

City of Greater Geraldton Council Policy

1.8 COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Community

OBJECTIVES

- To complement and support both Council and community priorities through a range of community funding initiatives.
- To provide financial assistance to groups and organisations to deliver positive community outcomes.
- To utilise community funding as a strategic opportunity to strengthen quality of life within the City through improved community engagement, partnerships and participation.
- Ensure community funding arrangements are outcomes based and in alignment with the City's Strategic Community Plan.
- Coordinate fair and equitable application and assessment processes for the Community Funding Program.
- Ensure transparency and good governance in the distribution of funding.

POLICY STATEMENT

The City acknowledges its roles as a facilitator and partner in the development and sustainability of local community-based organisations and to support the aspirations and achievements of its residents. It aims to foster a sustainable, vibrant, engaging and inclusive community which improves the quality of life and opportunities for residents and visitors. Community funding supports these aspirations through initiatives and activities that enhance engagement and participation, building resilience and developing community leaders.

Funding programs are subject to an annual allocation of funds through the City's annual budget process.

All community grant programs and schemes will be managed through specific guidelines that will include details on the following:

- Eligibility
- Funding criteria
- Terms of grants
- Assessment and approval process
- Accountability procedure

POLICY DETAILS

1. Community Funding Program

This program aims to provide funding opportunities to not-for-profit community groups, clubs and organisations to implement projects, activities and programs that enhance and promote community wellbeing within the City.

Programs include:

- Community Grants (Up to \$20,000)
- Community Project Support (Up to \$2,000)

1.1. Community Grants (Up to \$20,000)

Applications will be assessed by the City administration and Community Grants Committee with determination to be made by the Community Grants Committee, in line with the guidelines.

The CEO has delegated authority to endorse the recommendations of the Committee. Any changes to the recommendations are to be approved by Council.

1.2. Community Project Support (Up to \$2,000)

Applications will be assessed in line with the guidelines by the City administration, who will make recommendations to the Executive Management Team for endorsement.

2. Service Agreements

Service Agreements are offered to local organisations that provide a service to the community that the City may be required to provide if they didn't.

Applications will be assessed by the City administration and the Executive Management Team (EMT), with recommendations submitted to Council for budgetary consideration and final endorsement.

Service Agreements may be provided for up to a three (3) year term, with an option to consider phased reduction where it is considered that the applicant be encouraged and/or has the capacity towards financial sustainability.

3. Mayoral Discretionary Fund

This fund is for the Mayor to approve requests for financial assistance at his discretion.

The Mayor has authority to approve funding up to \$5,000; while applications greater than \$5,000 will require the approval of Council.

4. Festival and Event Program

This program is for events held within the City which bring tourists and an economic boost to the region. Events will be delivered by the applicant.

Applications (above \$20,000 and / or multi-year requests) will be initially assessed and prioritised by the City administration and Community Grants Committee, in line with the guidelines and Event Strategy. The prioritised list will then be submitted to Council for budgetary consideration and final endorsement.

Festival and Event funding may be provided for up to a three (3) year term, with phased reduction of the funding considered to encourage financial sustainability of the applicant/event.

5. Self-Supporting Loans

Council will consider providing self-supporting loans to incorporated clubs or organisations based in the City who undertake to meet the capital, interest and loan guarantee payments, for the purpose of capital improvements to land or buildings.

The term will be limited to a maximum of 10 years, and organisations may have only one active self-supporting loan at any given time.

The application will be required to demonstrate capacity to fund the replacement or renewal of the improvements through a reserve or sinking fund, whilst servicing the loan. Approval will only be considered where this can be adequately demonstrated through a forward financial plan.

Applications will be assessed by the City administration, with recommendations presented to Council for their endorsement.

6. CSRFF Funding

The City will accept applications as part of the CSRFF program and process applications in line with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries guidelines. Each eligible application will be assessed by the City administration. Recommendations and priority listings will be presented to Council for consideration.

KEY TERM DEFINITION

City means the City of Greater Geraldton.

CSRFF means Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, a program provided by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, to provide financial assistance to community groups to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation.

Community Grants Committee is a group of elected members of the City.

Self-Supporting Loan is where the City acts as guarantor and intermediary with a financial institution to allow an Incorporated Association to obtain funds.

Strategic Community Plan means the Strategic Community Plan adopted by the City.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for implementing this Policy.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Community Strategic Plan

Corporate Business Plan

Long Term Financial Plan

Annual Budget Framework

Sporting Futures Report

Event Strategy

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate Services		Chief Financial Officer	Biennial	2025
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
3.	CS055 25 July 2023	Policy Review		