

Purpose of the Dorset Councillors Discretionary Grants stream

Dorset Councillors Discretionary Grants provide community groups with funding for projects that are on Council owned or managed land.

Groups and organisations must submit an “Application for permit to carry out works on Council land, facility and/or asset” and have written approval from Council prior to applying for a Discretionary Grant.

Funding Available

Applications for funding of up to \$15,000.00 (excluding GST) are invited.

Eligible Requirements

Who can apply:

- Not-for-profit community based groups and community-based organisations who want to do a project to build stronger connections in the Dorset community;
- Not be applying, during the same grant round, under another grant stream (of the Council’s Community Grants Program) for the same project.
- Be an organisation that operates or delivers services in the Dorset municipal area; and

What may be funded:

- Projects that respond to local community issues;
- Projects that increase participation in community sport, recreation, physical health and activity;
- Arts and cultural projects that stimulate the local community’s creativity and cultural development.

What will not be funded:

- Late or incomplete applications;
- Applications that have submitted quotes which are more than 3 months old at the closing date of the relevant grant round they are applying under;
- Duplicate of an existing public or private program;
- Projects/programs not delivered in the Dorset municipality;
- Support programs or services;
- Applications seeking retrospective funding for projects that commence prior to closure of the grant round;
- Established Events;
- Replacement funding lost from other funding sources;
- Feasibility Studies;
- Trophies or prize money;
- Activities with fund-raising outcomes;
- Ongoing administration costs;

- Pay for an organisations operating expenses not directly related to the awarded project;
- Purchase land or buildings;
- Pay for any travel expenses;
- Applications that have been successful in other Dorset grant streams in the same financial year for the same project will not be considered.
- Projects that are not on Council-owned or managed land

Applicant Steps

1. Review the Dorset Councillors Discretionary Grants Guidelines;
2. Complete an application form and provide all relevant documentation;
3. Meet with relevant Council staff to discuss project eligibility and feasibility;
4. Determine resources needed and total project budget. Determine the resources that will be required to complete the project. Determine which of these the applicant organisation can supply and which will need Council funding;
5. Submit draft application to Council for review/feedback (*please allow at least 5 working days for a response*);
6. Complete and submit a final application, available on the Dorset Council website at <https://www.dorset.tas.gov.au/community-grants-funding-program> or from the Dorset Council Office at 3 Ellenor St, Scottsdale.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed by the Dorset Council Community Grants Selection Panel. Applicants must demonstrate:

- Management capacity of applicant organisation;
- Level of volunteer, in-kind and financial input from application organisation;
- Number of Dorset residents to benefit;
- Potential to meet a community need;
- Level of community acceptance and support;
- Acceptable timeframes
- Preference will be given to applications that employ local Dorset contractors and source products from local suppliers.

Critical Dates (2026/2027 Round 1)

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| ➤ Grant round opens: | 29 July 2026 |
| ➤ Grant round closes: | 21 October 2026 |
| ➤ Application outcome determined: | 14 December 2026 |
| ➤ Grant funds released: | 15 December 2026 |