

# **COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2026 - 2027**

All projects must be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2027

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Alpine Shire Council (Council) is committed to working in partnership with our local community groups, sporting clubs and organisations to provide funding for projects that support inclusive community participation in many areas including:

- arts and culture
- sports and recreation
- community connection and wellbeing
- sustainability and the environment.

Our [Council Plan 2025-29](#) including the **Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan**, outlines the **3 objectives** that provide the context for our **strategic directions** over the coming years to build on our already vibrant communities and our spectacular landscape and natural environments. Our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is integrated within our Plan and has been prepared based on evidence of the key health and wellbeing challenges facing our communities.

Health and wellbeing are central to a wide range of services that we deliver, from maintaining our parks, playgrounds, and facilities, to youth engagement, climate change resilience, and ensuring equitable access to services and facilities for our communities

Applications to this program are encouraged to align to the following Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing, Fair Access, and Disability Access and Inclusion priorities:

- Improving mental wellbeing and connectedness across all stages of life
- Gender equity and prevention of gender-based violence
- Increasing healthy lifestyles through resilient food systems, fresh food and physical activity
- Reducing the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing
- Promotion of women, girls, and trans participation in community sports
- Reducing barriers for those with any form of disability participating in community life
- Engagement with First Nations people, and meaningful reconciliation activities.

Applications for the 2026-2027 Community Grants program will be via SmartyGrants, an electronic grants submission system.

All applicants must use SmartyGrants to manage their project application, and our Engage Alpine platform for their acquittal, this is not the responsibility of Alpine Shire Council.

More information is available at Alpine Shire Council's website:

<https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-grants>

## 2. ACCESSIBILITY

These guidelines are available in an 'easy read' format, which can be found on our webpage. If you would like to receive these guidelines in hard-copy format, please contact:

Alpine Shire Council by calling 03 5755 0555 or emailing [info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au)

Alternatively, if you are d/Deaf or find it hard to hear or speak to hearing people on the phone, please contact the **National Relay Service** by calling 133 677, visiting [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au), or download the **NRS app** via <http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/the-nrs-app>.

### 3. FUNDING

To provide maximum access to funding, the assessment panel endeavours to divide available funds across a broad range of projects, meaning that grants for as little as \$100 (one hundred), and as much as \$10,000 (ten thousand) are considered. This year, Council has a funding pool of \$90,000 (ninety thousand dollars). Council may elect not to allocate the entire budget in this funding round.

#### **Further Community Funding Opportunities:**

Community groups and organisations within the Alpine Shire are also encouraged to get in contact with **Community Bank Bright** and **Community Bank Mount Beauty & District** for further funding opportunities. Our Community Banks give up to 80% of their profits back to community and are committed to supporting local community groups and organisations to achieve their goals.

For more information about **Community Bank Bright's** Sponsorships and Grants round, email [sponsorship@communitybankbright.org](mailto:sponsorship@communitybankbright.org), or visit Community Bank Bright's [webpage](#).

**Community Bank Mount Beauty & District** has two funding rounds commencing in January and July each year - closing on 30 March and 30 September respectively. Eligible groups can contact Community Bank Mount Beauty & District for information about sponsorship on **03 5754 4484**. Application forms and further information are also available via email to the Company Secretary at [kmmcel@westnet.com.au](mailto:kmmcel@westnet.com.au).

### 4. FUNDING CRITERIA

Funding will support a broad range of initiatives within the Alpine Shire that contribute to the building of healthy, strong, resilient, and connected communities. Applications to this Program are encouraged to align to the following [Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing](#), [Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-29](#), and [Fair Access Policy](#) priorities:

- Improving mental wellbeing and connectedness across all stages of life
- Gender equity and prevention of gender-based violence
- Increasing healthy lifestyles through resilient food systems, fresh food and physical activity
- Reducing the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing
- Promotion of women, girls, and trans participation in community sports
- Reducing barriers for those with any form of disability participating in community life
- Engagement with First Nations people, and meaningful reconciliation activities.

Grants are open to **not-for-profit community organisations, clubs** and **youth groups** for projects that will take place in the Alpine Shire, and that demonstrate benefit to the residents of the Alpine Shire.

Alpine Shire Council recognises and acknowledges the ongoing connection of First Peoples and Traditional Owners of the land which is known as the Alpine Shire. We encourage First Peoples and

Traditional Owners to apply for community grants to support local activities, projects including, but not limited to, National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

Funding Categories

## 4.1 Funding Categories

### 4.1.1 COMMUNITY PROJECT - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Permanent structures and assets including, but not limited to, new items within community buildings, items for playgrounds, sculptures, new or improved recreational infrastructure to existing facilities, and projects requiring seed funding will be considered. Improvements to Council owned property will be considered. This may include but is not limited to new equipment, such as dishwashers, provision of shade and new tables and chairs.

Priority will be given to community sports infrastructure improvements that are in line with [Gender Equality Act 2020](#), and the [Fair Access Policy](#), that create sports and recreation spaces that are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive; and provide women and girls equitable access to and use community sporting and recreation infrastructure.

***Maintenance of any infrastructure is not eligible.***

### 4.1.2 COMMUNITY PROJECTS - NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Non-structural items including, but not limited to, newsletters, portable BBQs to support community events, computers, storage, sporting equipment and lawnmowers for sporting clubs will be considered.

### 4.1.3 YOUTH PROJECTS

This is an opportunity for young people aged between 12 to 25 years to develop a project to benefit their community. In the process the applicant will develop skills and experience to assist them in their future endeavours.

Young people who are seeking funding for a project must have the support of an incorporated group or organisation to auspice their project (this could be a school, sporting, or community group).

## 5. WHAT WON'T BE FUNDED?

Applications involving:

- retrospective funding for projects already commenced or completed.
- maintenance to Council owned buildings, which may include painting and repairs, covered under Alpine Shire Council's maintenance policy.
- maintenance to buildings owned by other Government agencies whether subject to a Committee of Management or not.
- maintenance or improvements to privately owned buildings
- salaries
- projects submitted for commercial activities and by for profit organisations.

- religious activities
- projects which take place outside of the Alpine Shire
- projects which are not primarily for the benefit of residents of the Alpine Shire
- fundraising activities, competitions, sponsorship, prizes, and awards
- individual community members owning resources.
- projects that have a negative impact on the environment
- projects that involve the planting of non-native vegetation will not be considered.
- community events (you must apply for [Alpine Shire Council's Events funding](#).)

## 6. WHO CAN APPLY?

- Incorporated not-for-profit groups and organisations
- An unincorporated organisation (including formal and informal youth groups) auspiced by an incorporated organisation.
- Traditional Owner Corporations and First Nations peoples living in the Alpine Shire (incorporated or unincorporated auspiced by an incorporated organisation)

## 7. WHO CANNOT APPLY?

- Individuals
- For profit organisations or businesses
- Government agencies and political groups
- **Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous Council grants** or who have outstanding debts to Council or who are subject to legal action.

## 8. AUSPICE ORGANISATIONS

To auspice is to lend support to another person or group. In the context of grant applications, the auspice organisation is one that receives the grant money on your behalf and is responsible to ensure the project is completed. You may need to seek an auspice organisation if your group is not incorporated, does not have a bank account or if your group will not be ongoing; you should partner with an organisation with similar vision or values to yours.

If you require an auspice arrangement, you will need to provide a letter of support by your auspice organisation or have the auspice organisation sign the application.

More information about using an auspice arrangement can be found at: <https://www.nfplaw.org.au/auspicing>

## 9. DEVELOPING YOUR BUDGET

The Budget for your project must include a breakdown of your income sources (including other sponsorship, donations, and in-kind support) and all expected expenditure.

Applicants are required to demonstrate a minimum 25% contribution from their organisation and/or the community toward the project cost; this may be cash, in-kind or donated items. A maximum of 10% of an organisation's contribution can be made up of unskilled labour.

- **In-Kind Contributions**

In-kind contributions can be in the form of donations of materials, equipment, workspaces, labour etc. The value of these contributions must be included in the Project Budget

- **In-Kind Labour**

- In-kind labour refers to work completed by volunteers at no cost to your group/organisation and should be calculated at \$25 per hour. A maximum of 10% of an organisation's contribution can be made up of unskilled labour.

e.g., 5 club volunteers work for 2 hours each preparing a site = 10 volunteer hours @ \$25.00 per hour = \$250.00 in-kind.

- Skilled in-kind labour such as earthmovers, qualified tradespeople and those with professional skills should be calculated at their usual charge out rate, if you do not know this, calculate at \$45 per hour e.g., 15 hours @ \$45 = \$675 in-kind.

- **Cash Contributions**

Refers to money committed to your project by your group/organisation, other organisations, or funding bodies. It is not compulsory to make a cash contribution. If a cash contribution is being made to the project, by a group who are going to partner with the applicant, the applicant must show evidence of the availability of these funds and their allocation to the project; this could be through letters of support and/or bank statements to show the cash is available and is allocated to this project. Failure to follow through with the commitment of funds will result in breach of contract with Alpine Shire Council and the Community Grant will be cancelled.

- **Expenditure**

Council must try to get the best value when spending public money and will expect applicants to provide copies of quotes to support applications. To help support local businesses and the local economy, Council encourages applicants to seek quotes from local and regional businesses where possible. GST must be included in the project budget.

**Sample budget:**

Income		Expenditure	
Description	\$Amount	Description	\$Amount
Provide details of how you will pay for the project		Provide details of the total cost of the project	
Building Supplies donated by local business	\$1,050.00	Building Supplies (in kind)	\$1,050.00
Cash from my organisation or another donor	\$620.00	Freight for building supplies	\$200.00
Volunteer Project Manager (skilled in this area) 18 hours @ \$45	\$810.00	Building Permit	\$127.00
Site Preparation (unskilled labour) 20 hours x \$25 (maximum 10% of total project cost)	\$500.00	Project Coordination (in kind)	\$810.00
		Site Preparation (in kind)	\$500.00
		Building Contractor	\$8,000.00
	<b>\$2,980.00</b>		<b>\$10,687.00</b>

Total Expenditure	Less	Total Income	Grant Request
\$10,687.00		\$2,980.00	\$7,707.00

Minimum 25% of this project must be contributed by applicant (total \$10,687 ÷ 4) = \$2,671

Maximum unskilled labour contribution 10% of total project cost = \$1,068

## 10. ENGAGING A CONTRACTOR

If you anticipate using a contractor to undertake work, it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all businesses maintain the relevant and appropriate insurance cover and manage occupational health and safety requirements.

If your Capital Works Project is valued at over \$5,000, please provide a statement from the contractor that they have the capacity to complete the project within the stated timeframe.

## 11. APPLICATION PROCESS

Successful applicants will be required to promote the project and acknowledge Council’s contribution at an appropriate time, i.e., during an event, at the completion of a project and on all promotional material. (Council logo and guidelines for use will be supplied on request).

You will be asked to respond to questions about your project including:

- Describe the project and the value of the project to the community.

- Do you have relevant permits / permission to undertake the project i.e., permission of the landowner, building permits etc.
- Provide a Work Plan i.e., a timeline of the project and who will be responsible for completing different tasks.
- Who will own the infrastructure and be responsible for maintenance?

You will need to provide:

- Project budget including 25% contribution by your group – this can be cash or in kind.
- Copy of quotes for goods or services to support your budget.
- Financial statement of your club / organisation
- A statement of intended expenditure for next financial year if your bank balance exceeds \$10,000.
- Letter from other donors confirming their contribution to the project.
- Letter of support / permission from owner of the land/property where your project will take place.
- Statement from contractor of capacity to complete the project within the stated timeframe for Capital Works projects valued at over \$5000.
- Letters of support and written quotes will strengthen your application.

*Applications will only be assessed once submitted formally online.*

You will receive a confirmation of submission from SmartyGrants to your email address along with a PDF copy of your submission for your records. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, your application has not been correctly submitted.**

Under no circumstances will late applications be accepted.

Applicants are reminded that grants are **one off** amounts of money to assist groups with a specific project and should not be relied upon as an ongoing secured funding source.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining any permits necessary to complete the proposed project and should include cost of permits in their budget.

## 12. TIMELINE

- Advise outcomes to applicants from 30 July 2026.
- Project or program delivery completed and **acquitted** by midnight 30 June 2027.

## 13. PAYMENT OF GRANT

Successful applicants must submit evidence that the project has commenced or has been completed when claiming payment of the expended funds; all funds will be paid by direct deposit to the applicant's bank account unless by prior arrangement.

Funds will only be paid for the project contained in the application. If the project is completed under budget, applicants will only be paid for the actual cost of the project.

On completion of the project, applicants must submit final report on the online acquittal report which is provided to successful applicants.

Groups which fail to complete their project, or which fail to submit their completion report to Council, may not be eligible to apply for future community grants.

## 14. ACQUITTALS

If you receive a grant from Alpine Shire Council, you will need to complete an acquittal (or completion) report at the conclusion of your funded activity. **You will need to acquit the grant within 3 months of receiving the grant amount**, or prior to 30 June 2027 (whichever comes first.) This is an online process, via Smartygrants, which evaluates the project and reports back on how the funds were spent.

You will be asked to provide information about your completed project, such as:

- a description of your project and how it met your objectives.
- an evaluation of the impact of your project, including things like attendance figures, and community impact.
- a financial reconciliation, showing your actual finances compared with the budget you submitted to Alpine Shire Council
- supporting documentation, including receipts, photos, and media.

## 15. COVID-19

All activities undertaken must adhere to current COVID-19 guidelines. This may mean your current plan of activities needs to be varied by delivery method, timing, or other ways. If this is the case, please discuss with Community Development Coordinator about necessary adjustments.

For further information on the current COVID-19 requirements, refer to the Department of Health website <https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/about>

## 16. PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

The personal information requested is being collected by Alpine Shire Council for the purposes of administering the Alpine Shire Community Grants Program. Alpine Shire Council treats all personal information provided by an individual or organisation in support of this funding application in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the Public Records Act 1973. Refer to [Privacy | Alpine Shire Council](#) for more details.