



**TASMANIAN
COMMUNITY FUND**

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES

FUNDING FRAMEWORK 2026-2030

DRAFT – For Consultation



COMMUNITY



GRANT-MAKING



GOVERNANCE

Document Control

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1. Background and Context

1.1 The Tasmanian Community Fund

The TCF is established under the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005*, which authorises the Board to provide grants for charitable, sporting, recreational, cultural, arts, educational, religious and other approved community purposes — always in the best interests of the Tasmanian community. The Board must act apolitically and with professional impartiality in all its functions. Amendments in 2025 require the TCF to develop and comply with a contemporary grant management framework, and to prepare, publicly consult on, publish, and annually report against a Strategic Plan. The TCF is fully independent from the Tasmanian Government in its grant-making decisions.

The TCF's governing documents form an integrated hierarchy that should be read together:

Strategic Plan sets long-term direction, values and outcomes (*why*);

Funding Framework translates that direction into funding priorities, specific initiatives, and resource allocation with an annual Funding Plan (*what*); and

Grant Management Framework provides the operational standards and processes governing how funding decisions are made (*how*).

Funding Guidelines set parameters for individual funding initiatives (themes, size, term) (*what*)

1.2 Purpose of the Funding Framework

This Funding Framework sets out how the TCF will allocate its resources to advance its purpose of providing grants in the best interests of the Tasmanian community. It is a working instrument that sits beneath and gives effect to the Strategic Plan and will be reviewed and updated regularly as priorities evolve and community need changes. The annual Funding Plan will operationalise the Funding Framework by outlining the grant initiatives for the following year and the funding allocation to each initiative.

The TCF is committed to learning from the Tasmanian community, the funded projects and a developing evidence base. These learnings will directly inform future iterations of this framework and subsequent annual funding plans.

The Funding Framework will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is fit for purpose.

2. Funding Guidelines

2.1 Funding Principles

All TCF funding is guided by the following principles:

- Community-led: solutions are driven by the communities they serve.
- Place-based: activity must deliver impact within Tasmania.
- Open and fair: all funding rounds are competitive and publicly advertised.
- Long-term focus: preference for initiatives that build lasting change and capability.
- Evidence-informed: applicants are expected to demonstrate how their approach is grounded in evidence or learning.
- Innovative - Inspires daring, boldness and forward thinking.

2.2 Eligibility — Who Can Apply

- Organisations registered with the ACNC: Incorporated organisations or companies limited by guarantee with charitable status;
- Local Government Authorities;
- Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status is not required;
- Organisations do not need to be headquartered in Tasmania, but the funded activity must deliver impact in Tasmania (goods, services, and outcomes must benefit Tasmanians);
- The TCF will consider funding scholarships;
- The TCF will consider providing funds for others to administer grant rounds (pass-through grants);
- Auspicing arrangements.

2.3 The TCF will comply with the Act and therefore:

We will fund

- Charitable, sporting, recreational, cultural, arts, educational, religious community-based programs and activities;
- Activities in schools (where the applicant is a community organisation)
- Leadership, governance and capability building initiatives;
- Infrastructure that directly supports community activity (small-scale);

We will not fund

- For-profit organisations;
- Government agencies (state or federal);
- Ongoing recurrent operational costs-(funding of overheads components)

- Activities outside Tasmania;
- Politically-motivated activity or advocacy.

2.4 Investment Approach

The TCF recognises that strong communities are supported by more than direct service delivery alone. Through its funding, the TCF seeks to strengthen the conditions that enable Tasmanian communities to participate, adapt and thrive over the long term.

The TCF is particularly interested in initiatives that contribute to:

- community capability and leadership;
- participation and inclusion;
- coordination and collaboration;
- learning and evidence-informed practice;
- long-term sustainability and resilience.




These conditions inform the design of funding initiatives, annual funding priorities and assessment processes.

2.5 How We Fund

- All funding rounds are conducted in accordance with the **TCF's Grant Management Framework**, which sets out the detailed standards governing eligibility assessment, application and assessment processes, scoring rubrics, conflict of interest management, and probity and transparency requirements. The Grant Management Framework is a separate document.
- All rounds are open and competitive — the TCF does not solicit or target specific organisations.
- Grant parameters (themes, size, term) are set at the round level within each funding initiative.

3. Funding Initiatives

The TCF operates the following funding initiatives. Current Initiatives are active from Year 1 (commencing 1 July 2026). Future Initiatives will be activated subject to resourcing, modelling, and strategic review. These may be incorporated in the annual Funding Plans in future years.

	PURPOSE	TYPICAL SCALE
 MAJOR INITIATIVE GRANTS	Large, collaborative long-term initiatives addressing significant community challenges or opportunities.	Large / multi-year
 COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS	Practical local projects that strengthen participation, inclusion and community life.	Small - medium
 CAPABILITY BUILDING GRANTS	Training, leadership and governance capability development.	Variable
 GRANTS IN FOCUS	Targeted funding responding to a specific issue, priority or population group.	Variable

POTENTIAL FUTURE FUNDING INITIATIVES



3.1 Current Initiatives

Major Initiative Grants

Purpose

Major Initiative Grants support large-scale, community-based initiatives with the potential to contribute to lasting change.

These are TCF’s flagship grants, intended for well-evidenced initiatives with a clear pathway to long-term impact.

Focus Areas

Major Initiative Grants may support:

- community-driven solutions delivered at scale;
- initiatives with a strong evidence base and clear need;
- initiatives with strong governance, delivery and evaluation capacity;
- long-term approaches that strengthen community outcomes beyond the life of the grant.

Community Action Grants

Purpose

Community Action Grants support community organisations to deliver focused small to medium-scale projects.

Rounds may be themed to align with TCF's strategic priorities and community purposes under the Tasmanian Community Fund Act.

Focus Areas

Community Action Grants may support:

- focused community-led projects;
- projects aligned with annual round themes set by the TCF Board;
- small-scale infrastructure where this is clearly linked to community benefit and is carefully defined and capped;
- open competitive funding rounds.

Capability Building Grants

Purpose

Capability Building Grants support the development of stronger, more effective community organisations, sectors and leaders.

The program invests in the skills, systems, governance, leadership, collaboration and organisational foundations that enable community organisations and communities to deepen their impact over time.

Capability Building Grants will be delivered through two streams.

Stream 1: Sector Skill Building

This stream supports cohort-based learning, leadership, governance and training programs delivered across groups, organisations or communities.

It focuses on collective or cohort-based capability uplift for individuals working in or with community organisations and communities, rather than funding individual professional development in isolation.

It may support:

- leadership development programs;
- governance and board capability;
- skills development for community leaders, staff, volunteers or committee members;
- peer learning, mentoring or cohort-based development;
- training that strengthens community-led practice, collaboration or organisational effectiveness.

Stream 2: Organisational and Sector Strengthening

This stream supports community organisations, collaborations and sector networks to strengthen their organisational foundations and shared capability.

It may support:

- organisational systems, processes and infrastructure;
- strategic planning, evaluation and learning capability;
- governance, risk, financial management or operational systems;
- collaboration, coordination or shared capability across a sector or network;
- capability-building activities that improve organisational sustainability, effectiveness and long-term impact.

In some cases, this stream may support time-limited costs that help an organisation strengthen how it operates, such as improving systems, governance, planning, evaluation, financial management, risk management or collaboration.

This stream is not intended to fund ongoing business-as-usual operating costs, recurrent positions, or general organisational overheads.

Eligibility criteria, funding limits and safeguards will be developed to ensure this program remains focused on capability building rather than ongoing operational subsidy.

Grants in Focus

Purpose

Grants in Focus support targeted funding rounds focused on a specific theme, population group, community or area of need.

The design of each round will be informed by evidence and developed with the people, communities or organisations most connected to the focus area.

Focus Areas

Grants in Focus may support:

- needs-based funding rounds focused on a defined issue, population group, community or cohort;
- funding priorities informed by evidence, lived experience and community insight;
- participatory or co-designed approaches to round development;
- eligibility criteria and assessment processes shaped with input from the relevant community or cohort.

3.2 Future Initiatives

Pilot / Innovation Fund

Purpose

The Pilot and Innovation Fund would support organisations to test new approaches to community challenges.

It would provide a lower-risk pathway for promising ideas that may not yet have a strong evidence base, but have clear potential for learning, adaptation and future impact.

These grants would be short-term and experimental, with an emphasis on testing, learning and considered risk-taking.

Focus Areas

The Pilot and Innovation Fund may support:

- novel approaches to known community challenges;
- proof-of-concept projects with clear learning objectives;
- early-stage ideas that require testing before being considered for larger-scale funding;
- approaches that use design, prototyping or community-led learning methods.

Place-Based Backbone Grants

Purpose

Place-Based Backbone Grants would support backbone organisations or collaborations in specific communities to provide the coordination, convening and shared infrastructure needed for community-wide change.

This initiative would reflect TCF's place-based identity and would provide long-term, multi-year support for communities working collectively on complex local priorities.

Focus Areas

Place-Based Backbone Grants may support:

- geographic or community-of-interest backbone functions;
- coordination and convening of collective impact initiatives;

- place-based community planning, leadership and collaboration;
- shared measurement, learning and community engagement infrastructure;
- long-term capability for communities to coordinate action across organisations, sectors and systems.

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4. Monitoring, Measurement and Learning

The TCF's ability to improve its funding practice over time depends on robust monitoring, measurement and evaluation at every level of its work.

Funded organisations are expected to demonstrate, at the point of application, how they will measure progress and outcomes, and to report against these throughout the life of their grant. The specific reporting and evaluation requirements for each funding initiative are set out in the **Grant Management Framework**.

The TCF will aggregate and analyse data from across its funded activity to build an evidence base about what approaches are most effective in providing funding for community purposes that most benefits the Tasmanian community. This includes tracking outputs and outcomes, identifying patterns across funded initiatives, and drawing on both quantitative data and the stories from communities.

This body of evidence will feed directly into the review and renewal of the Funding Framework and each annual Funding Plan, ensuring each iteration is based on evidence and learnings directly from Tasmanians, not assumption. It will also provide the basis for reporting against the TCF's Strategic Plan, demonstrating the collective impact of the TCF's investment in the Tasmanian community over time.