Yarra Community Grants
Manual 2011
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1. Introduction

Yarra has a strong, diverse and active voluntary and community sector. Council has a proud history of working with this sector and will continue to work in partnership, to meet the needs of local people, and to deliver the best services possible. Council shows its commitment, and valuing of the sector, by providing direct and indirect financial support.

The provision of grants funding to the Not-For-Profit and community sector is a mechanism for Council to further the aims identified in the Council Plan and other Council strategies. The voluntary and community sector has played a major part in making Yarra what it is today and has a rich history of innovation, activism and civic participation. The contribution of community organisations to developing, coordinating and managing the many funded activities is recognised and respected by Council.

One of the key ways Council recognises and supports this contribution to the municipality is through its grants program.

2. Community Grants Policy

Council’s Community Grants Program provides financial and in-kind support for community initiatives and projects that work to: address local needs; build local capacity; strengthen social diversity; and enhance the health and wellbeing of residents in the City of Yarra. These objectives are consistent with the Local Government Act and the Council Plan.

The Community Grants Program is a means for Council to achieve three of the six roles of local government as listed in the Local Government Act, they are:

- advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments;
- acting as a responsible partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities; and
- fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

The Community Grants Program is also a means to deliver on the Council Plan and other Council strategies.

3. Community Grants Strategic Objectives

The approach of Yarra City Council to managing and implementing its Community Grants Program has been developed over years of reflective learning on its experience of being a grant maker. Council’s approach to grant making is also underpinned by community development principles such as community empowerment, civic participation and promotion of human rights.

The following strategic objectives provide the framework for the grants programs administered by Council to ensure that they support the values of social justice, social inclusion, and transparency of process, accessibility, effectiveness and equity.
### Community Grants Strategic Objectives

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<th>Partnerships &amp; Collaboration</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop partnerships between Council and community groups and organisations to achieve Council’s strategic directions.</td>
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<td>• Support ongoing partnerships between community groups and organisations and Council.</td>
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<th>Capacity Building</th>
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<td>• Support community groups and organisations to function positively, develop skills and increase participation in community.</td>
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<th>Social Inclusion</th>
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<td>• Direct resources to both the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups.</td>
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<td>• Foster the increased connectedness of people to develop partnerships with each other including supporting local groups and activities.</td>
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<th>Leveraging Value</th>
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<td>• Provide Council resources to leverage community expertise, capacity, networks, resources and innovation.</td>
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<th>Transparency &amp; Accountability</th>
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<td>• Comply with Auditor General’s requirements and Council’s audit requirements.</td>
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<td>• Build community trust in the grants process.</td>
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<th>Innovation</th>
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<td>• Develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues.</td>
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<th>Reflection &amp; Learning</th>
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<td>• Evaluate and implement learning for continual improvement of the grants program.</td>
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### 4. Context of Yarra’s Community Grants

The context of the Community Grants in Yarra is based on what has been learnt from grant making over many years and reflects a cumulative knowledge and understanding of grants and grant processes. The grants program incorporates a variety of granting programs and other capacity building programs that relate to each other or can stand alone. The total package is called Community Advocacy Programs. A list of what is included under the Community Advocacy Programs is provided as Appendix 1 and a schematic version as Appendix 2.

This section is intended to complement the guidelines for each of the Community Advocacy Programs and provide a rationale and policy basis for the guidelines.
4.1 Grants as a Community Development Tool
Grants can play a powerful Community Development role, giving the community the opportunity to propose projects that address self-identified need and the resources to address these issues themselves.

There are multiple benefits in awarding grants to community groups to run their own projects rather than Council running projects on their behalf. These include:

- Building relationships – though still an imbalanced relationship, by funding the community to run their own projects (rather than Council running the projects) the power is shifted somewhat, allowing for a more balanced relationship between Council and the community.
- Risk management – by funding pilot projects, and projects with demonstrated success within the community, run by the community, Council is able to mitigate the risk of funding programs that are outdated, irrelevant or off-track.
- Community designed response to issue – takes into account all the nuances and complex factors in designing an appropriate response that might be missed by Council officers
- Grassroots approach – fosters ‘buy-in’ and commitment from the community.
- Increased social return on investment – the funding does not just enable a program to run, but by the program being run in the community, it also builds skills among the community run organisations and their volunteers.

It is important to note the difference between grants and purchasing of services. Grant making and purchasing of services are different even though they may follow some similar processes of assessment which result in contracts/funding agreements. In purchasing a service, Council is stipulating the type of project/service it is looking for and controls how it is delivered through a contract. Grants, on the other hand, set particular criteria consistent with Council policy and leave the rest to the ingenuity of the community organisation/group to develop a project. This means the identification of the need, the design of the response and implementation of the project are determined by the community within the parameters set by Council. A funding agreement ensures the grant money is spent on what it was intended for. The purchasing of a service is driven by Council and a grant is driven by the community.

Grants are an investment in the community, strengthening community organisations and building bridges between these groups and Council.

As project proposals come from the community, projects can often involve a preventative element, that address newly emerging issues of which Council would otherwise not be aware.

Grants can sit alongside a suite of other Community Development tools, including training, networking and advocacy to build the community and strengthen connections with Council.

In 2002 the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) published the resource book Best Practice in Local Government Community Grants Programs. This resource is still a useful guide in thinking about the role and value of Local Governments as grant makers. This document serves as the base line for quality grant making. The resource book notes:
Communities are strengthened by local people coming together to run activities and deliver programs developed by them for their community. This is the essence of the important social capital needed to break down isolation, build neighbourliness and strengthen communities. This kind of community infrastructure has been linked to positive outcomes in terms of supporting families and reducing crime.

Grants also offer an opportunity to build relationships and trust with community groups. A group may apply for a small grant at the pilot stage of a project. The group could be unknown to Council, or not yet have a strong reputation. Council may provide a small sum to start with and the group then goes about delivering on their first project, Council and the group learning how the other operates and developing trust for the future. These projects can lead to bigger, more complex projects once trust is established on both sides of the partnership. This is a risk management strategy for the funder, and allows the project manager to develop projects aligned with their level of experience. If applicable, projects are then supported to graduate from smaller to larger grants, as the project and relationship grows and strengthens into a more high engagement approach.

Council and the community organisation are both investing in a Shared Aim. Council may contribute funds, expertise, contacts and the community organisation contributes the planning, the workers, the coordination, creativity and skills. Together the Shared Aim is achieved.

### Risk Management

There are a number of opportunities to mitigate risk in the grant making process.

#### Grant size

The range of grant size, and the duration of grants can vary depending on how well the group demonstrates capacity, if their financial situation appears healthy, and if the need for the project is well evidenced in the community.

#### Spot audit

By randomly auditing 10% of grants, issues that are usually only noted once a project has been completed and a final acquittal is submitted, can be picked up and supported earlier.
Objectivity
By ensuring that all applications are assessed objectively by a Council officer using an appropriate and transparent assessment process, perceived conflicts of interest and bias are mitigated.

Council does not have discretionary funding pools, and all applications that come to Council are assessed according to an appropriate process depending on the size and duration of the grant. Where a conflict exists, the assessor must refrain from making comment.

All applications are at least double assessed. For some grant rounds applications are also assessed by Community Panels comprising experts in the field. Community Panelists are only named in the confidential report to Council so that there is no opportunity for the community to lobby them for a favourable result.

Identifying Trends
As Council makes in excess of 150 grants annually, it is well placed to view general trends and developing areas of need across all grant streams and rounds. By observing which areas are exhibiting a high need, and where projects may be duplicating services, Council can tailor its funding priorities and respond accordingly. This is also considered against priorities identified in key strategies and the Council Plan, drawing on evidence and consultations to understand community need and trends.

Incorporated Associations
Apart from individual sports grants and individual artist grants, all applicants must be a community group/organisation. For accountability purposes groups need to be either an Incorporated Association or a formally recognised Not-For-Profit organisation. Small community groups and non-incorporated groups must have an appropriate auspice organisation (shared aims) that can support their project and receive the grant on their behalf.

Auspice Organisations
Council values the role that the key auspice organisations play in supporting grassroots community organisations to apply for grants and facilitating reporting requirements for projects. Many small projects would be excluded from the grants process were it not for the support from the key auspice organisations in; developing project plans, writing applications, managing the funds and meeting the funding and reporting requirements of the grant. With this in mind Council has recommended that auspice organisations, charge an administration fee of up to 15% of a grant, to contribute towards their costs. This recognises the real work of facilitating the involvement of grassroots groups in Council’s grants process.

Grants as an internal staff development tool
Not only does the Grants program build capacity within the community but it also strengthens the skills and work of Council officers. Council officers involved in the grants process are given training in assessing grants, providing feedback to community, and using the online grants management system. Through assessing grants, officers gain a greater insight into the projects proposed by the community that intersect with the Council Policies. Grants employ a whole of Council approach, and offer opportunities for connecting units within Council, developing relationships and a joined up approach to supporting community organisations.
Eligibility
All applications must meet the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria common to all Council’s grants are listed below. In addition to this, each grant round has specific eligibility and funding criteria. Common eligibility criteria require that the:

- applicant is an Incorporated or formally recognised Not-For-Profit organisation;
- funding is paid into an organisation’s back account with two signatories, or paid by cheque made out in an organisation’s name;
- project take place within the time frame specified;
- successful applicants agree to the conditions of the Funding Agreement; and
- applicants do not have outstanding debts to Council or overdue acquittals.

Funding Agreements
Funding Agreements specify the payment schedule, the terms on which payment is made, the reporting requirements, and the responsibilities of both the signatories. Funding Agreements can refer to additional permits that might be required, and can be tailored to suit the conditions of each grant.

4.2 How Community Grants support the Council Plan and other Council strategies
Grants facilitate real outcomes for Council’s strategic policies. When granting priorities are tied to Council objectives they support Council’s priorities through inviting the community to work with Council to deliver shared goals.

Relationship between Grants and other Council Units
Emerging Issues Grants 2011-12: Health and Wellbeing is an example of how Grants can be used to support Council plans and objectives. The Municipal Public Health Plan (the Health Plan) was adopted by Council in 2010 with clear priorities that came from research and community collaboration. These health priorities became the funding priorities for the Emerging Issues Grants round. Organisations were invited to address the Health Plan priorities in their grant applications. The grant round gave the organisations an opportunity to propose solutions to addressing the health priorities of the municipality, and gave Council a grounded approach to delivering on their strategic objectives.

> Community grants programs can be powerful tools for local governments when they are **strategically developed and implemented**... When Councils support and resource community groups in seeking funds and achieving outcomes, the relationship between local governments and local communities is strengthened. - Best Practice in Local Government Community Grants Programs

Role of Council in Decision Making
When Granting Objectives are clearly tied to Council plans, the role of Councillors in the decision making process is minimised, and this allows for an objective decision making process and relieves Councillors of any presumptions of bias. This process also validates successful grant recipients who know that they have been awarded the grant based on the quality of their proposal.

At the commencement of the grant cycle every year, an Initiation Report is presented to Council which details the way that year’s Grant Rounds support the Council Plan and other significant plans, what the social and financial implications of the Grants Rounds are (among other
implications) and includes the specific Guidelines and Funding Criteria for the Grant Round. These are endorsed by Council before the Grant Round opens.

**Lobbying**
Canvassing or lobbying of Councillors, employees of the Yarra City Council or Assessment Panel members in relation to any grants application is prohibited.

No further consideration will be given to an application submitted by an applicant that canvasses or lobbies a Councillor, Yarra City Council employee or Assessment Panel member in relation to their application. All Council decisions are final. Adapted from: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutCouncil/grantssponsorship/Pages/Assessment.aspx

**4.3 How Community Grants meet the Victorian Auditor General’s Office Requirements**
In the Results of special review and other investigations, October 2005: Administration of Grants by Local Government published on the Victorian Auditor General’s Office website grants are defined as ‘payments to non-government organisations to support activities outside the public sector which are directed at achieving goals and objectives consistent with government policy. The payments are normally conditional upon the grant recipients using these funds for specific purposes set out in grant agreements and are not required to be returned or reciprocated’.

In keeping with the recommendations from the above Report, Council runs a benchmarking session for internal assessors to train them in the assessment and eligibility of applications. The session ensures that assessors are focused on the true merit of each application, and can provide useful feedback for the community. By asking internal staff from key areas to assess applications, they bring to their assessment a working knowledge of the applicant and the project proposed, and whether this project is likely to produce a benefit in the community. Council’s grants officers also participate in the Local Government Grant Maker Networks to keep abreast of best practice.

All signed Funding Agreements are sent to Governance for signing by the CEO or Director Community Programs. The hard copies are then sent to Corporate Records where they are scanned, registered into Council’s electronic document management system (TRIM) as a deed registered document. Once this is done the hard copies are sealed inside an envelope, boxed and sent off site to Council’s archive facility.

Funding is only released when an original signed Funding Agreement is returned to Council for the grant.

All grants must be formally acquitted including a report on activity, and where possible, copies of photos and promotional material. For grants of $15,000 or more, a signed and audited statement of expenditure is required. An organisation cannot receive future funding if there are previous grants with outstanding acquittals.

In 2011, Council will implement an online grants management system which will vastly improve Council’s efficiency in tracking spending, correspondence, spot audit progress and will include the option of ‘red flagging’ groups that require closer supervision and support.

Yarra Council’s Audit committee, in line with the Auditor General’s recommendations, requires implementation of the process of randomly auditing a specified percentage of Community Grant applications each year, as a step to ensure proper accounting for the acquittal of public funds.
and in particular, appropriate compliance with the matters outlined in the grant application, being the basis on which the grant was provided.

4.4 How Community Grants support the Local Government Act 1989 Section 3D

Yarra’s Community Grants directly support the following clauses of the Local Government act:

| (1) Council is elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the Municipal district and the local community. | This is met by aligning the funding priorities with the Council Plan and other significant plans. |
| (2a) acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making; | The diverse needs of the local community are catered for by offering a wide range of funding streams and ensuring wide sections of the community are supported to apply for grants. |
| (2b) providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring their achievement; | Grant acquittal reports are a key way for Council to know if the investment it makes in the community delivering programs achieve their aim and align with the strategic objectives. |
| (2c) maintaining the viability of the Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner; | By ensuring funding is distributed in accordance with the grants policy, Council can trust that funds are managed in a responsible and accountable manner. |
| (2d) advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments; | Grants officers support the local community to consider other funding opportunities in the philanthropic, business and government sectors. Grants support partnership projects and include writing letters of support for community organisations. |
| (2e) acting as a responsible partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities; | Ensure liaison with applicants who may submit for duplicate projects, or projects that both support the local Yarra community, and other communities that may participate in the project. |
| (2f) fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life. | Community cohesion and active participation are key criteria in all Grants Rounds and are a key way in which Council achieves its Strategic Objective of a Diverse and Dynamic Yarra |

4.5 How Community Grants Set Best Practice in Local Government Grant Making

Council’s Grants Program supports a social inclusion agenda, and the program itself is focused on being as inclusive as possible. Regular review of all elements of the grants process to continually improve internal processes and make the program more accessible is integral to the program.
Online Applications
Online Applications were introduced for the first time in 2011. In 2010 over 50% of Annual Grants applications were submitted via email. In response to this, Council is introducing a new online grants application process. Training and assistance will be offered across the municipality to up skill the community in using online application systems. Once the community is familiar with the process the system should save the community time with key details saved on the system and attachments easily uploaded to the application. The application form will include additional tips, and will be similar to that of other funders to which our community regularly applies. These other funders report a high take up of on-line application processes.

By implementing an online application process, data entry time is reduced and Council officers will have more time to undertake site visits and assist members of the community who require further assistance.

Inclusiveness
Some sectors of our community will need extra assistance to participate in Council’s grants program. People from: non English speaking back grounds; have low levels of literacy and numeracy; have a disability; and/or have low levels of computer literacy may require additional support. All of Council’s grants forms are written in plain English, the online application process complies with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Applicants are invited to meet with Council officers with an interpreter if they require assistance in submitting an application in English. Council does not translate application forms, nor accept applications in languages other than English. It is considered more helpful for the applicant to be assisted to produce an application in English at the first stage of the application process. Both parties then have a copy of the English version of the application, and it can be read directly back to applicants to confirm the nuances of the application have been understood and conveyed in the English language version.

Council grants assessors are increasingly being asked to consider projects using a diversity lens: looking from alternative perspectives to see whether a project really is the best fit for an issue, and which issues are at risk of being silently overlooked.

Size and Responsiveness
Grants offered by Council range in size of funding, length of commitment and time between application date and notification of success.

Every grant round takes into account the burden on the community of compiling a grant application and weighs this against the level of due diligence needed to be able to properly assess the application. For small grants a quick turnaround time is commensurate with the low risk and demonstrates an appropriate level of responsiveness. For larger grants it may be appropriate to introduce an Expression of Interest phase such that applicants need only complete an abridged application form, and then if successful in the first stage, invest in completing a more in-depth application when the likelihood of success will be higher. This reduces the burden of applications on the community, but still ensures Council’s due diligence is completed and that applications contain sufficient information to make a sound decision.
Continuous Evaluation of Grants Program
The Grants Officers not only evaluate each project separately through the report and acquittal process, but each program as a whole must be regularly evaluated to see whether it is providing Council with a strong return on investment and effectively delivering on Council’s objectives for the Grants Program. This is a complex task, as the measurement of both social and financial impacts from each grant individually and the grant rounds as a whole, is difficult to quantify. Council will continue to develop quantitative measures to further support the qualitative feedback received, and apply this to the grant making cycle.

Promoting other Capacity Building and Fundraising Opportunities
Council supports the community through a multipronged approach; not solely relying on grants as a tool for building capacity. A suite of other programs sit alongside grants and together build local community capacity.

- Council promotes an online donation facility (www.givenow.com.au) for local organisations to list appeals.
- Council values local volunteers and initiated a volunteer recognition event in 2011 and promotes Volunteering Victoria to local community groups as a place for them to recruit volunteers.
- Council offers local Not-For-Profit community organisations subsidised use of the town halls. This enables groups to access one town hall, once per year, for an event that benefits to the local community. The types of events can vary from performances, to celebrate events or fundraisers. One recent group, which was granted a $1,000 subsidy, raised $18,000 on the night, representing a 18% return on investment for Council. This figure doesn’t include the further social return on investment figure which would value social capital that came from the staging of the event and goodwill fostered on the night.
- Council runs a broad Skills and Training Program comprising ten monthly seminars on topics identified as high need by the community. These sessions are presented by expert staff and external providers and provide both skill development and networking opportunities. These sessions help build the skills of the community in areas such as fundraising, retaining volunteers, working in financial statements and how to run an AGM. By developing community groups the quality of grant applications is also expected to increase.
- Council runs the Thrive Program in conjunction with the Not-For-Profit group, Our Community. This is an intensive program for selected organisations to develop over the course of a year. The Program is set by the participants and can involve focusing on each individual group’s fundraising plan, marketing plan, board/staff/volunteer communication, writing grant applications, project planning, strategic plans and other topics identified as critical to that community organisation.
- Where appropriate, Council facilitates for community organisations to receive funding from other sources. This is achieved either by recommending they apply to other funders which are known to fund in the specific area, or forwarding their applications to other funders whose funding priorities Council is acquainted. By brokering these partnerships Council supports community groups, supports other funders to meet their funding priorities, and creates space for other projects in Council’s own funding rounds.
• Social enterprises are best supported through Council’s social procurement program through the businesses they operate.

4.6 Community Grants as experienced by the community
The community is regularly consulted and their feedback is fed back into the grants planning and design process. The community has both anonymous opportunities to give feedback, and sections of the community are also invited to roundtables where they can discuss alternatives to current policy and processes. Council recognises that power dynamics operate in the feedback cycle and works to mitigate these by using strategies that allow for anonymous feedback and by building strong, trusting relationships directly with community organisations.

4.7 On the horizon
The grant making sector is continually evolving, and Council is monitoring new directions in giving in the philanthropic, NGO and other government sectors. A focus on supporting social enterprises, on microfinance and in taking a multipronged approach to supporting community organisations by complementary in-kind support, training, marketing and networking opportunities is already being considered and will form the basis for future conversations about the evolution of grants.
5. Glossary

Audit
An audit is an official examination and confirmation of accounts and records, especially of financial accounts. Council can be audited, and Council can also audit grant recipients. For Council to audit a grant, the recipient organisation will be required to readily make available all income/expenditure records, correspondence, meeting notes, promotional material, and any other document relating to the funded program/activity.

Auspice
An auspice is an agreement where one organisation (‘the Principal Organisation’) agrees to apply for funding on behalf of a second organization that is not incorporated (‘the Auspiced Organisation’). If the funding application is successful, the Principal Organisation then receives, holds and administers the funding to the Auspiced Organisation, so that the Auspiced Organisation can complete the funded project or activities.

Acquittal
An acquittal report ensures that grant recipients have administered grant funds responsibly and in line with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. An acquittal report usually consists of a written report that summarises how the project faired against the initial objectives of the grant. It also provides a financial statement detailing how the funds were spent.

Benchmarking
Two forms of benchmarking are involved in Council’s grant making. The first is that Council benchmarks our grant making practices against other local councils and other key funders to ensure we are delivering best practice grant making.

The second is that all Internal Assessors are asked to assess the one same application and then discuss their assessment of that application together. Although assessors use the same criteria to mark applications, some subjectivity naturally arises, and this benchmarking allows assessors an opportunity to discuss which points they considered salient and why. By holding this benchmarking session before the assessment period commences, it helps to even out any discrepancies in individual’s assessment approaches.

Brokerage
Council supports community organisations to find other sources of funding where possible. Council also supports local funders to promote their programs to the local community. This linking of funders with funding is referred to as brokerage.

Community Panel
The Community Panel forms one of the assessment stages in the grants decision making process. The Community Panels is comprised of external experts with knowledge relevant to the grant round theme.

Conflict of Interest
A Conflict of Interest occurs if an assessor has something to personally gain from an application being either successful or unsuccessful, or if members of the public could have grounds to perceive that the assessor could personally gain from a decision. When this situation occurs the Conflict is formally recorded, and the assessor is exempted from assessment and discussion of the grant.
Funding Agreement
States the purpose of the funding, the dollar amount and the conditions attached to the grant. It also defines the rights and responsibilities of the agreement. Once signed, organisations are under a legal obligation to comply with the stated terms and conditions.

Grant
A grant is a sum of money given to organisations or individuals for a specified purpose directed at achieving goals and objectives consistent with specific policy. However, the term is more generally used to include any funding arrangement where the recipient is selected on merit against a set of criteria.

Incorporated or Not-for-profits
A not-for-profit organisation is an organisation whose primary objective is something other than the generation of profit, and which does not distribute any profit to the organisation's members. A not-for-profit organisation may have a "profit" - or surplus - left over after operating costs, but whereas a for-profit business would distribute that profit to its owners, shareholders or members, a not-for-profit must use the surplus to further the purpose of the organisation and its activities.

Being incorporated means that the group has a legal ‘identity’ of its own, separate and distinct from the individuals who formed or make up the group.

In-kind support
In-kind support includes volunteer labour, administrative support, rent-free accommodation or donations of materials or equipment. These contributions should be given a dollar value and included in your budget.

Public Liability Insurance
Public Liability Insurance will protect a community organisation against its legal liability to pay:
• compensation to third parties (for example, members of the public) for bodily injury; and/or
• property damage that may occur as a result of the community organisation’s activities; and
• the legal costs that a community organisation may have if it needs to defend bodily injury and property damage claims made against it.

6. References
• Australian Capital Territory Government Department of Treasury www.treasury.act.gov.au
• Best Practice in Local Government Community Grants Programs: A framework for community grants programs that enhance democracy and strengthen community. Prepared by WWW Communications for the Victorian Local Governance Association November 2002
• Melbourne City Council Website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutCouncil/grantssponsorship/Pages/Assessment.aspx
• Public Interest Legal Clearing House Website www.pilch.org.au/legal_info
• Philanthropy Australia www.philanthropy.org.au

7. Appendix
1. Community Advocacy Programs
2. Community Advocacy Programs Chart
Community Advocacy Programs

Community Grants Program

Annual Grants
Provides funding of $500 - $10,000, for around 120 projects per year. Annual Grants comprises six separate funding streams: Arts & Culture, Early & Middle Years, Environment, Community Development, Community Justice, and Sport & Recreation.

Small Unexpected Project Grants
Provide a quick turnaround for grants of up to $500. Applicants are eligible for funding once per year for projects that fall outside the Annual Grants timelines.

Emerging Issues Grants
Two year commitment for around 7 projects. Current round linked to Health and Wellbeing.

Investing in Community Grants
Three year commitment for around 8 projects. Funding priorities are developed from Council’s social plans and strategies.

Community Partnership Grants
Three year commitment for around 20 projects. CPG supports projects with a demonstrated ongoing need in Yarra, through organisations with a strong relationship with Council. Applicants are invited to apply for a CPG.

Discounted Use Program
Council offers substantial subsidies of the hire of the three town halls to local not for profit organisations.

Yarra Gives Program
This online ‘Giving Centre’ is funded and promoted by Council as a way for local organisations to establish online presences as part of a fundraising appeal.

Community Engagement Program comprises two strands:

Skills and Training Program for Community Groups
Comprising 10 sessions over 10 months, the community can attend any combination for practical seminars for free.

Thrive – Intensive Skills Program for Community Groups and Leaders
This is a yearlong training program that builds the capacity of 6-8 groups by developing fundraising strategies, marketing plans, governance structures etc

Social Enterprise Support Program
Currently Council supports this program through the social procurement policy.

Volunteer Support Program
In 2011 Council will hold our first Volunteer recognition event.

Brokerage Program
Though our relationships with local businesses, philanthropics and agencies, Council can channel strong projects through to other sources of funding. Further, other funds can channel their funds through one of Council’s grants programs to avoid duplication of administration.
Community Advocacy Programs

* The Community Justice Stream is funded by the Neighbourhood Justice Centre