

Community grants applicant guidelines

For community grant applicants

Version 2.0

Prepared 17 February 2026

This guideline has been prepared to help you apply for our community grants.

Introduction

This community grants program is administered by Community Bank Heywood & District.

Being part of Bendigo Bank is about being part of something bigger. While we provide excellent banking and financial services, we aim to give back to our community. By banking with us, our customers are also helping to support their communities through our sponsorship program.

Our community sponsorship program facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships with eligible organisations in our community.

Your community and not-for-profit organisation can apply for funding to support projects that offer clear community benefit, contributing to social outcomes, community welfare, environmental, health, education, or cultural areas.

You should **read these guidelines before beginning your application.**

Program objectives

The objectives of our program are to:

- Access to business opportunities through your audience.
- Brand awareness/recognition.
- Communication of our key Community Bank message: “Banking is our business. Community is our purpose - Your banking can make a real difference”
- Community banking is based on a ‘profit-with-purpose’ model, which means profits are reinvested back into the community that has generated them.
- Support the growth of a resilient, sustainable, and thriving Heywood and District community.

Social purpose focus areas

Bendigo Bank’s social purpose focus set its agenda for ‘feeding into prosperity’, from its products and services through to its commitment to creating positive social change.

Projects may demonstrate outcomes in:

- Animal welfare
- Choice and empowerment
- Community resilience
- Digital
- Disaster recovery
- Environmental
- Financial
- Health
- Housing
- Learning, skills and development
- Safety
- Social cohesion

5 Key Impact Priorities

Eligible community groups and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding to support projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for the community and align with at least one of our 5 Key Impact Priorities:

Community Connectedness

Drive the community's connectedness through the strengthening of local community groups and facilitating collaborative partnership opportunities.

Health and Wellbeing

Support initiatives that improve the physical and mental health of our community, and increases access to health services

Economic and Tourism

Grow the economic strength of our region through supporting key tourism assets and events, driving economic innovation and encouraging social enterprise.

Education

Support the ongoing sustainability of educational institutions and increase access to educational opportunities.

Youth Engagement and Services

Improve the connectedness of youth to our community and enhance their development and leadership skills.

Key dates

Check the website to determine whether grant rounds have opening dates or all accepted all year around.

You must submit your grant applications at least **eight weeks** before the event or activity is scheduled to allow it to be effectively activated/leveraged.

Eligibility

You must:

- be an incorporated community or not-for-profit organisation
- have a project partner if you are not an incorporated organisation. A project partner is an incorporated community or not-for profit organisation that is willing to enter into the funding agreement on your behalf and help you to deliver the project.
- Preference is given to current Community Bank Heywood & District customers, or organisations willing to become a Community Bank Heywood & District Bank customer. Grant funds will only be deposited to an account held in your organisations name.
- Initiatives must be located in and around Heywood and District and must deliver clear business outcomes for Community Bank Heywood & District.

Who is ineligible?

- individuals or unincorporated organisations without an eligible project partner
- for-profit organisations
- applicant organisations (or partner organisations) with an unsatisfactory result to the Anti Money Laundering / Know Your Customer search.

Use of grant funds

Grant funds can be used for projects which align with the program outcomes.

We will not provide funding for projects that are illegal, commercial or confer private benefits.

We will also not fund projects which:

- take place outside of Heywood & District
- break or attempt to change the law, or direct political donations
- claim retrospective funding – paying for costs already incurred
- involve gambling
- exclude or offend any part of the community
- encourage violence or involve the use of weapons
- mistreat, exploit, or harm animals
- create environmental hazards
- present a danger to public health or safety
- contribute to modern slavery

Assessment criteria

Your application will be competitively assessed against the following merit criteria:

Alignment with program outcomes

- How well aligned is your proposed project to the specific program and social purpose outcomes?
- The extent to which the proposed initiative aligns with the Community Bank's vision, values and objectives.
- The potential for community benefit.
- Need for funding (will your project proceed without our funding).
- The extent to which you demonstrate clear and realistic project goals and objectives.

Feasibility

- There is adequate lead time for the sponsorship to be effectively activated/leveraged.
- The initiative is realistic and achievable (eg timeframes).
- The required permits/insurances are in place.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated clear, realistic and measurable project goals and objectives for the defined audience.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposed initiative (e.g. track record delivering similar projects, adequate resources and staff).

Community support/stakeholder engagement

- Evidence of support from the broader community showing how your project will benefit local people or the local community.
- Evidence of support from other stakeholders who are critical to your project delivery.

Program activation potential

- Potential for the funding to deliver business acquisition outcomes.
- Potential for the funding to deliver increased brand awareness/recognition.
- The extent to which the proposed initiative aligns with our marketing objectives.
- Opportunities for our involvement in project/event.
- A clear demonstration of who the proposed initiative will reach.

Criterion: Capacity to deliver

- Track record delivering similar projects.
- Financial viability (if applicable).
- Proposed project is realistic and achievable.
- Other funding or in-kind support.

Criterion: Value for money

- Budget is reasonable and reflects good value.
- Proposed outcomes are proportionate to proposed investment.

How to apply

You can submit multiple applications for funding for the same grants program, but each project requires its own application unless they are directly related.

We will only accept one application per project.

Use our application hub to complete and submit your online application:

[Home Page - Community Bank Heywood & District](#)

We will send you a confirmation email to your registered email address once your application has been submitted.

To ensure a fair process, we will not accept late applications or provide extensions.

We may contact you during the assessment process to request more information, evidence or to clarify information provided in your grant application.

If we refer this application to the Community Enterprise Foundation to assess and administer, you will be notified and provided with relevant information.

Supporting documentation

You must provide the following supporting documentation for a small grant (less than \$10,000):

- Project budget which clearly shows how you will spend the funds, and quotes for all budget items greater than \$5,000.
- Letters of support to demonstrate community need and benefit (optional).
- Applications involving a project partner must include a letter of their support and a copy of their financials.
- Proof of other approved funding or your own funds to put towards the project. (including in-kind support).
- Evidence of all necessary licenses, permits and insurances which will enable you to run your project (e.g. public liability insurance, local council permits).
- For projects involving children, evidence that relevant personnel have Working With Children Checks.

You must provide additional supporting documentation for large grants (greater than \$40,000):

- Quotes for all budget items greater than \$10,000 (at least two local itemised quotes where possible).
- Plans/designs for projects that involve building or refurbishment.
- Letters of support to demonstrate community need and benefit, particularly for large projects or initiatives that have a sporting or recreational element and need to show wide community benefit.
- A copy of the applicant's minutes of the meeting referring to the application may be requested.

Decisions on applications

Timing of notifications will vary, however applicants are usually notified by email within 1 month of the program closing date.

All requests will be considered by the Community Investment Committee and/or Board of Heywood and District Community Enterprises Limited.

If funding is being provided by Community Enterprise Foundation

The Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF) is proud to facilitate the work of a wide range of very generous donors. However, all funding distributed by the trusts concerned is always at the discretion of the trustee – Sandhurst Trustees Limited whilst considering donor wishes and advice. All grants and scholarships are made from the relevant trust administered by CEF on behalf of Sandhurst Trustees Limited, as trustee. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178.

Grants and appeals outlined are administered by CEF and allocated from the following trusts:
Community Enterprise Foundation (DGR) ABN 69 694 230 518
Community Enterprise Charitable Fund (TCC) ABN 12 102 649 968
Community Enterprise Foundation Disaster Relief Fund ABN 71 589 381 152

Managing your grant

Keeping us informed

You must notify us about anything which is likely to impact your organisation and its ability to deliver your project. This may include, but is not limited to, changes to your organisation's name, address, financial situation, senior staffing arrangements, or significant changes to the project budget.

Grant agreement variations

We understand that circumstances change and things don't always go to according to plan. If there has been a change that will impact your project, you can request a variation to your grant agreement by contacting us.

We will consider your request, and if we decide to accept your proposed changes, we will issue a deed of variation.

Reporting requirements

You will be required to complete a Project Completion Report within 60 days of your nominated project end date. The Project Completion Report will be submitted electronically through the application portal. The report includes information about how the grant was spent, the outcomes, achievements of the project, and any lessons learned.

Privacy information

[View our privacy policy.](#)

Enquiries

Application queries

Heywood & District Community Bank
Email: secretaryhdce@gmail.com

For technical support with application hub

SmartyGrants—Our Community
Phone: 03 9320 6888
Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Your groups, organisations and members need to support us through banking with us.

Please note that our Community Investment Program is in rounds as listed below with strict application and funding deadlines. The grants cycle in the current financial year is as follows:

1st Round

Applications open and launch	1 July 2025
Applications close	31 July 2025
Notification of outcome	31 August 2025

2nd Round

Applications open and launch	1 September 2025
Applications close	30 September 2025
Notification of outcome	31 October 2025

Round 1 Applications

Applications Open	9.00am - 1 September
Applications Close	5.00pm - 10 October
Applications Assessed	11-20 October by sponsorship committee
Applications Approved	Recommendations provided at the October Board Meeting
Applicants Notified	End of November inline with HDCE AGM
Grant Agreement Sent	End of October / Early November
Payment to Application	Within 14 days of tax invoice being received.
Project Finish	Within 12 months of receiving funding (including acquittal)

Round 2 Applications

Applications Open	9.00am - 1 April
Applications Close	5.00pm – 15 May
Applications Assessed	15-25 May by Community Investment committee
Applications Approved	Recommendations provided at the May Board Meeting
Applicants Notified	End of May
Grant Agreement Sent	End of May / June
Payment to Application	Within 14 days of tax invoice being received.
Project Finish	Within 12 months of receiving funding (including acquittal)

The funding of successful applications **will follow shortly after the receipt of a tax invoice** and any other requirements as outlined in the approval letter.