



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL GRANTS

Grant Guidelines

Community Grants and Micro Grants
2026-2027 Round 1

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Purpose of Georges River Council Grants

Georges River Council (Council) Grants provide not-for-profit organisations, unincorporated community groups, residents and local businesses funding for projects that benefit the community.

What is Council looking for in Grant Applications?

- Projects which align with the Community Strategic Plan and other plans and strategies, such as:
 - Create Georges River Cultural Strategy
 - Disability Inclusion Action Plan
 - Libraries 2030 Georges River Library Strategy
 - Environmental Resilience Action Plan
 - the Social Justice Charter.
- Projects where multiple groups and organisations deliver the project as partners.
- A demonstration the project will increase the capacity of your organisation to deliver social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits to people in Georges River.
- Projects that are financially sustainable and not reliant on ongoing Council funding.
- Projects that are inclusive of all members of the Georges River community.

Support Available

To apply for a grant, you need to speak with the Grants and Project Officer about your project. The Grants and Project Officer can help you through the application process and make sure you meet the eligibility criteria for the grant you are applying for.

- Support from the Grants and Project Officer – email grants@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
- Information sessions – applicants can learn about grant round requirements and ask questions. Registrations essential via Humanitix.

[#1 – Wednesday 8 July, 3:00pm - 4:30pm, Hurstville Library, Miles Franklin Room](#)

[#2 - Monday 13 July, 5:00pm – 6:30pm, online](#)

[#3 – Thursday 23 July, 4:00pm – 5:30pm, Clive James Library, Activities Room](#)

[#4 - Thursday 30 July, 5:00pm – 6:30pm, online](#)

Grants Help Hub

The [Grants Help Hub](#) on Council's website can help with your application.

- Online training and resources
- Free grant workshops

People with Disability

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, you can contact us through [National Relay Service](#). You will need to provide our phone number, 02 9330 6400.

Help with Grants in your Language

If you need help with information about our grants in other languages, contact the [Translating and Interpreting Service](#). You will need to provide our phone number, 02 9330 6400.



Grants Process

Applications

1.	Visit the Community or Micro Grants webpage .
2.	Read the Grant Guidelines and pages 13-14 of Council's Grants and Donations Policy .
3.	Speak to the Grants and Project Officer before applying. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (02) 9330 9369• grants@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
4.	Start your application in SmartyGrants - georgesriver.smartygrants.com.au
5.	Complete and submit your application before the round closing date .

Assessment

- All applications are assessed for eligibility and alignment with the assessment criteria. Recommendations are made by Council officers, including those with knowledge and expertise relevant to the project.
- All assessors are required to make a conflict of interest declaration on each application as part of the assessment process.
- Assessors provide feedback on each application to support applicants to improve each round.

Assessment Criteria



Notification

- You will be notified of the outcome of your application in writing as outlined in the Key Dates in these guidelines.
- Once you have received notification, if successful, you will receive next steps on how to accept the grant. All successful applicants will receive feedback on their application.



- If unsuccessful, you will have the option to receive feedback on your application. Receiving feedback is strongly encouraged.

Important Application Information

The grant application form includes questions about how your project responds to child safety, and inclusion and accessibility. Responses to these questions will be assessed against the assessment criteria.

Child Safety

Council commits to putting children first and championing child safety within our community. If your application involves [working with children](#) you must attach a copy of your organisation's child protection policy to the application.

If you do not have a formal child protection policy, you must outline how you intend to comply with legislation relating to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children.

Inclusion and Accessibility

All applicants need to explain how their project is accessible to and inclusive of the community.

Council's [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) (2022-2026) ([Easy Read version](#)) guides Council's approach to enabling people with disability to have greater access to Council information, services and facilities.

Reporting Requirements

Acquittals

Grant recipients are required to submit an acquittal (report) to Council at the end of the project period. The acquittal must show that funding was spent as planned in the application. If acquittals are not submitted, the organisation will be ineligible for future funding.

Grant recipients may also be required to provide an update on the project in the middle of the grant delivery period. This update will be via a scheduled phone call with the Grants and Project Officer.

Project Variations

If your project varies from the original grant application (e.g. timeline, budget, activity), you will need to submit a Project Variation Request. Contact the Grants and Project Officer if any project variations occur to request the Project Variation Request Form.

Financial Reporting

If your organisation receives more than \$15,000 from Council in a financial year, Audited Financial Statements must be provided to Council. Failure to do so will render new applications ineligible.

If your organisation is not able to conduct an audit at the end of the financial year, ensure your organisation does not apply for more than \$15,000 in total funding and in-kind support from any of Council's financial assistance programs in any financial year.



Some organisations may be exempt in alignment with the auditing requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. See the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website](#) for more information.

Community Grants 2026-2027 Round 1

Overview

Community Grants enable organisations to deliver projects that meet identified community needs and encourage community participation and inclusion.

Key dates

Applications open	Monday 6 July 2026
Applications close	11:59pm, Friday 14 August 2026
Assessment period	August – October 2026
Applicants notified	November - December 2026
Project timeframe	Small Projects: January 2027 – December 2027 Major Projects: January 2027 – December 2028
Acquittal due	Small Projects: January 2028 Major Projects: January 2029

Funding available

\$145,000

Funding Categories

1. Small Projects – Up to \$10,000
2. Major Projects – Up to \$25,000

Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated benefit to the Georges River Community.
- Demonstrated capacity to deliver.
- Be open to the general public, inclusive and not discriminatory.
- Have submitted required acquittals from previously awarded grants.
- Commence the project after the grant funding commencement date. Grant requests cannot be retrospective, recurrent or ongoing.
- Registered not-for-profit or community organisation with a registered not-for-profit as auspice.
- One submission per category. If an organisation is in a partnership or auspice with another organisation, this will not impact the eligibility of an application from an individual organisation.
- Proof of current Public Liability insurance.
- Applications relating to modification of a Council facility require written Council approval.
- Quotes/estimates for budget items over \$500 must be provided.

Ineligibility Criteria

- Projects that duplicate existing services.
- Fundraising, sponsorship or projects seeking prize money or gifts for attendees.
- Unlawful, unethical or profit-making purposes, or towards any political purposes.
- Activities for religious purposes unless the applicant can demonstrate broader community benefit.



- Entities or individuals contributing to the infringement of human rights, including not complying with Modern Slavery Legislation.
- Projects or events that primarily benefit a single individual or private function.
- Submissions from schools or Government agencies.
- Costs for uniforms, travel or subsistence costs (e.g. meals, accommodation, parking fees etc.).
- Funding ongoing operational expenses (e.g. rent, staff wages unrelated to project delivery, insurance, office equipment or other ongoing costs).

Working with other community organisations

Partnership applications are encouraged. Partnership applications will not negatively impact an application submitted by an individual organisation. Potential partner organisations can be identified in the [Community Support Services Directory](#) available on Council's website. All partnership applications require letters from each organisation outlining their role in the project.

Auspice

If you are a community organisation that is not a registered not-for-profit and/or does not have public liability insurance, an eligible auspice can support your application and project delivery. An auspice is responsible for signing the Grant Agreement with Council, receiving the grant funds, and providing acquittals. Applications with an auspice require a letter and/or memorandum of understanding confirming the arrangement.

Budget

Clear budget information is required with all applications to state what grant money will be spent on.

- All figures should be GST inclusive.
- Applicants are encouraged to include multiple sources of funding to support the project.
- Volunteer in-kind contribution should be costed at \$25/hour.
- Admin and evaluation expenses should not exceed 10% of the project budget.
- Organisations registered to pay GST on goods and/or services needs to include GST in the budget and grant amount requested. It is the responsibility of the applicant to pay GST.
- Quotes/estimates for budget items over \$500 must be provided.

Additional Supporting Documentation

You will be asked to provide documents with your application. Please ensure there is enough time to upload these documents with your application. Standard supporting documents include:

- A copy of the organisation's not-for-profit status.
- A copy of public liability insurance or quote for public liability insurance (to be taken up following the approval of the grant).
- Letter(s) of support from community or local business partners.
- Child protection policy, if applicable.

Venue Hire

If your project includes venue hire of a Council venue or facility, you must include the venue hire as part of your Community Grant application. Your venue hire submission will be considered for a Venue Hire Grant. **You do not need to complete an additional Venue Hire Grant application.**

For a Venue Hire Grant to be considered, you need to provide a venue booking invoice from Council including the venue name, dates of use and total cost estimate. Venue hire must be within the project period and directly related to the Community Grant project.



How to make a tentative booking for the venue/facility:

Make a tentative booking for the venue/facility and attach your confirmed booking invoice to the application form.	
To book the Marana Auditorium or the Civic Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Hurstville Entertainment Centre webpage • Contact the Entertainment Team on entertainment@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au or 02 9330 6400.
To book all other venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Georges River Council's online booking system
To book a Library room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Library Spaces webpage to choose and book a space
To book a park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Hire a Park or Sports Field webpage • Book using Georges River Council's online booking system
To book St. George Venues Jubilee Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Jubilee Stadium webpage

How to apply

1.	Visit the Community Grants webpage .
2.	Read the Grant Guidelines and pages 13-14 of Council's Grants and Donations Policy .
3.	<p>Speak to the Grants and Project Officer before applying.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (02) 9330 9369 • grants@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
4.	Start your application in SmartyGrants - georgesriver.smartygrants.com.au
5.	Complete and submit your application before the round closing date .



Micro Grants 2026-2027 Round 1

Overview

Micro Grants enable residents, groups, organisations and businesses to support community wellbeing, innovation and social change through grassroots initiatives.

Key dates

Applications open	Monday 6 July 2026
Applications close	11:59pm, Friday 14 August 2026
Assessment period	August – October 2026
Applicants notified	November - December 2026
Project timeframe	January 2027 – December 2027
Acquittal due	January 2028

Funding available

\$8,000 – Maximum \$1,000 can be applied for per application.

Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated benefit to the Georges River Community.
- Demonstrated capacity to deliver.
- Be open to the general public, inclusive and not discriminatory.
- Have submitted required acquittals from previously awarded grants.
- Commence the project after the grant funding commencement date. Grant requests cannot be retrospective, recurrent or ongoing.
- Resident of Georges River local government area, or a business, group or organisation registered or located in the Georges River local government area. Applicants will be required to provide proof of residential address or business/organisation location.

Ineligibility Criteria

- Projects that duplicate existing services.
- Fundraising, sponsorship or projects seeking prize money or gifts for attendees.
- Unlawful, unethical or profit-making purposes, or towards any political purposes.
- Activities for religious purposes unless the applicant can demonstrate broader community benefit.
- Entities or individuals contributing to the infringement of human rights, including not complying with Modern Slavery Legislation.
- Projects or events that primarily benefits a single individual or private function.
- Submissions from schools or Government agencies.

How to apply

1.	Visit the Micro Grants webpage .
2.	Read the Grant Guidelines and pages 18-19 of Council's Grants and Donations Policy .
3.	Speak to the Grants and Project Officer before applying. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (02) 9330 9369



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• grants@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
4.	Start your application in SmartyGrants - georgesriver.smartygrants.com.au
5.	Complete and submit your application before the round closing date.

