

**GREATER  
MELBOURNE  
FOUNDATION**

*Frankston*  
Charitable Fund

Frankston Community Fund is a community fund of Greater Melbourne Foundation

# **Community Connection Grant**

## **2026 Grant Guidelines**

## Community Connection Grant

### About the Frankston Charitable Fund

The Frankston Charitable Fund (“Fund”) was established as a sub-fund Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation operating as Greater Melbourne Foundation by Frankston City Council (“Council”) in November 2009.

The Fund aims to raise much-needed funds to assist charitable organisations that operate in the Frankston community by encouraging tax-deductible donations that build up the Fund corpus in perpetuity. Each year the Fund is allocated a grants budget which is then made available to eligible charities in the form of grants.

Governed by the Fund’s Terms of Reference, the Fund’s Committee of Management (Committee) is comprised of:

- Council’s Mayor (or delegate)
- One other Council Councillor
- Council’s Director of Communities (or delegate)
- Three community representatives
- Delegate from the Greater Melbourne Foundation

### Contact Us

We’re here to assist you with your application. If you have any questions about this grant or need support, please contact the Committee:

**Email:** [FCF@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:FCF@frankston.vic.gov.au)

[www.frankston.vic.gov.au/FCF](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/FCF)

## Community Connection Grant

**Community Connection Grants provides one-off funding of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to support charitable organisations in delivering programs and projects that meet local community needs, improve community connection and build community capacity.**

### Grant Categories

#### Access, Equity and Social Inclusion

- Activities that improve social inclusion, accessibility, and equitable opportunities for community.

#### Arts & Culture

- Activities that enhance local arts, cultural expression, and creative community initiatives.

#### Health and Wellbeing

- Activities that promote physical and/or mental health, social connections, and/or overall community wellbeing.

#### Sustainability

- Activities that encourage environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and/or sustainable community development.

### Funding Objectives

Funding decisions are guided by the following principles:

Community strengthening through collaboration and partnerships.

Innovative place-based solutions to local community needs.

Focus on prevention and sustainability.

Broad community impact and involvement.

## Timeline



## Eligibility Criteria

### Community group or organisations seeking funding must be:

- **Endorsed as a**
  - **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)** as covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997; and
  - **Tax Concession Charity (TCC).**
- Providing the proposed activity **within the Frankston Local Government Area.**
- **Small to medium organisation** (as classified by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission).

### Funding will not be considered for organisations, projects or programs that are:

- Seeking funding for administration or operating costs (e.g. utility costs) that is more than 25% of the total activity.
- Seeking funding for expenses or activities that are the responsibility of another of Government (Local, State or Federal).
- Seeking retrospective funding for projects that have already started or have been completed.
- Conferences, events or fundraising.
- Capital or endowment funds.
- Clinical or medical research.
- Auspicing – the organisation applying must be the organisation undertaking the activity.
- Have not previously complied with grant conditions (including unable to properly account for prior funds; have not spent funds for the agreed purpose; or have not returned a detailed acquittal form from previous years).

## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the responses to questions in the criteria below:

30%

### Fund Objectives

- Aligns with one or more of the grant categories and addressed the stated principles.
- Addresses a demonstrable community need.
- Enhances community participation, access to resources and/or community partnerships.
- Promotes the capacity of the local community to develop, implement and sustain solutions to issues.
- Places an emphasis on prevention and sustainability.

40%

### Outcomes

- Contributes to innovative place-based solutions to local community needs.
- Results in direct and lasting benefits to the wider community.
- Primarily benefits Frankston City residents.
- Demonstrates no anticipated risk of negative impact on the community.

30%

### Organisational Capacity and Management

- Demonstrates the relevant skills, qualifications and/or experience to successfully deliver the activity.
- Shows sustainability without the need for recurrent funding from the Fund.
- Provides clear and achievable measures of success.

### Value-Add Criteria

• **Based (has a team or office) within Frankston Local Government Area.**

• **Applicants who have not been funded through the Fund for two consecutive years immediately prior to the current application.**

# Application and Assessment Process

## Stage 1 – Activity Brief

<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Open 16 February to 6 March 2026</b>
<b>Where to apply</b>	<p>Submissions must be submitted via the SmartyGrants online portal <a href="https://frankston.smartygrants.com.au/FCF26">https://frankston.smartygrants.com.au/FCF26</a></p> <p>① If you're <b>new to SmartyGrants</b> website, you will need to create a free account.</p>
<b>What to include</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eligibility Checklist</b></li><li>• <b>Organisation information</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Name, address and contact details</li><li>- Description of the organisation including establishment date and geographical areas of services</li><li>- Australian Business Number</li><li>- Contact persons and their details</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Program / Project Brief</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Project/Program title</li><li>- Estimate timeframe</li><li>- Grant amount sought</li><li>- Total budget amount</li><li>- Description of the project/program</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Assessment Process</b>	Stage 1 Applications will be reviewed by the Committee.
<b>Shortlist Announcement</b>	<p>Successful Stage 1 applicants will then be invited to apply for Stage 2 by 30 March 2026.</p> <p>All applicants will be informed of the Committee's decision.</p>

## Stage 2 Application – Full plan and supporting documentation

<b>Submission Deadline</b>	Stage 2 applications open <b>30 March to 26 April 2026</b> .
<b>Where to apply</b>	<p><b>If successful in stage 1 application</b>, the stage 2 form will be added to your original submission. You can access the form by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Logging in at <a href="http://www.frankston.smartygrants.com.au/applicant">www.frankston.smartygrants.com.au/applicant</a> and then clicking the 'My Submissions' link at the top of the page.</li> <li>2. <b>Locate your submission</b> number and the <b>stage 2 form</b> underneath waiting for you to complete.</li> </ol>
<b>What to include</b>	<p><b>Detailed activity plan including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity details</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• Organisational capacity and management</li> <li>• Budget and timeline</li> <li>• Supporting documentation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A copy of the organisation's most recent Notice of Endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient as issued by the ATO.</li> <li>- A copy of the organisation's Notice of Endorsement for Charity Tax Concessions (as issued by the ATO on or after 1 July 2005).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Assessment Process</b>	<p>The Stage 2 Applications will be assessed to ensure they meet grant eligibility and grant criteria. This will include an Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission ("ACNC") search being carried out. Applications that meet grant eligibility and grant criteria are then reviewed by the Committee.</p> <p>Recommended recipients are then reviewed by the Greater Melbourne Foundation's board of directors for approval.</p>
<b>Funding Announcement</b>	<p>All Stage 2 applicants will be informed of the Committee's decision mid-June 2026.</p> <p>Successful applicants will be invited to a celebration event (typically held in July).</p>

## Conditions

- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Only one application can be lodged per organisation per financial year.
- This grant is a competitive process and limited to the amount of funds available. Applicants are not guaranteed funding, and not guaranteed full funding.

The FCF Committee of Management or Council officers:

- May contact or visit organisations to discuss their application to gain a better appreciation of the proposal;
- Reserves the right to meet grant recipients for the purpose of assessing grants or as part of an ongoing visitation program; and
- May use information from the ACNC website as part of the assessment process.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement and submit an acquittal form within 12 months of receiving the grant through the Greater Melbourne Foundation. The Fund is a separate legal entity to Council and therefore operates with their governance requirements.
- Acknowledge the support of the Fund in any promotional material associated with the activity funded. Information and stories on the benefit of the grant are requested and these may, with permission, form the basis of further marketing of the Fund.
- Nominate a representative from the organisation to attend the funding ceremony event in July 2026.

## Support Available

Assistance with	Contact
<b>General enquiries and advice regarding Community Connection Grant.</b>	<b>Frankston City Council's Community Grants &amp; Networks Unit</b> (03) 9784 1035 during business hours FCF@frankston.vic.gov.au
<b>Technical issues with SmartyGrants website</b>	<b>SmartyGrants Support Team</b> (03) 9320 6888 service@smartygrants.com.au
<b>Multilingual support</b> In you need the assistance of an interpreter	<b>Interpreter Service</b> Call 131 450 and state 'Frankston City Council' as the organisation and quote our number 1300 322 322
<b>Communication Access</b> Support service for people with a hearing, speech or communication impairment and for text telephone or modem callers.	<b>National Relay Service</b> To find the NRS call option that best suits you visit: <a href="http://www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs">www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs</a>