



## Policy 53 – Emergency Relief Grant

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**Minute 162/17**

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Council Minute No: **156/21**

### OBJECTIVE

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To provide a framework for Council to allocate funds in an efficient and effective manner to local residents experiencing sudden hardship or disaster.

### POLICY

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Council will consider providing up to a maximum of \$1000 financial assistance to individuals that reside in the Dorset municipal area who experience sudden financial hardship due to: (i) destruction or damage of property not caused intentionally, (ii) a family emergency, or (iii) other emergency/disaster associated changes in circumstances beyond the individual/s control.

#### *Funding Allocation*

In preparing its annual budget, Council will determine the overall budget allocation for the Emergency Relief Grant.

#### *Assessment and Determination*

Assessment and determination for providing financial assistance under the program will be undertaken by Dorset Council's Emergency Relief Grant Panel, comprised of three Councillors.

Only individuals that permanently reside in the Dorset municipality will be eligible to apply for funding under the grant.

Applicants seeking (i) to replace funding lost from other funding sources, or (ii) funding assistance that could otherwise be provided via a more suitable program or service, are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

No written application is necessary, and each situation will be considered in relation to financial context, known individual circumstances, urgency of necessary assistance and personal merit. Specific information may be sought from individuals or acquaintances to assist the Selection Panel in their decision-making process.

#### *Funding Notification*

Councillors will be notified of any allocation of funds through the Community and Development departmental briefing report, provided within the Council Meeting Agenda, which will include reasoning behind the allocation of funding. Personal details of applicants (or acquaintances of applicants approached to assist decision-making) may not be disclosed publicly, in order to maintain discretion and protect individuals' privacy as appropriate.