annual Grants

This category is designed to support organisations that enhance the community through projects or sustainable community events that celebrate diversity, creativity, inclusion and a vibrant and strategically balanced community.

The emphasis of these grants is on development initiatives; maintenance and upgrading of community facilities; activities which result in social, cultural and environmental benefits through fostering opportunities for access, participation, and responding to community issues and needs

Funding

- Applications over \$3,000 (ex GST);
- Applications must not exceed 50% of the total project cost;
- Applications are open on a yearly basis;
- No retrospective funding.
- Funding will not be granted for events that have already been started or completed;
- Only one form of grant funding will be provided for any event per financial year.
- Applicants can apply for two Annual category grants if one of the applications is for an event.

Eligibility and Conditions

This is to be read in conjunction with the general eligibility criteria referred to in this document p 7 & 10-11

- Prior approval must be sought from Council for any proposed improvement to Council owned property.
- Projects must not clash with, or adversely affect, existing community events including Shire events;
- Significant celebratory events, such as milestone anniversaries for community organisations, will only be eligible for funding under this grants category if wider community benefit is demonstrated;
- Event organisers must ensure they have contacted the Shire of Esperance to obtain the relevant community event information relating to all permits/licences relevant to their particular event within required time frames (e.g. road closures, Temporary Occupancy Permits, Temporary Food, liquor licence). It is the organisers' responsibility to ensure they have fully disclosed all details of their event in order to obtain the necessary permits;
- Applicants must demonstrate planning for self sufficiency and event sustainability.

Specific Exclusions

- Celebration activities or events where attendance is limited to individual organisations and their members;
- Payment of debt;
- Purchase of alcohol.

Applications made under this category **must** include

- A copy of Certificate of Incorporation (or equivalent alternative registration);
 - Evidence of Public Liability Insurance.
 - Adopted/endorsed Income & Expenditure Statement / Profit & Loss (12mth) for the previous financial year
 - Adopted/endorsed Balance Sheet or Statement of Assets & Liabilities.
 - Quotations for project expenses*:
 - One quotation for all purchases over \$1,000
 - Two quotations for all purchases over \$3,000
- *Local quotes preferred, if local quotes are not obtained, please provide a suitable explanation.*

Applications made under this category **may** include

- The most recent annual report or equivalent (such as President's report) which outlines the activities of the organisation;
- Provide a report that demonstrates the need for the project or activity, which may include your organisations business plans;
- A copy of any business, strategic or other relevant planning documents;
- A budget for the forthcoming year;
- A concept/site plan (if relevant);
- Letters of support from stakeholders;
- Evidence of principal support from landowner (if relevant)

Application Process

The grants program is designed to provide limited financial assistance and is not intended to be relied upon as a primary or recurrent source of funding.

Shire staff involved in the administration of the Community Grants Program are available to guide and assist you in the preparation of your application.

This is a competitive process. A good application reflects that you have read the guidelines and associated documents, while also demonstrating your skill, ability and commitment to managing a successful project.

How to Apply

- Applications will only be accepted on the forms made available by Council at the time the grant funding round is advertised; Please refer to the Shire's website to confirm the closing date for the next round of grants.
- Application forms may be obtained from the Shire's website or Administration Office. If you are completing the form electronically, a hand written signature in the appropriate section(s) is required. Please keep a copy of the application for your records:
- Responses must be provided to all questions on the application form;
- Applications must include a clearly documented project budget;
- Applications must include all supporting documentation where required, i.e. Certificate of Incorporation, quotations, etc (please see requirements for each category on pages 8-9);
- Applications from unincorporated groups and organisations must be authorised by an auspicing organisation;
- Applicants must agree in writing to the conditions of the grant as set out in the application form;
- **Late applications will not be considered under any circumstances.**

GST

GST may apply to your grant funding, depending upon your organisation's tax status. If your organisation is GST registered, then GST will apply to the grant amount funded. If the organisation is not GST registered, then GST does not apply to the grant funding.

Completed applications must be submitted by post or email:

Post: The Chief Executive Officer; Shire of Esperance
PO Box 507; Esperance WA 6450

Email: shire@esperance.wa.gov.au

In addition:

- No bound and/or stapled copies will be accepted.
- Applications will not be accepted by facsimile.

Freedom of Information

Applications for funds and other written information provided to Council will be treated confidentially. However, the provisions of the Freedom of information Act, 1982, apply to all documents held by the Shire of Esperance.

Assessment Process

- Acknowledgement of application will be provided to applicants.
- A panel of officers will assess applications against the eligibility requirements and selection criteria and make preliminary recommendations;
- Applicants may be requested to make a presentation to Council;
- Decisions regarding the allocation or non-allocation of funding will be made by Council (or officers acting under delegated authority) and are considered final;
- Council reserves the right to part-fund an application;
- Applicants will receive written notification about the success or otherwise of their grant application. Commencement of the project or expenditure of expected funds must not take place until this notification is received;
- Funds can only be distributed to successful applicants upon the formal adoption of the budget (anticipated late July / early August).

Please Note: Shire Staff and Councillors participate in the assessment and decision making process for the Community Grants Program. It is not recommended that you seek letters of support from Staff or Councillors as it may be perceived as a 'conflict of interest'.

How Applications Are Assessed

The high demand for funding under the Council's Community Grants Program will mean that not all grant applications can be approved. Although an application may meet the assessment criteria, grants are highly competitive and approval will depend on available funds and the number and quality of applications.

Applications will be assessed against the following key selection criteria and ranked in order of priority:

- Alignment with the guidelines and eligibility criteria of the relevant grant category and the general criteria of the Community Grants Program;
- Demonstration of the community need for the project;
- Benefit to the Esperance community (i.e. contribution to community well being);
- Alignment to the Shire of Esperance Strategic Community Plan goals and strategies;
- Ability to achieve tangible outcomes for the benefit of the Esperance community;
- Demonstration of the organisation's ability to effectively manage the project with consideration to relevant financial and legislative frameworks;
- Capacity to make a significant financial or in-kind contribution to the project;
- Past funding history and profile of organisation;
- Levels of volunteer participation and wider community participation;
- Evidence of consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- Inclusion of a balanced, realistic and complete project budget (incorporating relevant quotes);
- Evidence of other state/federal funding secured by the applicant. Co-contributions are assessed with financial contributions receiving a higher weighting than in-kind contributions.

Applications that encompass the following attributes will receive a lower priority level in the assessment process:

- Seeking funding for bonds, employee salaries and wages;
- Requests that are deemed to be regular ongoing operational costs of an organisation;
- Funding for recurring projects.

Recognition of Contribution

If your grant application is successful, recognition and acknowledgement of the Shire of Esperance contribution will be required. This includes but not limited to; display of the Shire logo on promotional material; acknowledgement in all advertising and publicity; display of Shire signage at events; invitation to Councillors to functions; and where appropriate distribution of Shire promotional material. Details of these requirements will be outlined in the funding acknowledgement.

When submitting an application to the Shire of Esperance's Community Grant program you will be providing permission for any future images of the project to be potentially used by the Shire for their future promotion, reporting and/or other project purposes

Accountability

- Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant funding acknowledgement that will detail funding conditions and accountability requirements, prior to any grant funds being paid;
- Grants provided under the Community Grants Program must only be spent on the project as approved by Council;
- All grant monies must be expended within the budgeted grant year (1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023) or the funds must be refunded to the Shire;
- If the situation arises where the event, project, activity or attendance does not occur the monies shall be reimbursed to the Shire in full;
- Any unspent funds must be returned to the Shire;
- Any changes to the project that would result in funding being expended other than as detailed in the application may not be undertaken without prior written approval from the Shire;
- An Accountability report must be provided on the prescribed forms within 60 days of project completion or 30th September 2023 which ever falls first;
- The Accountability report must include a financial report of budgeted and actual expenditure, and evidence of: grant funds being spent; recognition of Shire contribution; tangible evidence to support performance indicators - all to the satisfaction of the Shire.



For further details on the Community Grants Program please contact the Community Development Team.

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