

Access & Inclusion Grant

(Capital and non-capital)

Grant Guidelines

Greater Shepparton City Council has a proud history of working in partnership with the community to meet local needs and expectations. One of the ways the Council supports the community is through the Access & Inclusion Grant. This grant delivers funding to support local businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups to improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

The Access & Inclusion Grant provides two streams of funding:

Stream 1: Access & Inclusion Grant - Non-Capital Grants

Funding for access and inclusion improvements for people with disabilities to businesses and not for profit organisations of a **non-structural nature**. Funding of up to, but not exceeding \$1,000 **on a 1:1 matching basis (in-kind and/or financial)**, per successful application.

Stream 2: Universal Access & Inclusion Grant - Minor Capital Grants

Funding for renovations to **improve access** for people with disabilities to business premises. Funding of up to, but not exceeding \$10,000, **on a 4:1 matching basis (financial)**, per successful application.

An organisation cannot obtain funding in more than one stream per financial year.

See the Greater Shepparton City Council website for information on how to apply

www.greatershepparton.com.au

Grant Round **OPENS** 1 March 2023 at 9.00am

Applications **CLOSE** 31 March 2023 at 5.00pm

Please contact Council's Access & Inclusion Officer via telephone 5832 9700

or via email communityadmin@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Please ensure you read the Grant Guidelines carefully to ensure you are eligible to apply and to assist you to complete all sections of the application process.

Grant Objectives & Outline

Stream 1: Access & Inclusion Grant - Non-Capital

The objective of this funding stream is to provide funding for access and inclusion improvements, **of a non-structural nature** that creates improved access and inclusion outcomes to businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups. This grant provides up to \$1,000 per successful application on a 1:1 matching basis. Matching funds can include in-kind funds.

Applications are invited from businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups that demonstrate how their project:

- makes businesses and community group spaces more accessible and inclusive for people with a disability
- encourages more people with a disability, their family and/or friends to visit and/or participate in the community.

Example projects under this stream include:

- development of an accessible website or menu
- engagement of an access and inclusion consultant to review premises and required changes needed to increase accessibility
- accessible and inclusive on site signage
- support for events for people with disabilities e.g. International Day of People with Disability
- development and delivery of attitudinal awareness-raising resources and training for staff, volunteers and/or members of the public
- converting bills, brochures and reports to accessible formats such as Easy English or braille
- purchase of assistive technologies such as hearing loops and height adjustable office furniture.

Please note, these are examples only, we welcome applications that respond to an identified need within the community.

Stream 2: Access & Inclusion Grant - Minor Capital

The objective of this funding stream is to provide funding to businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups **for renovations to improve access for people with disabilities to business premises and premises** used by not for profit organisations and community groups. This grant provides up to, but not exceeding \$10,000, **on a 4:1 matching basis (financial)**, per successful application.

Access and Inclusion Grant – Minor Capital

Applications are invited from businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups that demonstrate how their project:

- improves community access and inclusion to the building/space by making a minor capital investment
- encourages more people with a disability, their family and/or friends to visit and/or participate in the community.

For the purposes of this grant stream, a business is defined as a physical structure or building that is used to produce goods or provide a service. The main types of business premises include but are not limited to:

- a factory/ warehouse
- offices
- retail shop or premises
- workshop/ store

For the purpose of this grant stream, a not for profit premises is defined as:

- community owned facility
- Council owned facility that is operated by a committee.

This stream provides funds up to \$10,000 on a 4:1 financial matching basis to assist with minor capital upgrades to commercial premises, for example:

- removal of barriers e.g. turn styles that inhibit access to the premises, installation of automatic doors
- widening of doorframes
- lighting upgrades
- ramp upgrades/installations
- accessible bathroom upgrade
- implementing a locking system that ensure public toilets are accessible
- installation of handrails
- creating a sensory friendly space
- wayfinding improvements such as Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs) and signage.

Please note, these are examples only, we welcome applications that respond to an identified need within the community.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- be a properly constituted legal entity or be auspice by such a body that is able, and willing, to accept legal and financial responsibility for the project
- be free of debt to Greater Shepparton City Council and have no outstanding acquittals from previous Greater Shepparton City Council grant programs
- be based within the municipality of Greater Shepparton or provide services or benefits primarily to the Greater Shepparton community
- have sufficient funds available to satisfy the matching requirement of the Access and Inclusion Grant Program
- have the required building / planning permission to carry out the proposals sought by the grant application
- not obtain funding from more than one grant stream per financial year.

What will NOT be funded?

- applications from agencies or departments of the Australian and Victorian governments
- applications from schools or educational institutions, unless the proposed project can demonstrate significant involvement of and benefits for the wider community
- projects with participation limited to the school community will not be considered
- projects that duplicate existing services or programs
- projects that deliver a religious or party-political message where the purpose is to advance the organisation's religious beliefs or political views, irrespective of what those beliefs or views may be
- projects located where there are gaming machine venues
- organisations that receive funding/revenue from the sale or profit of alcohol, tobacco and/or gambling
- requests for retrospective funding, including reimbursement of costs already incurred and funding for projects that have already commenced or have been completed before successful grant applications are announced

- general operating expenses such as utility bills, lease or rental payments, wages or salaries, project management costs, etc.
- repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or natural disasters where the incident should reasonably be expected to be covered by property insurance
- applications for projects that engage in activities that promote discrimination, violence or anti-social behaviour
- applications received after the closing date.

Matched Funding

Stream 1 Access and Inclusion Grant (non-capital)

This stream of funding requires the applicant to match funds on a 1:1 basis i.e. Council will contribute \$1 for every \$1 spent by the applicant without the Council's contribution, not exceeding the maximum grant amount of \$1,000. The matching contribution in this stream can be in-kind.

Stream 2 Access and Inclusion Grant (minor capital)

This stream of funding requires the applicant to match funds on a 4:1 basis - i.e. Council to contribute \$4 for every \$1 spent by the applicant - where Council's contribution would not exceed the maximum grant amount of \$10,000. For example, if you intend to apply for a \$10,000 grant, you will need to match this budget with a financial contribution of \$2,500.

Budget and Project Documentation

Stream 1 Access and Inclusion Grant (non-capital)

To allow the Grant Assessment Panel to appropriately assess an application, the applicant is required to provide copies of all documentation including but not limited to the following as part of any grant application:

- a detailed project plan outlining the activities and the projects to be funded through the proposed program
- expected outcomes/anticipated benefits to the community
- examples/samples of the proposed activity/project (where appropriate to do so)
- a detailed budget for the proposal.

Stream 2 Access and Inclusion Grant (minor capital)

To allow the Grant Assessment Panel to assess an application, the applicant is required to provide copies of all documentation including but not limited to the following as part of any grant application:

- evidence of building ownership or permission from the building owner to undertake the proposed buildings, works or signage
- plans or drawings detailing the building's existing condition and proposed changes or upgrades
- photographs of the building and area/s to be upgraded
- evidence of discussions with relevant authorities e.g. Council's Statutory Planning Team and/or building authorities for any permits required for the proposed buildings, works or signage.
- expected outcomes/anticipated benefits to the community
- at least one quotation for proposed works
- a detailed budget for the proposals including the cost for any/all required building and/or planning permits.

General Budget Information

The budget must include details on all income (all sources of funding that will be used to deliver the project) and expenditure (all costs involved in the project). Income and expenditure figures in the budget table of the grant application form must be equal.

A quotation must be provided with your application if any one item exceeds \$1,000.

Assessment

A panel of Council Officers, with broad organisational representation, will be appointed to the Grant Assessment Panel, which will assess all applications.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria and applications then ranked in order of score:

- community benefit
- demonstrated improvement in achieving access and inclusion outcomes for community and / or visitors and / or customers
- project feasibility
- matching component
- evidence of community support.

All applicants will be notified as to the outcome of their application via the email address provided in the application.

Please refer to the timetable on Greater Shepparton City Council's website to confirm the estimated date that applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

In some cases, the Grant Assessment Panel may consider an application as more suited to one of Council's other grant programs. If this occurs, Council will contact you to inform you of this decision and may ask for additional information.

Approvals

In some cases, approvals/permits may be required to carry out the proposed project. Applicants should discuss their project with the responsible body e.g. Council or other relevant Government department before submitting an application.

Any offer of grant funding will be conditional to applicants obtaining any relevant regulatory approvals. The approval/permit must be obtained within 6 weeks of your offer of funding or an extension negotiated and approved. Council Officers can assist applicants with offering advice on the process to seek the required approvals.

Diversity and Inclusion

Greater Shepparton City Council will consider the equitable reach of this funding program during the assessment and final decision-making processes. Projects should support diverse communities including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Migrant and refugee communities
- People with disability
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Asexual communities (LGBTIQ+)
- Women
- Young people
- Seniors.

Gender Equality

Council has a duty to promote gender equality through the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Applicants to Council's grant programs are encouraged to demonstrate evidence of how your organisation considers and promotes gender equality within their policies, programs and services.

Sustainability and Environment

Council has declared a climate emergency and adopted a 2030 Zero Emissions target to address the causes and impacts of climate change that are already affecting our communities.

Applicants to Council's grant programs are encouraged to consider sustainability outcomes and the impact of their project on carbon emissions and minimise carbon emissions i.e. by using recycled products, reducing or eliminating waste, using local products or using renewable energy.

Applications that support communities to thrive under a changing climate will be highly regarded.

Acquittal

You will be required to provide an acquittal to Council when your project is completed.

Your acquittal must include:

- a summary of the project including your feedback on the things that went well and things that you have learned from the project
- a financial statement must be completed attaching a copy of any receipts
- copies of promotional materials, photographs or videos to promote the grant program through Council publications and its website.

The acquittal process is mandatory and important because it enables Council to continuously evaluate the success of the grant program.

All projects will be required to be completed and acquitted within 30 days of completing the project.

Any applicant that fails to submit the acquittal documents will be ineligible to apply for funding under any future rounds of the grant program until the acquittal process is completed and reviewed by Council.

Things to consider when upgrading your business to provide better access

Are you are renting the premises that you operate from?

If yes, you will need the property owner's written permission to make structural changes to the premises.

Are you making structural changes to the building?

If you are making structural changes to the building, e.g. widening doorways or replacing steps with a ramp you need to contact Council's Building Planning and Compliance Department to check whether building, local laws or planning permits are required to carry out the buildings works or signage that you are proposing to undertake.

Are you adding to or upgrading the existing sanitary facilities on the premises?

If you are looking to add accessible sanitary facilities or to upgrade an existing sanitary facility, you need to contact Council's Environmental Health Department to ensure your design is capable of achieving compliance with the current standards. You may also need to obtain a building and or planning permit to carry out these types of works.

Do you need to contact a member of Council's Building, Local Laws or Planning Teams?

If you need to contact Council's Building, Local Laws or Planning Teams, appointments are required for customers wishing to make an enquiry. Appointments are available Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 4.15pm. Appointments can be made online, in person at Council's main office at 90 Welsford Street, Shepparton or by contacting (03) 5832 9700.

Do you want to make your premises more accessible and user friendly for people with disabilities?

If you are looking for more information on how to make your premises more accessible, a good resource to assist you is:

<https://designfordignity.com.au/retail-guidelines/dfd-06-01-guidance-on-premises.html>.

Do you want to make your website more accessible and user friendly for people with disabilities?

If you are looking to design an accessible website or upgrade your existing website, a good resource to assist can be found at:

<https://designfordignity.com.au/retail-guidelines/dfd-08-01-guidance-on-online-retailing.html>.

If you have any question or need any additional information about the Access & Inclusion Grants, please contact Council's Access & Inclusion Officer on 5832 9700 or via email communityadmin@shepparton.vic.gov.au