

Purpose of the Dorset Small Grants stream

Dorset Small Grants contribute to community life in Dorset. Community groups and organisations are encouraged to apply for financial assistance towards programs, projects or events that improve the wellbeing of people living in Dorset.

If the project is 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 Dorset Community Grant.

Funding Available

Applications for funding of up to \$2,000.00 (excluding GST) are invited.

Eligibility 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.

What may be funded:

- Projects or events which contribute to the quality of community life in Dorset;
- Projects which address a clearly demonstrated community need;
- Purchase of equipment to support a project or activity;
- Minor capital works (subject to obtaining relevant approvals and permits);
- Community workshops or seminars for members of voluntary management committees.

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.

Applicant Steps

1. Review the Dorset Small 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;
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;
- Potential to enhance opportunities for disadvantaged community members;
- Level of community acceptance and support;
- Acceptable time-frames;
- 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 |