

Program Guidelines

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Council recognises and values the strengths of the Camden community, including the strong sense of belonging, demonstrated through participation in a range of community and cultural activities. Council also acknowledges the important role of community organisations in developing projects and events while coordinating and managing funded activities to further develop these strengths in the local community.

Funding and support are also mechanisms for Council to further the aims identified in Council's social, cultural, economic and environmental plans and policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and broad Council objectives and plans as identified in Camden Council's Strategic Plan.

The Community Grants Program will provide successful applicants of up to \$6,500 per project to support the work done by local community organisations based in or providing services for the Camden Local Government Area.

The Community Grants Program is open for application bi-annually dependent on budget considerations.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must:

- Be not-for-profit; or
- Be a registered charity; or
- Be an incorporated body or be auspiced (sponsored) by an incorporated body;
- Offer a project in the Camden LGA, or primarily for the Camden community (minimum of 75% participants from the LGA);
- Acquit any previous Camden Council grants (excluding grants held within the prior 12-month period or subject to agreement/variation of funding) and have no outstanding debts to Council.
- Have public liability insurance of \$20,000,000 or more

INELIGIBILITY

Council does not provide grants for:

- 1) Projects that duplicate existing services;
- 2) Projects that do not meet the identified priority needs;
- 3) Projects that directly contravene existing Council policy;
- 4) Projects previously funded unless there is clear evidence of community need and support.

Please note staff salaries and wages outside of external consultants for one of projects will not be considered.

GRANT CATEGORIES

Grants are available in the following categories for up to \$6,500:

Community Well Being

Projects which support access to physical and social resources to promote and improve quality of life for local residents.

Art and Culture

Projects involving events or activities that foster Camden's cultural and community identity and activities that supports an accessible, diverse and inclusive range of community building including artwork, performance, writing and other cultural activities.

Social Inclusion Projects that support a cohesive community and promote accessibility and a sense of belonging within the Camden community.

Environment and Sustainability

Projects that promote and encourage sustainable community behaviour such as reducing food or general waste, recycling programs, sustainable activities and environmental education and training workshops. Projects should benefit the environment while raising awareness around environmental and sustainability issues.

Sport and Recreation

Projects that are designed to increase or maintain participation within sport and recreation as well as projects which improve the quality, education/training, safety or range of participation.

Minor Works

Projects that enhance community infrastructure (excluding Council owned premises) by aiding in the development of facilities, improvements or maintenance to existing facilities. No projects over a total cost of \$13, 000 will be considered. Any buildings subject to heritage approval must have prior approval for the grant to be considered. Any projects subject to DA approval are the responsibility of the applicant and proof of lodgment and approval should be included with the application. DA fees must not be part of the funding request. Note: If applying under the minor works category, it is essential that permission be sought from the owners of the building or facilities prior to lodgment of an application. Please provide evidence of approval with your application.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

Council will consider all applications and determine successful requests in line with its operational plan and budget with all applications to be assessed on their merit.

The following criteria will form the basis of assessment (although projects will not necessarily have to meet all criteria to be successful):

- Measurable community outcomes;
- Bridging gaps in service delivery;
- Value for money;
- Capacity building;
- Transparency;
- Equitability.

CAMDEN COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Camden Council encourages you to be a part of the delivery of Council's shared vision and feel a valued part of Camden's future. Council's Community Strategic Plan represents the partnership between Council, Federal and State Government agencies, local businesses, local community organisations and residents, to deliver positive community outcomes. All partners across these organisations have a valuable and unique role to enable the successful delivery of the Strategy.

All grant applications should reflect at least 1 of Council's Key Directions and strategies through their application and project delivery outcomes. Council invites you to review the Key Directions and Strategies listed below and identify which one/s best align to the vision of your application. Please note: There can be more than 1 Strategy reflected.

Key Direction 1, 'Welcoming – Embracing our vibrant and diverse culture'.

Key Direction Strategies

W1: "Our community is welcoming and inclusive; everyone feels included and involved."

W2: "Our community is healthy and active with access to open space, facilities and services that support wellbeing."

W3: "Our community has opportunities to design and build safe and inviting places for all to enjoy."

B1: "Our natural environment and waterways are protected, well maintained and enhanced for community enjoyment."

B4: "Our community is resourced, efficient and able to meet our vision."

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications will be considered by an allocation committee of Council Officers and recommendations will be considered and endorsed by Council.

The Community Grants Program is a **competitive** grants program and while every consideration will be given to fund as many projects across as many different areas as possible, not every project can be funded. Some projects may also be considered for partial funding. Successful applications will be decided at the discretion of Council.

If you have any questions regarding the grant, please don't hesitate to contact Community Project Officer on (02) 4645 3031 or email communitygrants@camden.nsw.gov.au.

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MANAGING THE GRANT

Successful applicants will be required to sign a funding agreement and provide a tax invoice if they are registered for GST.

The following conditions apply to all financial assistance allocated through the program;

- to use the funds only for the purpose approved;
- to notify Council and seek approval for any changes to the project for which assistance has been approved. If the project is cancelled or modified without approval, Council reserves the right to seek full reimbursement of Funds. Successful applicants shall finalise the project within 12 months of notification from Council or with approval within 18 months of notification. If the project is not finalised within this time all unspent monies may be requested to be returned to Council;
- should the project exceed the budgeted amount, applicants will be required to meet any additional costs; and
- to ensure acknowledgement of Council is included in all promotional material and/or publications relating to the project.

Successful applicants shall undertake an acquittal process when the project is finalised and provide Council with:

- A completed evaluation form and written report;
- financial statements/invoices; and
- a copy of any promotional/media material, booklets etc.

within the agreed timeframe.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted by Council's SmartyGrants portal.

Incomplete application forms, incomplete paperwork accompanying the grant application or late applications will not be considered

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

In addition to the application form, submissions must include:

- Copy of Certificate of Incorporation or registered charity status
- Copy of your organisation's (or auspicing organisation's) last audited balance sheet
- Copy of ABN/ACN and GST registration confirmation from the Australian Taxation Office
- Evidence of current public liability insurance of \$20,000,000 or more
- Copy of two detailed quotes for projects or equipment purchase.
- Copy of DA approval and/or landowner approval for minor works projects (if applicable)

Please note any applicant with a submission for funding under consideration may not lobby Council Staff or Councillors to provide funding for their submission either verbally or in writing. Any applicant who does so will have their submission withdrawn from consideration for that round of funding with immediate effect.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further enquiries please email communitygrants@camden.nsw.gov.au