

Community Development Grants Program

2026/2027

Funding Guidelines



Building our community

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Community Development Grants Program helps not-for-profit groups in the municipality to improve facilities and work together for more engaged and healthy communities.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT PROVIDE EVENT FUNDING.
A separate funding round for Events support will open later in the year.

Funding guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

The HRCC Community Development Grants Program allocates funding to local not-for-profit organisations and groups every year.

The maximum allocation per organisation is \$10,000 although most successful applications range between \$500 and \$5,000.

Projects which have a cash and/or in-kind contribution by the applicant organisation are encouraged.

Applications close on Monday 2 March 2026.

Successful projects must commence after 1 July 2026 and be completed by 30 June 2027. Grant funding is for the 2026-2027 financial year.

For more information, please contact Council's Community Grants Team on 5382 9777 or visit [Council's website](#).

GRANT PRIORITIES

The Community Development Grants Program aligns with key priorities of the 2025-2029 Council Plan:

- Liveability – a healthy, connected and vibrant community that supports people to live, work and thrive
- Sustainability – a region that grows sustainability and protects what matters
- Accessibility – a municipality that is easy to access, move through and participate in

In addition, applications may also align with other key strategies:

[Youth Strategy](#), [Disability Access and Inclusion Plan](#), [Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan](#) and [Age Friendly Communities Implementation Plan](#).

KEY FUNDING PRIORITIES

Community groups must identify which priorities are relevant to their proposed project in the grant application form (more than one priority area might apply)

- Values and respects the culture of our First Nations peoples.
- Improves the health and well-being of First Nations peoples.
- Promotes health and wellbeing for people of all ages and abilities
- Provision of accessible, inclusive, safe and welcoming spaces.
- Celebrate and grow recreation, arts and cultural opportunities
- Support community leadership and local action
- Improve access to quality services, public space and facilities
- Create welcoming places that reflect our identity and encourage connection
- Supports the prevention of all forms of violence.
- Reduce harm from alcohol and drug use
- Increase active living
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Increase healthy eating
- Adapts to minimise climate impacts.
- Protect biodiversity and care for natural and built assets.
- Supports gender equality.
- Child and youth initiatives.
- Supports social inclusion and positive ageing for older people.



**Handy tip:
Identify as
many grant
priorities as
possible in your
application**

Details of the program

WHO CAN APPLY?

The following criteria need to be met to be eligible for a grant:

- ✓ Be a not-for-profit group.
- ✓ The project has the endorsement of the applicant organisation and all other user groups.
- ✓ Be incorporated, have an ABN, or have an auspice body.
- ✓ Include direct benefits to residents of HRCC and delivered within the municipality

WHO CANNOT APPLY?

- × You are an individual or seeking funding for a commercial business.
- × Funds are requested for organisational operating costs.
- × Projects that involve building works or landscaping on Council owned or managed property are not eligible for funding. Such projects are the responsibility of Council.
- × Your group has outstanding project acquittals from previous grants rounds
- × You have already commenced and spent money on the project. Projects are to commence after 1 July 2026 and be completed by 30 June 2027.
- × Projects that require ongoing funding from HRCC.
- × Your project is the responsibility of other sector/s of government.
- × Your project is seeking funding for religious assets.
- × Projects that are a clear duplication of an existing service.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Details of what the grant funds will be spent on.
- An indication of other funds that will be put towards the project.
- An estimate of volunteer in-kind support for the project (use a rate of \$30 per hour to work out this budget figure).
- A quote for all individual items and services over \$1,000.
- A copy of the organisation's most recent audited financial statements where the applicant organisation shows a cash contribution of >\$5,000.
- Endorsement of all groups who will use or benefit from the project.
- Projects that involve building or external works on land you do not own (including Crown Land) must include a letter confirming land owner consent.

OTHER KEY ISSUES

- All planning, building permits and any other authorisations including public liability insurance and landowner consent remain the responsibility of the applicant organisation and must be received by the relevant authorities prior to starting the project.
- An offer of a grant by Council does not mean any ongoing funding commitment.
- HRCC assistance is to be acknowledged in any project promotion
- HRCC may only allocate part funding for the project.

Handy tip:
Check if you need
Land Owner
Consent before
submitting your
application

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by HRCC using the following criteria:

- The level of contribution to the project by the applicant.
- The extent of previous community grant assistance.
- How well the project aligns with Council priorities.
- Evidence of need for the project
- Level of community benefit
- Ability to deliver project

Submitting an Application

The application form must be completed [online](#).

If you require assistance to complete the on-line form, our Community Grants Team can help, please contact Customer Service to make an appointment by calling 53829777.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in May 2026.

Grant payment and reporting back

Payment of grants will be made after 1 July 2026 upon completion of projects.

Organisations must:

- Lodge an online Completion Report
- Attach invoices or evidence of project payments
- Attach invoice from your organisation to Council requesting grant payment
- Attach a photograph of the completed project.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, please contact the Community Grants Team on 5382 9777.

Handy tip:
Try to include a
cash and/or in-
kind contribution
to your project

Handy tip:
Chat to the
community
grants team
before submitting
your application