



GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL
SMALL TOWN
COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION
GRANTS PROGRAM

2024/25 GUIDELINES

About this grant program

Greater Shepparton City Council is offering funding for community celebration events to be held in small towns across the Greater Shepparton municipality (excluding Shepparton). There will be a separate stream available for funding of a Shepparton community celebration.

The purpose of this funding is to support small towns in delivering community celebrations that enhance community spirit, social connections and participation throughout the community.

This program will only provide funding for events held between 24 January and 29 January 2025 (inclusive). Events held outside of these dates are **not** eligible for funding through this program. It is important to note that only **one event per small town** will be funded through this program.

Greater Shepparton City Council will also provide in-kind support, event equipment, marketing and promotion assistance for eligible applicants.

For the 2024/2025 financial year there is a total funding pool of \$9,000 available. Individual grants between **\$500 and up to \$3,000** are available for successful applicants to conduct activities during the timeframes below.

Council strongly advises you to make contact with the Economic Development department **prior** to making an application to discuss your proposed activity and eligibility. You can contact Council's Team Leader of Major Events via telephone on (03) 5832 9725 or via email sharlene.putman@shepparton.vic.gov.au.

Expected timing for this grant program

Applications will be accepted until 5:00pm on the closing date.

Applications open:	1 July 2024 at 9:00am
Applications close:	11 August 2024 at 5:00pm
Notification of outcome:	September 2024
Activity timeframes:	24 – 29 January 2025 (inclusive)

How to Apply

Applications for this grant program must be submitted via Greater Shepparton City Council's SmartyGrants online portal. You can access this portal via the following link:

<https://greatershepparton.smartygrants.com.au/>

Who can and can't apply?

All applicants' activities must be primarily based in Greater Shepparton.

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits, incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	X	
Registered charitable organisations (refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission)	X	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	X	
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year that are applying for more than one activity	X	
Individuals without an ABN		X
Individual / Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
For profits, commercial entities, registered businesses		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from Greater Shepparton City Council (including auspices)		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to Greater Shepparton City Council or in legal proceedings with Council		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy – related actions against the organisations directors or officers).		X
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community		X

What if you are NOT incorporated?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still make an application by using an auspice. An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application.

If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are intending to make an application using an auspice you must obtain written approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application, and attach this to your application form.

Insurance

Applicants must have Public Liability Insurance with a minimum amount of \$20 million. The Certificate of Currency for this insurance, will be required as part of the application process.

Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation. A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

Permits and Approvals

Activities may require permits and approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying for the grant, however obtaining these approvals will be a condition of the funding.

You must also be able to demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application and include any costings for these permits in the submitted budget.

What if my activity does not proceed?

If you are successful in obtaining a grant and your activity does not proceed, you must contact the Team Leader of Major Events at Greater Shepparton City Council in a timely manner to discuss the circumstances of the activity not proceeding, and organise returning the grant funds provided.

Failure to notify Greater Shepparton City Council of your activity not proceeding will deem future applications for all grants available ineligible.

Program Objectives

The objectives of this program is to:

- celebrate a diverse and inclusive community
- build new social connections and partnerships within communities, and reinforce what already exists
- ensure community celebrations are accessible for all
- encourage community participation
- ensure events held showcase our community identity by engaging local talent, or providing artistic and/or cultural activity at the celebration
- recognises the applicants and winners of the Community Celebration Citizenship Awards
- adequately market and promote the celebration to the community
- recognise the full history of Australia
- enable community members to acquire or develop new skills

Funded activities will:

- be held in one of the small towns in the Greater Shepparton municipality (not including Shepparton)
- occur between the timeframes stated above
- provide an inclusive, safe and accessible outcome for the community of Greater Shepparton
- demonstrate effective partnerships i.e. with other groups and/or across interest groups
- deliver value for money, be well developed, and have reasonable indicators of success for the outcomes expected
- acknowledge Greater Shepparton City Council as sponsors of the activity

The following activities will NOT be funded:

- events and activities held outside of the activity timeframes stated above
- events and activities held in Shepparton or outside of the Greater Shepparton municipality
- activities that do not include an Acknowledgement of Country / and or Welcome to Country
- applications received after the closing date
- applicants who have previously been funded by Council and have failed to comply with the financial, project monitoring and/or reporting requirements of the community grants program
- projects that are clearly a duplication of an existing service, activity or event.
- fundraising activities
- ongoing expenses or projects which have already commenced or have been completed
- projects and activities that are discriminatory in any way, or contravene any legislation.
- politically based organisations with a political message
- groups that receive direct income from electronic gaming machines

Budget

The budget must include details on all income (all sources of funding which will be used to deliver the project, including the requested amount from this grant) and all expenditure (costs involved in the project). Income and expenditure must be equal.

Below is an example of the budget table within the application form.

Please provide a copy of quotes with your application for expenses exceeding \$1,000.

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$
Council Event Grant	\$2,000.00	Face Painting	\$80.00
Market Stall	\$600.00	Community group payments	\$500.00
Cars and Public Entry	\$1,000.00	Bar	\$560.00
Bar	\$800.00	Canteen and BBQ	\$1,750.00
Canteen and BBQ	\$2,000.00	Jumping Castle	\$250.00
	\$	Musicians	\$500.00
	\$	Music equipment hire	\$250.00
	\$	Prizes for Colouring Competition	\$60.00
	\$	Prizes for Car Competition	\$550.00
	\$	Marque Hire	\$300.00
	\$	Craft Table	\$100.00
	\$	Flyers Printing	\$700.00
	\$	Folding of Flyers and distribution	\$100.00
	\$	Advertisement	\$700.00
	\$6,400.00		\$6,400.00

It is also necessary to detail the in-kind contributions, if any, that will be made to the activity in the In-Kind section of the application form. Below is an example of this table within the application form.

If you have volunteers working on the project, include their contribution at the following values:

- \$25 per hour for unskilled labour
- \$40 per hour for qualified trades person
- \$65 per hour for machinery hire, including driver

In-Kind

Please include details of any contributions to the project that you would normally pay for, but are being received at no cost to the project.

If you have volunteers working on the project, include their contribution valued at:

- \$25 per hour for unskilled labour
- \$40 per hour qualified trades person
- \$65 per hour machinery hire including driver

Person or organisation*	Task	Hours/Rate	Amount In-Kind*
Committee	Labour set up and remove display	10 hrs/\$25	\$250
Recreation Reserve	Loan of tables and chairs		\$100
Joe Blough	Sound equipment and tech support	4 hrs/\$40	\$160
Mary's Newsagents	Photo copy flyers		\$100
			Total* \$610

[Add Row](#)

If your organisation is registered for GST the budget should be filled in GST exclusive. If your organisation is not registered for GST you should fill in the budget GST inclusive. Please refer to the www.ato.gov.au website for further details.

How will applications be assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- Eligibility checks against criteria for the funding of this program
- Panel Assessment with broad representation from Council Departments

The Assessment Panel will consider the following:

- Does the activity meet the objectives and activities of the program
- Does the activity have a broad community benefit including social and economic benefit
- Is the activity well planned and feasible within the timeframes provided
- Evidence that the activity will be well supported by the community
- Evidence that the activity will be inclusive and accessible for the whole community
- Does the intended activity align with the following strategic documents:
 - Greater Shepparton City Councils Plan
 - Other Master Plan or other Council Strategy.

The Council Plan and other Strategies can be accessed at www.greatershepparton.com.au

Once applications have been assessed by the panel, a recommendation of funding will be presented to the relevant Department Director to provide final award of the grant funding under delegated authority.

Notification of outcome

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 above to confirm the date we aim to notify you of the outcome of your application.

Multiple applications from one organisation will **not** be funded under this program.

If your application is successful

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement and adhere to the conditions of the agreement.
- Spend the grant money in accordance with the conditions stated in the funding agreement and provided for in the application.
- Return any unspent funds at the completion of the activity, or at the end of the agreement unless prior written approval has been obtained to expend the funds in another way.
- Complete in full detail an acquittal form to the satisfaction of Council including receipts to evidence expenditure of grant funding.

If your application is NOT successful

If your application is not successful you will be notified in writing and provided with an opportunity to discuss the outcome with the Program Coordinator and Grants Coordinator.

In some cases, the assessment panel may consider your application more suited to one of Council's other grant programs. If your application is more suited with another funding program, Council will contact you and let you know.

If an application is made to an alternative funding stream within Council, only one funding application may be considered per financial year for the same activity.

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of funding. Whilst unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application prior to ensure it fits the objectives of the program and assessment criteria before doing so.

Diversity and Inclusion

Council acknowledges, celebrates and supports the diversity of the Greater Shepparton community, as a tool to ensure activities and programs are inclusive of all. It is therefore important applicants demonstrate a range of diversity strategies within their application.

Below are examples of ways in which you may demonstrate inclusion of all in your program/activities. Please note, these are examples ONLY and we encourage your group to develop a range of inclusion practices unique to your application.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- migrant and refugee communities
- people with a disability
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Asexual communities (LGBTIQ+)
- Women, young people and seniors
- provision of accessible facilities such as parking, toilets, ramp access and accessible seating
- gender inclusion
- information available in accessible formats, such as large print, alternative language, plain English, the use of interpreters, such as Auslan for people who are Deaf
- availability of a broad range of foods
- ensuring all published materials avoids acronyms and jargon
- take religious and cultural occasions into consideration when planning events.

Council Officers are available to support you with identifying, capturing and reflecting diversity within your application through the following contacts:

- Aboriginal Engagement Officer
- Access and Inclusion Officer
- Multicultural Development Officer
- Youth Development Officer
- Positive Ageing Officer
- Social Equity and Safety Coordinator.

Please contact Customer Service on (03) 5832 9700 and ask to speak to the relevant Officer/s. Alternatively, you can contact the relevant Officer via council@shepparton.vic.gov.au.

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:

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.

You are encouraged to visit the Greater Shepparton City Council website for more information on Council's commitment to the environment:

<https://greater-shepparton.com.au/animals-environment-and-waste/environment>

Final Acquittal

You will be required to report back to Council when your event is completed. The Acquittal process is important because it enables Council to continuously evaluate the success of the program.

You must report back to Council within the timeframe provided in your funding agreement. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement. It is a requirement that receipts for expenditure is included in your acquittal and attached accordingly.

Council officers may request meetings with you to check the progress or undertake an independent audit of the records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available in the event of an audit by the Council into the use of the grant. An organisation which fails to submit their acquittal documents is deemed ineligible to apply for any future funding from Council, until their acquittal is completed and approved by Council.

Major Events Assistance

In addition to providing grants, the following assistance and advice is available from Council's Major Events Team to event organisers who deliver an event in Greater Shepparton:

- Specialised event advice on meeting and managing the expectations of the event
- Specialised event advice (site planning, risk management, OH&S)
- Assistance with promotion, marketing and advertising strategies
- Assistance with selection of appropriate accommodation for external visitors
- Assistance with selection of event and function venues and facilities for entertainment options
- Assistance with pre and post touring options around the region if required
- Assistance with obtaining appropriate event permits required in the region
- Equipment assistance such as bollards, witches hats, event signage, branded signage, and flags.

Contact Details

Greater Shepparton City Council

Major Events Team

Phone: (03) 5832 9795

Email: sharlene.putman@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Website: greater-shepparton.com.au



CONTACT US

Business hours: 8.15am to 5pm weekdays

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