



**Tasmanian
Community
Fund**

Funding Framework

2026 -2030



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.

Contents

1. Background and Context.....	3
1.1 The Tasmanian Community Fund.....	3
1.2 Purpose of the Funding Framework	3
2. Funding Principles and Parameters	5
2.1 Funding Principles	5
2.2 Eligibility — Who Can Apply	5
2.3 What we will and won't fund	6
2.4 Investment Approach	6
2.5 How We Fund.....	7
3. Funding Pathways	8
3.1 Current Pathways	8
Major Initiative Grants	8
Community Action Grants.....	9
Capability Building Grants.....	9
Grants in Focus	10
3.2 Future pathways	11
Pilot / Innovation Grants.....	11
Place-Based Backbone Grants.....	12
4. Monitoring, Measurement and Learning.....	13

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.¹

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:

- the **Strategic Plan** sets TCF's long-term direction, values and intended outcomes—the *why*;
- the **Funding Framework** and **Annual Funding Plan** translate that direction into funding pathways, priorities and resource allocation—the *what*;
- the **Grant Management Framework** establishes the standards and processes governing how funding is designed, assessed, approved and managed—the *how*; and
- individual **Funding Guidelines** set the eligibility, funding range, duration and requirements for each funding opportunity.

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.

¹ Nothing in this Funding Framework is intended to enlarge, restrict, replace or otherwise modify the statutory functions, powers or discretions of the Board with the Act prevailing should any inconsistency arise.

The TCF is committed to learning from the Tasmanian community, the funded projects and a developing evidence base. This learning will inform future reviews of the framework and subsequent Annual Funding Plans.

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

2. Funding Principles and Parameters

2.1 Funding Principles

All TCF funding is guided by the following principles:

- **Community-led:** funding recognises community knowledge, leadership and participation.
- **Responsive to place:** funding design and assessment recognise different local, regional, rural and island circumstances, and activity must deliver outcomes within Tasmania.
- **Open and fair:** funding opportunities and decision-making processes are transparent, accessible and appropriately competitive.
- **Proportionate:** requirements reflect the size, complexity and risk of the funding.
- **Long-term focus:** funding seeks to create durable community benefit, capability, relationships and positive change.
- **Evidence-informed:** applicants are expected to demonstrate how their approach is grounded in evidence, community knowledge and learning.
- **Learning and Innovation:** TCF supports considered experimentation, adaptation and continuous improvement.

2.2 Eligibility — Who Can Apply

Eligibility requirements will be set out clearly in the guidelines for each funding opportunity. Depending on the initiative, eligible applicants may include:

- incorporated not-for-profit and charitable organisations;
- companies limited by guarantee and organisations registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission;
- local government authorities;
- eligible organisations applying through an approved auspicing arrangement; and
- organisations based outside Tasmania where the funded activity and benefit are delivered in Tasmania.

Deductible Gift Recipient status will not generally be required unless specified in the relevant guidelines.

TCF may also consider scholarships and arrangements through which an eligible organisation administers funding to others, where this is consistent with the Act and the relevant program design.

2.3 What we will and won't fund

Consistent with the Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005, TCF may fund:

- Charitable, sporting, recreational, cultural, arts, educational, religious community-based programs and activities;
- Activities delivered in schools (where the applicant is a community organisation) and where it is not the core responsibility of the Department for Education, Children and Young People to fund;
- Leadership, governance and capability building initiatives;
- infrastructure that directly supports community activity, where permitted under the relevant funding pathway and guidelines.

TCF will not fund:

- For-profit organisations;
- Government agencies (state or federal);
- Ongoing recurrent operational costs that are not directly attributable to the funded activity or an approved capability-building purpose²;
- 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;
- lasting community benefit and the ability to adapt to change.

² Reasonable administration, coordination and indirect costs associated with delivering an approved project may be eligible where clearly identified and proportionate.

These conditions may be strengthened through investment in community organisations, collaborations, networks and other enabling structures where they demonstrate broad community benefit.

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.

Funding opportunities will ordinarily be publicly advertised and competitively assessed. Where a different approach is appropriate- such as a participatory, co-designed, place-based or intermediary funding model - the rationale, eligibility and decision-making arrangements will be transparently documented and approved by the Board.

Funding parameters, including purpose, eligibility, funding range, duration, assessment criteria and reporting expectations, will be published for each opportunity.

Funding opportunities may use proportionate tiers or categories within a pathway, with application, assessment, due diligence, contracting and reporting requirements increasing according to the amount, complexity and risk of the funding.

Tier thresholds and requirements will be set through the Annual Funding Plan and individual funding guidelines rather than fixed in this Framework.

3. Funding Pathways

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

3.1 Current Pathways

	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

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-founded initiatives with a clear pathway to long-term community benefit.

Application, assessment, grant-management and reporting requirements will be proportionate to the scale, complexity and risk of the initiative.

Major Initiative Grants may be offered in tiers to reflect different levels of scale, maturity, complexity and risk. Expectations for evidence, governance,

collaboration, due diligence and evaluation will increase with the scale and complexity of the investment.

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.

Community Action Grants may include simplified categories for smaller and standard grants, with shorter applications and lighter reporting for lower-value, lower-risk projects.

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;

Community Action Grants will have accessible and proportionate application and reporting arrangements appropriate to smaller and volunteer-led organisations.

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: Community Leadership and People Capability

This stream supports the skills, confidence and capability of people who lead, govern, volunteer and contribute within communities and community organisations. It may support cohort-based learning, leadership, governance, mentoring and other approaches that build practical community capability.

It may support:

- community leadership development;
- governance and board capability;
- skills development for community leaders, staff, volunteers and committee members;
- peer learning, mentoring and coaching; and
- learning that strengthens community-led practice, participation or collaboration.

Stream 2: Organisational and Sector Capability

This stream supports community organisations, collaborations and sector networks to strengthen the systems, governance, practices and relationships that help them work effectively and create lasting community benefit.

It may support:

- organisational systems, processes and capability;
- planning, evaluation and learning capability;
- governance, risk, financial management or operational systems;
- collaboration, coordination or shared capability across a sector or network;
- sector-wide capability.

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.

Participation arrangements will address accessibility, conflicts of interest, safeguarding, appropriate support and the role of community members in shaping the round.

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 pathways

Pilot / Innovation Grants

Purpose

The Pilot and Innovation Grants 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.

Where appropriate, support may include early-stage co-design, project development and capability building, rather than requiring communities to present a fully developed proposal at the outset.

Focus Areas

The Pilot and Innovation Grants 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;
- approaches that generate learning capable of informing future community, government or philanthropic responses..

Place-Based Backbone Grants

Purpose

The design of this initiative would be co-developed with communities and organisations already undertaking place-based work. Community readiness would be considered alongside opportunities to build capability in communities that are not yet ready for significant long-term investment.

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.

A future dedicated Place-Based Backbone Grant pathway may be developed if experience through Major Initiative funding and further co-design demonstrates a need for a separate funding mechanism.

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;
- mentoring, coaching and peer learning for community leaders and backbone teams; and
- transition and legacy planning to retain relationships, knowledge, leadership and momentum beyond the funding period.

4. Monitoring, Measurement and Learning

TCF's ability to improve its funding practice depends on proportionate monitoring, evaluation and learning across its funded portfolio.

Reporting and evaluation requirements will reflect the size, complexity, risk and purpose of each grant. Funded organisations will be supported to identify meaningful outcomes and appropriate evidence, with a focus on progress, learning and material change rather than unnecessary transactional reporting.

For innovative, complex and place-based work, TCF may use developmental and adaptive evaluation approaches that allow learning to inform delivery over the life of the grant.

TCF will aggregate and analyse information across its funded activity to understand what is being achieved, identify patterns and improve future funding. This will draw on quantitative information, community stories, relationships, participation, capability and other relevant evidence.

TCF will also monitor patterns in applications and funding outcomes, including regional and organisational participation, to identify possible barriers or gaps in access.

Portfolio learning will inform reviews of this Framework and Annual Funding Plans, support reporting against the Strategic Plan and, where appropriate, be shared with communities, government, philanthropy and other partners.

