



**Tasmanian
Community
Fund**

Funding Plan

2026-2027



COMMUNITY



GRANT-MAKING



GOVERNANCE

Acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and Country

The Tasmanian Community Fund acknowledges the ancient history and culture of the palawa/pakana people and their deep and on-going connection to the land, seas, waterways and skies of lutruwita/Tasmania.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise the strength and resilience of the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, whose identity, cultures, knowledge and rights endure despite invasion and dispossession.

We recognise the deep knowledge, experience and expertise held within Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, and the continuing importance of connection to Country, family and community. This knowledge enriches our collective understanding of place, belonging, wellbeing and what enables communities to thrive.

As we work towards a future in which Tasmania's communities are connected, resilient and thriving, we commit to listening and learning, building respectful and enduring relationships, supporting Aboriginal leadership and creating meaningful opportunities for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to shape the decisions and investments that affect their communities.

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1. Purpose

The TCF Board prepares a Funding Plan each year. It sits under the Strategic Plan and Funding Framework and explains what TCF plans to fund during the year.

This Plan:

- sets TCF's funding priorities for 2026–27;
- explains the funding pathways available;
- shows the indicative funding available for each pathway;
- gives applicants a clear sense of the types of projects TCF is looking for; and
- helps guide funding decisions across the year.

Detailed eligibility, application, assessment and reporting requirements will be set out separately in the guidelines for each grant round.

The 2026–27 Funding Plan is the first year of TCF's new funding approach. TCF will continue to refine the approach as it learns from implementation and feedback from communities.

Consultation on the new Strategic Plan and Funding Framework showed strong support for the overall direction. It also highlighted the need for clearer funding pathways, simpler and more proportionate processes, better notice of grant rounds and improved access for smaller and volunteer-led organisations.

TCF expects demand for funding to be greater than the funding available. Meeting the requirements of a grant round does not guarantee that an application will be funded.

1. Community context

Tasmanian communities are facing a range of pressures, including:

- increasing pressure on volunteers;
- rising costs of taking part in community life;
- social isolation and disconnection;
- limited organisational capacity; and
- difficulty coordinating effort across organisations and sectors.

At the same time, communities have strong local knowledge, leadership and a willingness to act.

Consultation undertaken by the Board in 2025/26 also showed that regional, rural and island communities can face different challenges, including smaller populations, higher delivery costs, fewer workers and volunteers, digital barriers and less access to facilities and professional support.

TCF has an important role in supporting the things that help communities work well: participation, connection, leadership, strong organisations and collaboration.

2. Funding priorities for 2026–27

During 2026–27, TCF will give priority to initiatives that contribute to the following areas:



Across these priorities, TCF is particularly interested in initiatives that help communities respond to change, build their strengths and create lasting benefits.

These priorities will help guide TCF’s funding decisions in 2026–27 and give applicants a clearer idea of the types of initiatives we are looking to support. We recognise that communities are different, so we will consider the local context, the scale of the proposed benefit and the organisation’s capacity to deliver.

3. How TCF will fund

Across all funding pathways, TCF will generally look for initiatives that:

- fit the purpose of the funding pathway;
- provide clear benefit to the community;
- meaningfully involve the community;
- respond to a clear need or opportunity;
- create benefits that continue beyond a single activity, event or purchase; and
- are realistic and achievable.

Proportionate and accessible funding

TCF will try to match its requirements to the size and risk of the grant.

Smaller and lower-risk grants should have simpler application and reporting requirements than larger and more complex grants.

TCF will provide plain-English information about each funding opportunity, including:

- who the funding is for;
- how much is available;
- how long projects can run;
- what TCF will look for; and
- when applications will open.

Applicants will also be able to talk with TCF staff about whether their idea is a good fit before applying.

What TCF means by sustainability

TCF does not expect every funded activity to continue forever.

Sustainability means creating benefits that last beyond the funding period. This might include stronger skills, relationships, community connections, knowledge, facilities, systems or new ways of working.

Government responsibilities

TCF generally does not fund work that would normally be paid for by government.

TCF may support community organisations working with government where TCF funding adds something extra, such as:

- filling a gap;
- testing a new approach;
- extending community benefit; or
- supporting stronger community involvement.

4. Funding pathways for 2026-27

TCF has four funding pathways in 2026–27. Each supports a different type and scale of community activity. Applicants should choose the pathway that best matches the purpose, scale and stage of their proposed project, rather than the pathway offering the largest amount of funding. Detailed eligibility, application, assessment and reporting requirements will be set out in the guidelines for each funding opportunity.

Funding pathway	Best suited to	Funding available	Duration	2026–27 approach
Community Action Grants	Practical, locally led projects that strengthen participation, connection, belonging, volunteering or community life	Up to \$50,000	Up to 2 years	One round, with Small and Standard categories
Capability Building Grants	Building the capability of community leaders, community organisations or the broader community sector	Up to \$250,000	Up to 2 years	One round, with two streams
Major Initiative Grants	Larger, longer-term and collaborative responses to significant community challenges or opportunities	\$100,000–\$1.5 million	Up to 7 years	One two-stage round with three funding tiers

Grants in Focus: Youth	Youth-led or genuinely co-designed projects that strengthen young people's participation, connection, belonging and voice	Up to \$100,000	Up to 2 years	One targeted round following co-design with young people
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5. Major initiative grants

Major Initiative Grants support larger, longer-term initiatives that bring people and organisations together to respond to significant community challenges or opportunities.

They are intended for work that needs sustained effort, strong collaboration and meaningful community involvement.

Funding tiers

Tier	Funding range	Best suited to
Tier 1 – Development and Demonstration	\$100,000–\$400,000	Developing, testing or strengthening a promising collaborative approach
Tier 2 – Expansion and Integration	\$400,001–\$800,000	Expanding or embedding an approach that has already been tested
Tier 3 – Transformational Investment	\$800,001–\$1.5 million	Large-scale regional, statewide or system-level change

Higher tiers will require stronger evidence, governance, partnerships, readiness and assurance.

How applications will work

Major Initiative Grants will use a two-stage process.

The first stage is a short Expression of Interest to help TCF decide whether the idea is a good fit and ready to progress.

Applicants invited to the second stage will provide more details. The information required will depend on the size and complexity of the proposed initiative.

2026–27 funding focus

TCF is particularly interested in Major Initiatives that:

- bring communities and organisations together to respond to important local challenges or opportunities;
- build the relationships, coordination and skills needed for communities to take action over the long term;
- help more people participate, feel included and connected; and
- develop, test or grow community-led approaches that can create lasting change.

Examples may include:

- local or regional partnerships working on shared challenges or opportunities;
- initiatives that help coordinate people and organisations;
- community-wide initiatives that increase participation and connection;
- partnerships across different sectors; and
- larger community gathering or social infrastructure projects where the physical space is part of a broader community-led response.

Major Initiative funding is **not** a general building or infrastructure program.

TCF will not generally fund routine service delivery, standalone building projects, activities that are mainly the responsibility of government, or projects without meaningful community involvement and collaboration.

6. Community action grants

Community Action Grants support practical, locally led projects that strengthen participation, connection, belonging, volunteering and community life.

Funding categories

Category	Funding range	Approach
Community Action – Small	Up to \$15,000	Shorter application and simpler reporting for smaller, lower-risk projects
Community Action – Standard	\$15,001–\$50,000	More detailed application and assessment for larger or more complex projects

The small category is designed to make the process easier and more proportionate. It does not mean projects are automatically easier to fund.

Some informal or unincorporated groups may be able to apply through an eligible auspicing organisation. Details will be set out in the grant guidelines.

2026–27 funding focus

TCF is particularly interested in Community Action projects that:

- create more opportunities for people to take part in community life;
- help people feel connected, included and that they belong;
- make it easier for people to participate;
- support volunteering and local leaders;
- strengthen community gathering places where people can connect and take part; and
- respond to a clear local need or opportunity and benefit the wider community.

Examples may include:

- local or neighbourhood activities;
- volunteer-led projects;
- activities that make it easier for people to take part;
- activities that bring together different generations, cultures or community groups;
- locally led responses to a community needs; and
- small improvements to community facilities or equipment that help more people participate.

Community spaces and infrastructure

TCF recognises that community spaces are important places for people to meet, connect, volunteer and take part in community life.

TCF may support small improvements to community facilities where they will clearly help more people use the space or take part in community activities.

This might include improvements that:

- make a space easier to access;
- allow more people or groups to use it;
- support new community activities; or
- make an important community gathering place more useful.

TCF will generally not fund routine maintenance, replacement of existing assets, or work that would normally be the responsibility of government or local government.

Where a facility is publicly owned but mainly managed or used by a community organisation, TCF may consider funding if there is a clear additional benefit to the community.

Detailed rules about ownership, leases, permissions and asset responsibility will be included in the Community Action Grant Guidelines.

Events

TCF may support events that create new or expanded opportunities for people to participate, connect, feel included or volunteer.

TCF will generally not fund established or recurring festivals, celebrations or community events simply to help them run again.

The key question is whether TCF funding will create additional community benefit, rather than just covering the cost of running the event.

What TCF is looking for

Strong Community Action projects will generally show:

- a clear local need or opportunity;
- support or involvement from the community;
- a practical and achievable approach;
- benefits for the wider community, not just the applicant organisation; and
- benefits that are reasonable for the amount of funding requested.

7. Capability building grants

Capability Building Grants support the people, organisations and systems that help communities work well.

TCF will run **one Capability Building Grant round with two streams** in 2026–27.

Stream One – Community Leadership and People Capability

Funding: Generally, up to \$50,000 over up to 12 months.

This stream supports people who lead, govern, volunteer and contribute in their communities to build their skills, confidence and capability.

Priority may be given to initiatives that:

- build the skills of volunteers, community leaders and board or committee members;
- strengthen practical skills in governance, engagement, facilitation and working with others;
- provide mentoring, coaching or opportunities to learn from peers;
- help more people take on leadership and governance roles in community organisations;
- improve access to community leadership development in regional, rural and disadvantaged communities; and
- help more people take on leadership and governance roles;

Examples may include:

- community leadership programs;
- governance training for community board and committee members;
- mentoring or coaching;
- peer-learning programs;
- volunteer leadership development; and
- regional or place-based leadership programs.

Stream Two – Organisational and Sector Capability

Funding: Generally, up to \$250,000 over up to two years.

Larger grants will usually need to benefit several organisations, communities or regions, or build capability that can be shared across the sector.

This stream supports stronger organisations and a stronger community sector by improving the systems, practices, governance and relationships they rely on.

Priority may be given to initiatives that:

- strengthen governance, strategy, financial management and risk management;
- improve organisational systems and ways of working;
- strengthen volunteer management and succession planning;
- improve organisations' ability to plan, measure outcomes, evaluate and learn;
- support shared services, collaboration or coordination between organisations; and
- build skills, tools or systems that can benefit the wider sector.

Examples may include:

- organisational capability reviews and improvement work;
- better governance, financial, risk or volunteer-management systems;
- stronger approaches to measuring outcomes and evaluating impact;
- shared systems or services;
- collaboration and coordination initiatives; and
- sector-wide tools, networks or communities of practice.

What TCF is looking for

Strong Capability Building projects will generally show:

- a clear need for the proposed capability building;
- how the proposed activity will address that need;
- how the skills, knowledge, systems or capability developed will be used in practice;
- how the benefits will continue after the funded activity;
- how the benefits will extend beyond the immediate participants, where appropriate;
- a practical and achievable approach; and
- value for money.

TCF will generally not prioritise applications that mainly fund routine or job-related professional development, everyday operating costs, or consultants to prepare plans, policies or strategies without building lasting community or organisational capability.

Training or development for individuals may be supported where it is expected to strengthen their contribution to a community organisation or community, rather than primarily support their personal career development.

8.Grants in Focus: Youth

Grants in Focus allows TCF to target funding towards a particular issue or group.

In 2026–27, Grants in Focus will focus on **young people's participation, connection, belonging and voice**.

Funding: Generally, up to \$100,000 over up to two years.

One round is planned for early 2027, following co-design with young people.

TCF will be particularly interested in projects that:

- are youth-led or genuinely co-designed with young people;
- increase participation and inclusion;
- strengthen young people's voice and local leadership;
- respond to priorities identified by young people; and
- give young people meaningful roles in project design and decision-making.

The detailed design of the round will be developed with young people and relevant community organisations.

9.Managing TCF's overall funding portfolio

TCF aims to maintain a balanced and diverse funding portfolio across Tasmania.

When making funding decisions, the Board will consider:

- community need and benefit;
- geographic spread;
- access for smaller and volunteer-led organisations;
- regional, rural, island and urban representation;
- different types of communities and organisations;
- opportunities for collaboration;
- the balance between newer and more established organisations;
- the risk of too much funding being concentrated in one organisation, place or type of activity;
- long-term value; and
- the total funding available.

TCF recognises that what good community benefit looks like may differ across Tasmania.

The Board will take account of factors such as smaller populations, higher travel costs, workforce and volunteer constraints and limited access to services or facilities.

TCF will also monitor who applies, who is funded and where funding goes. This will help identify gaps in access and improve future grant design.

10. Outcomes monitoring and learning

TCF will continue to improve how it understands the results of its funding.

During 2026–27, this will include:

- collecting information about what funded projects achieve;
- identifying common challenges and things that help projects succeed;
- monitoring who applies and who receives funding;
- checking whether application and reporting processes are accessible and proportionate;
- seeking feedback from applicants and funded organisations;
- sharing useful learning; and
- using evidence to improve future funding decisions.

Monitoring and reporting requirements will be proportionate to the size, complexity and risk of each grant.

Outcomes framework

During 2026–27, TCF will develop an outcomes framework linked to the Strategic Plan.

The framework will help TCF understand the contribution its grants are making across the whole funding portfolio.

It will include a common set of outcomes and indicators, while allowing individual projects to focus on the outcomes that make sense for their work and community.

Individual grants will **not** be expected to contribute to every TCF outcome or indicator.

The outcomes framework will be used mainly for learning, portfolio reporting and future funding decisions. It will not create another eligibility test.

11. Funding available in 2026-27

TCF expects to approve about **\$9 million in new grant commitments** during 2026–27.

The amounts below are indicative. The Board may change them depending on the number and quality of applications received, the balance of the funding portfolio and TCF’s financial position.

Funding pathway	Indicative allocation	Timing of grant round opening
Major Initiative Grants	\$5.3 million	EOI expected September 2026
Community Action Grants	\$2.0 million	Round expected September 2026
Capability Building Grants	\$1.2 million	One round expected late 2026
Grants in Focus – Youth	\$0.5 million	Expected early 2027 following co-design
TOTAL	\$9.0 million	

All three Major Initiative tiers will be available. The Board may limit the number or value of larger grants to manage risk and long-term commitments.

The indicative Capability Building allocation in 2026/27 is:

- **Stream One** – Community Leadership and People Capability: **\$300,000**;
- **Stream Two** – Organisational and Sector Capability: **\$900,000**.

The Board may move funding between the two streams depending on the quality and number of applications received.

