



# TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES

## FUNDING GUIDELINES

### 2025 Community Action Grants \$5 000 TO \$50 000

#### Important dates

Applications open:	1 January 2025 and will remain open until 31 December 2025.
Applications assessed:	<p>Applications can be submitted when ready, throughout the year . Applications received on or prior to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 15 will be assessed in February</li><li>• March 15 will be assessed in April</li><li>• May 15 will be assessed in June</li><li>• July 15 will be assessed in August</li><li>• September 15 will be assessed in October</li><li>• November 15 will be assessed in December</li></ul>

**Enquiries and feedback always welcome:**

**Website:** [www.tascomfund.org](http://www.tascomfund.org)  
**Phone:** Tasmanian Community Fund on 6270 5843  
**Enquiry email:** [admin@tascomfund.org](mailto:admin@tascomfund.org)  
**Postal:** GPO Box 1350, HOBART TAS 7001  
Suite 2, Tech 3, Tasmanian Technopark, Innovation Drive, Dowsing Point

# Fund Background

The Tasmanian Community Fund was established in 1999 from the sale proceeds of a community asset to directly benefit the community by making grants to community organisations.

The Fund receives an annual appropriation in perpetuity. In 2023-24, the appropriation was \$8.19million. This appropriation covers all Fund costs, including grants and administrative expenses.

Since 2000, the Fund has allocated more than \$139 million to more than 3,235 projects in all areas of the State, making it one of Tasmania's most significant grant-making bodies.

## Governing Legislation

The Fund's operations are governed by the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005*. The legislation sets out:

- the guaranteed funding for the Board to distribute;
- the independence of the Board to award grants and set its strategic direction;
- the powers, functions and duties of the Board;
- Board appointments and meeting protocols;
- staffing of the Fund; and
- financial and operational accountability requirements.

A copy of the Act is available at: [www.thelaw.tas.gov.au](http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au).

## Fund Board and Staff

The Fund is managed by a Board drawn from around the State. Members are appointed by the Governor for their mix of community and business experience. At 15 January, 2025 the members are:

### Chairperson

#### **Kym Goodes**

With an extensive background in social policy, research, leadership, and management, Kym has held influential roles across government, private, and community sectors. Her expertise in strategy, planning, and stakeholder engagement has been pivotal in driving innovation and impactful reform across diverse areas, including health, education, social inclusion, literacy, and poverty. Recognised as one of Tasmania's leading voices on social policy, Kym's insights are sought after for shaping industry, government and community projects and reform agendas. Over the last decade, Kym has been appointed to several ministerial advisory bodies, including the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council, the Premier's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council, and the 26TEN Adult Literacy Coalition. She currently serves as Chair of the No Interest Loans (NILs) Board and a Director on the Board of Salveo Health Services. As a former CEO of the Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS), Kym led a team focused on advocacy

and ensuring a range of community-based projects to support low-income Tasmanians. Now, as a director of 3P Advisory, she works with government agencies, government business enterprises, corporates and not-for-profit organisations to integrate community insights into strategic planning, ensuring that social policies and programs reflect the needs and aspirations of the people they serve.

## **Members**

### **Mike Buckby**

Mike has extensive professional experience in the agricultural industry as the owner/manager of a multi-generational family farm for over 35 years and providing contracting service to other primary industry businesses. His professional experience also extended to the premium bottled water business as the Tasmanian manager of the Cape Grim Water Co for 11 years. A former Councillor for the Circular Head Council, he has a strong history in leading community boards within the agricultural, economic development and heritage conservation sectors. For the past 3 years he has been Chair of the Board of Governance for the Wyndarra Community and Resource Centre based in Smithton.

### **Ric de Santi**

Ric has extensive public sector and not-for-profit experience in governance, executive management, external reporting, and audit. Ric's current public sector governance roles include Director of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority; member or chair of several Tasmanian council audit panels; Chair of the Department of Treasury and Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee as well as a member of the audit committees of the Australian Accounting and Auditing and Assurance Standards Boards and the South Australian Audit Office. Ric holds several voluntary positions including Deputy Chair of the Catholic Education Commission of Tasmania; Director of the Launceston City Football Club Inc; President of the CPA Australia Tasmanian Divisional Council and member of CPA's External Reporting Centre of Excellence. Ric previously served as Deputy Auditor-General in Tasmania until 2021. He was a Director of CPA Australia from 2017 to 2021, including as Deputy President in 2021. Ric has a Bachelor of Business in Accounting, is a Fellow of CPA Australia and a Graduate member of the AICD.

### **Mat Greskie**

Mat has extensive Board and senior management experience including 11 years as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dulverton Waste Management. He has a Bachelor of Engineering and is a graduate of the AICD. Mat is a recognised leader in governance, strategy, risk management, strategic asset management, and project and contract management. He brings this suite of skills and knowledge to the TCF Board where he looks forward to providing the community with the highest level of confidence in the

organisations governance and decision making. Mat's current Board roles include Chair of Water Operations Association of Australia, Chair of NAMS Canada and Deputy Chair of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board.

**Michelle Swallow**

Michelle is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders Program, has a Bachelor of Social Work, studied at the London Business School in Negotiating and Influencing, and is currently Director of Leadership and Change Consultants Pty Ltd. Michelle has experience as a non-executive director across a number of not-for-profit organisations and she is currently a director of Community Housing (Tas) Limited, Community Housing Pathways Limited (CHPL), and is a past director of TasTAFE and Chair of their Audit and Risk Management Committee. She has held a number of senior executive roles and has a background in leadership, advocacy and policy across health, VET, housing, community and capacity building in community, government and private sectors. As a business consultant Michelle enjoys working with values-based organisations.

**Stephen Walley**

Stephen had a 35 year career in the Tasmanian Education Department, serving as principal of St Helens District High School, St Marys District School and Prospect High School. He then became a private Educational Consultant, where he was a member of the national Big Picture Education Australia leadership team and played a critical role in establishing the Launceston Big Picture School. Until recently Stephen was a part-time Project Manager with Break O'Day Employment Connect, one of eight Jobs Tasmania Regional Jobs Hubs. In addition to his professional roles, Stephen is actively involved in the community as the chair of the board of the St Helens/St Marys Bendigo Community Bank and as the President of the East Coast Swans Football Club.

**Intern Director**

**Madeleine Way**

Madeleine is a Graduate of the Tasmanian Community Fund's Emerging Community Leaders Program of 2023. Madeleine is the Chair of Canteen Australia, an organisation that supports young people aged 12-25 years old who are dealing with their own diagnosis, a close family member's cancer or the death of a loved one. She has been a director on the board since 2017. Following the completion of her PhD in apple cider, she gained industry experience working in both brewing and distilling operations in Tasmania. Madeleine is now working in the Research Division of UTAS, specialising in Scholarships and Partnerships.

Under the Act, the Board has the sole discretion to award grants and has responsibility to ensure the Fund's operations are in accordance with legislative requirements.

The Board is supported by four employees, who manage the day-to-day operations of the Fund:

<b>Lola Cowle</b>	Manager
<b>Leanne Johannesen</b>	Client Manager
<b>Abi Binning</b>	Client Manager
<b>Cheryl Walker</b>	Project and Administrative Officer
<b>Phone</b>	6270 5843

Under the TCF Act, the Board cannot employ staff directly. The TCF Board makes arrangements with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to make staff available to support the Board.

TCF Values	
<b>COMMUNITY FOCUSED</b>	To connect with community and strategically respond to identified needs
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	To be fair, reasonable, honest and accountable at all times and ensure transparency of process and probity in decision making
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	To make strategic decisions, lead by example, innovate, influence for change and facilitate strong community leadership
<b>COLLABORATIVE</b>	To work with others and foster partnerships to achieve wellbeing outcomes for communities

### Code of Conduct

The Board takes its responsibility to manage a large pool of public funds seriously. In addition to the requirements of the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005* and other legislative requirements, Board members adhere to a Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available on the Fund's website.

Board members must act honestly in all matters and ensure that their functions and powers are performed and exercised in the best interests of the Tasmanian community.

Fund staff must adhere to the State Service Code of Conduct.

### Funding recipients

The Tasmanian Community Fund website [www.tascomfund.org](http://www.tascomfund.org) has a list of recent previous grant recipients.

## Eligibility and Assessment Summary

### To be eligible to apply, organisations must be:

- not for profit\*
- incorporated, or be a not-for-profit legal entity, or sponsored by an incorporated organisation or a not-for-profit legal entity and
- based in Tasmania, or proposing to undertake a project in Tasmania.

### Preference in funding will be given to projects that best demonstrate:

- benefit to the Tasmanian community
- innovation and proactivity
- an integrated and collaborative approach, avoiding duplication
- value for money
- community support for the project, particularly from any partners
- other financial or in-kind contributions
- the ability to build and strengthen community capacity
- good prospects for successful implementation and
- volunteer and community involvement with the project.

### Funding exclusions:

- organisations with overdue reporting obligations for TCF projects
- projects that will be predominantly undertaken outside of Tasmania
- projects where funding is more suitably sourced from another organisation
- projects which produce a private benefit to a specific business or person(s)
- projects that replicate services or programs that already exist within the community of interest
- retrospective funding ie for costs already incurred before a grant deed is signed
- ongoing operational costs or business as usual expenses
- construction or refurbishment of areas that will be leased or sub-leased to individuals or businesses for a commercial gain
- prizes or gifts
- purchase of property
- items or services that the applicant is contracted to provide
- insufficiently defined items, eg contingency, sundry and miscellaneous items
- strategic, business or communication plans or feasibility studies or any other study that does not result in a direct outcome to the community
- publication of books/other products to celebrate an anniversary of an organisation
- loans or
- where it is apparent that the applicant is becoming dependent on TCF funding.

\*Eligible, not for profit organisations include Councils and State Government Departments (excluding School Associations)

Each round, the Fund receives more applications than it has the capacity to support. Therefore, some worthwhile projects may not be funded, or may be offered partial funding.

Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with Fund staff early in the application process.

**To contact staff phone:** 6270 5843  
**To contact staff email:** [admin@tascomfund.org](mailto:admin@tascomfund.org)

# 2025 Community Action Grants

## *Breaking Barriers – Building Futures*

The Tasmanian Community Fund is calling for applications from not-for-profit community organisations for projects that increase community wellbeing.

### **Application timeline**

Applications open at 8am on 1 January 2025 and the applications can be received until 5pm on 31 December 2025. Please note that this year, the Community Action Grant Round will be open for the full year.

Applications that have met the Community Action Grant criteria will be assessed at a Tasmanian Community Fund Board Meeting. Applications can be submitted when ready, throughout the year. Applicants will be advised of the outcome within two weeks of the assessment.

### **Project funding is available for:**

- a maximum of two years (awarded amount can be split across this timeline in accordance with the needs of the project)
- projects that are tailored for the Tasmanian community
- programs, including pilot programs
- infrastructure and equipment that remove barriers to enable 8–19 year olds to stay engaged and connected to learning
- projects that have a minimum of 10% cash contribution (of the amount being sought from the TCF) from the applicant or another funding partner
- projects that include community or organisation collaboration are strongly encouraged.

### **Assessment**

Our grant rounds are highly competitive, and we are unable to support every worthwhile project. Organisations are strongly encouraged to contact Fund staff early in the process to discuss their proposed application.

### **Further information**

Visit the Fund's website [www.tascomfund.org](http://www.tascomfund.org) or contact the Fund Office on 6270 5843

For Grant Writing Hints and Tips visit the Fund's website– [Tasmanian Community Fund - Grant Writing Hints and Tips](#)



## **Your Application**

The Tasmanian Community Fund receives a large number of applications each grant round. Visit the Tasmanian Community Fund website at: <https://tascomfund.smartygrants.com.au/2024CommunityAction> to access the electronic application form. All applications are submitted electronically via the SmartyGrants platform.

For the 2025 Community Action Grants, the Tasmanian Community Fund is seeking applications for projects that require \$5,000 to \$50,000 of support from the TCF.

## **General Comments to Consider**

Funding rounds of the Tasmanian Community Fund are always highly competitive. The Tasmanian Community Fund understands that applying can take a significant amount of time and effort. To help applicants submit their best case, the information below provides some general comments on the applications received in previous rounds. However, it is important to understand that the Fund does not have the capacity to support every worthwhile project and meeting the criteria does not guarantee funding.

The Board notes that stronger applications:

- demonstrate strong value for money
- show a clear need in the community
- provide evidence of community support through letters of support
- provide a clear explanation of project objectives
- refer to research or other evidence to support the application
- show the applicant has considered any risks associated with the project
- contain clear and evidence-based details of the numbers of people to benefit and
- demonstrate organisational and/or community capacity to complete the project.

Areas where applications are weaker include:

- incorrect, non-existent or unclear budgets
- unclear project proposals and delivery methodology
- insufficient evidence that there is a broad community benefit
- insufficient evidence that required recurrent or future funding has been guaranteed
- lower value for money
- core responsibilities of local, State or Australian government
- insufficient information on how the outcomes of the project will be sustained
- replication of existing service or project and
- insufficient evidence of the community need or community support for the project.

## Completing the application form

When completing the application form please ensure you:

- provide enough information so that someone who does not know anything about the project or the community can understand what the issue is that you are trying to solve and what your proposed solution is
- avoid jargon
- be realistic about what you can achieve in the timeframe and budget
- complete all the questions with a red asterix\* as they are compulsory questions and you will not be able to submit your application until they are completed
- ask someone who doesn't know anything about your project to have a look at it prior to submitting.

## Questions to complete

### Preliminary Questions

Through the preliminary questions, the Tasmanian Community Fund is seeking general information about your organisation – organisation name, address, ABN number – and details of project contacts.

*TCF Staff:* Applications are often not accepted because they do not comply with the specific requirements for the grant round. Please phone 6270 5843 to speak to a TCF Client Manager before you start your application.

### Organisational Project Details

This section provides an opportunity for the TCF Board who will be assessing the application to get an initial understanding of the project. This section includes questions about the project name, project summary and local government area.

*Project Name:* choose a name that encapsulates the project, a concise and descriptive title. For example – the 'Renewing Dignity' project provides access to an industrial grade washing machine, drier and shower facilities within XYZ school.

*Project Summary:* provide an overview of the project, including goals, objectives and the problem it aims to address. For example – 'removing barriers to learning for 8-11 year olds who have experienced trauma, on the West Coast through the delivery of a creative arts program' or 'providing access to clean clothes and personal hygiene facilities to promote regular school attendance laying a foundation for educational success'.

*Amount Requested:* include the amount you are requesting from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Remember that this figure does not automatically update so if the amount you are requesting changes as your application progresses, you will need to update this figure. This figure will be different to your overall project cost.

*Council area:* Please indicate which Council area your project will take place in. If the project crosses Council boundaries please indicate which Region (North, North West, South)

your project will take place in. If the project crosses regional boundaries please indicate that your project is Statewide.

*Organisational Role:* Through this question, the TCF is seeking to understand a little bit more about your organisation. What the role of the organisation is, what your strategic focus is, how it is governed and what programs or activities you are currently working on.

### **Project Stream**

*Project stream:* The Tasmanian Community Fund's funding strategy for 2024-2030 is to increase community wellbeing by;

- removing barriers to learning to enable 8-19 year olds to stay engaged with and connected to learning and
- increasing the capacity and capability of organisations and communities across Tasmania to remove barriers to learning for 8-19 year olds.

In this question you need to identify which funding stream your project focuses on.

### **Project Focus**

The TCF have identified several areas of focus under each project stream. Once you select your project stream the list of focus areas for that stream will appear. You can select more than one focus area from the stream.

#### *Connected and educated children and young people*

Removing barriers to enable 8 - 19 year olds to stay engaged with and connected to learning:

- Innovative solutions to support the continued engagement of children and young people (8-19 year olds) with learning.
- Enabling 8-19 year olds to transition between the learning stages (primary to secondary, secondary to college, college to TAFE, Uni, work).
- Increasing the digital literacy and access of 8-19 year olds and enabling their families to support them.
- Collaborative community solutions that increase literacy and numeracy including financial literacy of children and young people (8-19 year olds).
- Community solutions that increase happiness, wellbeing and resilience of children and young people (8-19 year olds).
- Ensuring every 8-19 year old has access to at least one nutritious meal a day at school, home or in the community.
- Increasing the number of 16-19 year olds with pathways to employment.
- Increasing the capacity of employers to engage young people in employment.

#### *Capable and well-led communities*

Increasing the capacity and capability of organisations and communities across Tasmania:

- Advocating for the needs of young people (8 - 19 year olds).
- Increasing the leadership capacity and capability of children and young people.
- Increasing strategic and long-term thinking of communities and community organisations.
- Increasing community capacity.
- Increasing local community leadership capacity.

If you are unsure which stream your project aligns with, please call the Tasmanian Community Fund Office on 6270 5843 for advice.

*Office Bearers/Directors:* To help the TCF understand who is responsible for the governance of the organisation please provide a list of office bearers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) or directors and a brief outline of their skills and experience.

### **Project Details**

This section provides an opportunity for the TCF Board, who will be assessing the application, to gain a more in-depth understanding of the project being proposed. Questions in this section include what your project is and what are the three biggest risks associated with the project.

*What is the project:* Your response to this question should include details of what you propose to do, how you will do it, where you will undertake the project, who your project partners are likely to be, what outcomes will be achieved and how you will manage the project.

*Why does the community need the project:* Your response to this question should explain why the community needs the project and what issue you are trying to overcome. You should also indicate how you have determined that this project will overcome the issue.

For instance, you could indicate that ‘...the young people in this community are feeling isolated and lack opportunities for learning, growth and mentoring. We have partnered with the Council, School and the local Community Health Centre to develop this project and we anticipate that the outcomes will be increased happiness, wellbeing and resilience of children and young people (8-19 year olds).’

In another case, you could indicate that education around growing vegetables and cooking will help address food insecurity. ‘...This project will enable us to meet the need of one nutritious meal per day for 8-19 year olds whilst working with food recipients to develop their knowledge of food and how to prepare it and building their skills in growing their own vegetables.’

The examples above are very brief. You should consider providing a more detailed response.

*TCF Funding Strategy Alignment:* This question will appear once you have selected a project focus and the question will vary according to the focus chosen. If you have chosen “connected and educated children and young people” as your project focus it will ask how the project will remove barriers to learning for 8-19 year olds.

For this question, you should explain how your project will remove barriers to learning. If your project is to pilot an arts program that provides 8-19 year olds living with trauma the opportunity to express themselves through creativity you should explain who your project will help, how you will ensure the program reaches the right young people and how this program will remove barriers to learning.

*How many people:* Your response to this question should indicate the specific number of people who will be part of the project in terms of either program participants, attendees,

etc and then indicate the number of people who will benefit indirectly such as friends and family of participants, community centre users by X amount of groups etc.

*Community Support:* Your response to this question should outline how the community has demonstrated support. This could be providing letters of support, indications of support through discussions, providing funding, agreeing to undertake work (in-kind), agreeing to be a partner, signing a petition, etc.

*Volunteers and community:* Your response to this question should outline how volunteers have been part of designing and developing the project idea. This could be detailing conversations with individuals or other community organisations, volunteer responses/feedback to the organisation, partners meeting to develop response, etc.

Your response should also indicate how volunteers and the community will be involved in implementing the project. This could be doing in-kind work, project management, referring participants to a program, etc.

*Letters of support:* You are required to provide three letters of support with your application. Letters should be signed and on the official letterhead of the organisation providing the letter. Letters of support can be provided by email; however, they must include an official signature block in place of a letterhead.

When deciding on who to approach for letters of support, think about who will benefit from the project and ensure that you capture their perspective in the letters. You should also think about including letters of support from project partners. If undertaking a local community project, you are encouraged to include a letter of support from the local Council. Please ask community organisations/partners/Councils to write their letter on letterhead.

No more than three letters will be considered, but you can have multiple signatures on the letters to demonstrate the breadth of support for the project.

Letters of support from applicant members or representatives of the applicant organisation or people/organisations who will receive a financial benefit from the project will not be accepted.

### **Project Management**

This section provides an opportunity for the TCF Board who will be assessing the application to gain an understanding of how the project will be managed.

*Success:* Your response to this question should indicate how you will know if the project has been successful. This could include change in the level of X in the community, number of participants in the program or increased participation in X.

*Risks:* The response should indicate what the risks associated with the project are and how these risks will be mitigated. Consider including at least three risks and how you will manage the project to ensure they don't become an issue or if they are an issue, that they don't have a significant impact on the project.

*Project start date:* The response should indicate when you plan to start your project.

*Project end date:* The response should indicate when you plan to finish your project. Please keep in mind that projects cannot run for more than two years from their start date.

### **Project Financials**

This section provides an opportunity for the TCF Board to understand the budget and other financial aspects of the project.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the budget and other financial information is correct and fully completed and that the budget (income and expenditure) adds up.

The Tasmanian Community Fund reserves the right to reject an application that contains insufficient financial information or that contains GST or budgetary information that is incorrect.

Tasmanian Community Fund staff are available to provide advice on budget or other financial information prior to the submission of any application.

*GST status:* You need to indicate if the amounts in the income and expenses table in the application include GST or not.

There are a few simple rules to keep in mind when dealing with GST.

1. The Fund will gross-up a grant by 10% for GST when the recipient or the sponsor is registered for GST. Therefore, the amount requested should be **exclusive** of GST.
2. The Fund has determined to include GST as part of the grant where the recipient or the sponsor is not registered for GST. Therefore, the amount requested should be **inclusive** of GST.

If you have received a quote that includes GST, but does not itemise the GST amount, divide the total amount by 11 then multiply by 10 to work out the amount without GST.

If you need to add GST to a quote received, add 10% to the cost.

If you need assistance with GST please contact the Australian Tax Office on 13 28 66 or [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

Please note that the ATO requires all non-profit organisations with a turnover of \$150 000 or more to register for GST. Non-profit organisations with a lower turnover may choose to register.

*Project Income and Project Expenses (your budget):* The Tasmanian Community Fund Board relies on the accuracy of information provided in applications, including budgets.

A few things to consider when developing your budget:

- Applicants must contribute at least 10% in cash towards the project's implementation costs, based on the funds requested from TCF. This contribution can come from the applicant's own resources or other funding sources, such as partner contributions. The cash contribution must be in addition to the regular costs the organisation would normally incur.
- All applicants are encouraged to ensure that they have sought cash and in-kind contributions from a variety of sources.
- When putting together your budget, we strongly recommend that the naming and wording of budget line items, align with the current general ledger codes of your organisation. This will make the acquittal process more streamlined. If these will not be clear to someone outside your organisation please include additional detail.
- Staff appointed as a result of the funding, need to either be new staff, or if existing staff, be undertaking hours over and above their current hours. The funding recipient will need to provide evidence of this including full payroll record (all positions indicated in the grant deed) and evidence of expenditure. For new and pre-existing staff with additional hours, a copy of the contract will be required. For pre-existing staff, copies of timesheets indicating time spent on the project is required.
- Specialist volunteer time, ie. mentor, graphic designer, project manager, should be calculated at their professional rate. General volunteer labour should be calculated at \$41 per hour.
- The Board encourages applicants to make sure that volunteer/in-kind hours are realistic and are in addition to the support that volunteers/staff would provide in their normal day to day activities.
- The maximum amount of overheads that can be sought from the TCF for program-based projects is 18% of funds being sought.
- The maximum amount of overheads that can be sought from the TCF for infrastructure projects is 4% of funds being sought.
- Overheads include program management, supervision, finance, payroll, quality control/assurance, information technology, human resource management, insurance, steering committee/project oversight, administration support and office rental and fit-out (desk, chair, etc). Any overheads over and above the amount that can be sought from the TCF must be funded by the applicant or another funding source.
- The Community Action grants are designed to fund programs. Infrastructure costs must refer to expenses directly related to the physical setup required for the project to be able to occur.
- Applicants are encouraged to include the names of other funding sources. The *other funding source* labels in the income table can be deleted and the appropriate information provided.
- Applicants should also make sure they are providing detailed budgets. If budgets do not include sufficient information for the Board to determine how the funds would be spent, they are less likely to be approved.

- If applicants are unsure of the income tax implications of receiving a grant from the TCF they should contact the Australian Tax Office for advice.
- SmartyGrants will calculate the total project income and expenses.

Some recipients are disadvantaged because they request less funds than an accurate budget would show. Once the Board has awarded a grant, any shortfall needs to be covered by the organisation or other funding sources.

In cases where an applicant has incorrectly requested more funds than its budget would suggest, the Board may award a lower amount. Any underspend must be returned to the TCF.

The Tasmanian Community Fund strongly encourages applicants to double-check amounts in the budget to ensure that the requested funds are accurate. Once you have completed your budget you should ensure that the response to the total amount requested question in the *Organisation Project Details* section shows the correct amount requested from the TCF.

Applicants need to make sure that:

- all three columns of the income and expenses tables are completed
- the total income and the total expenses match
- the amount of money allocated to each funding source in the budget expenses matches the amount indicated in the income. For example, if the income table states that the applicant will be contributing \$30 000, then there must be budget line items in the expenses table that are allocated to the applicant in the funding source column that add up to \$30 000.
- expenses are nominated as cash or in-kind under the Funding Source column (TCF expenses are assumed to be cash)

## Sample budget for an organisation that is registered for GST

### Project Income

Funding Source	Amount	Has funding been secured?
Tasmanian Community Fund	\$50 000.00	No
Applicant (cash)	\$10 000.00	Yes
Applicant (in-kind labour)	\$12 000.00	Yes
Local school (in-kind)	\$6 000.00	Yes
Supplier Discounts (in-kind)	\$2 500.00	Yes
Fundraising (cash)	\$2 000.00	No
Council (cash)	\$5 000.00	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87 500.00</b>	



## Project Expenses

Item/Service	Amount	Funding Source
Project Manager – 0.2 FTE Level 3	\$50,000.00	TCF
SCSA Award plus on-costs	\$10,000.00	Applicant - cash
Project management	\$12,000.00	Applicant - in-kind
Hire of space	\$6,000.00	Local school – in-kind
Art materials	\$7,500.00	Council (\$5,000) and Supplier discount (\$2 500)
Van hire and transport costs	\$2,000.00	Fundraising
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87 500.00</b>	

## Sample budget for an organisation that is not registered for GST

### Project Income

Funding Source	Amount	Has funding been secured?
Tasmanian Community Fund	\$50,000.00	No
Applicant (cash)	\$10,000.00	Yes
Applicant (in-kind labour)	\$12,000.00	Yes
Local school (in-kind)	\$6,000.00	Yes
Supplier Discounts (in-kind)	\$2,750.00	Yes
Fundraising (cash)	\$2,200.00	Yes
Council (cash)	\$5,500.00	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,450.00</b>	

### Project Expenses

Item/Service	Amount	Funding Source
Project Manager – 0.2 FTE Level 3	\$50 000.00	TCF
SCSA Award plus on-costs	\$10 000.00	Applicant - cash
Project management	\$12 000.00	Applicant - in-kind
Hire of space	\$6, 000.00	Local school – in-kind
Art materials	\$8 250.00	Council (\$5,500) and Supplier Discount (\$2 750)
Van hire and transport costs	\$2 200.00	Fundraising
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,450.00</b>	

More rows can be added to the table by pressing the green add row button.

**Budget Balance:** The TCF does not accept applications with incorrect budgets. This question calculates the total project income minus the total project expenses. If the answer is not \$0 you will need to review your budget to ensure that the total income and expenses match.

## **Other Financial Questions**

This section provides the TCF Board with an opportunity to understand the financial position of your organisation and any funding request priorities.

*Partial Funding:* Please indicate if you will accept partial funding from the TCF for the project. You will also need to explain your response. If you cannot accept partial funding, please explain why. If you can accept partial funding, please provide details of the minimum amount acceptable and what it would be used for.

*Other Funding Bodies:* Please indicate if you have or will be applying to another funding body for the elements that you are seeking funding from the TCF for. If you are, please provide details of the items being requested and when the outcome of the other application will be known.

*Application Priority:* If you are applying to the TCF for support for more than one project please indicate which project is the highest priority and then list any other applications in priority order.

*Members with Financial Benefit:* If any members of your organisation will undertake paid work through the project, please provide details of the type of work they will be doing and the amount of funding they will receive.

## **Financial Viability**

This section is part of the TCF's risk management assessment. All sections of the financial viability need to be completed unless the applicant or sponsor is a local Council, State or Commonwealth Department or a University. If the applicant is one of the exceptions only parts of the financial viability section need to be completed.

If a sponsor is taking responsibility for the project, then the financial viability section must be completed with the sponsors details.

*Audited Statements:* Please indicate if the organisations audited statements are available on a website and if they are provide details of the website.

If the audited statements are not available on a website, there is no need to provide copies to the TCF.

*Financial Summary:* Please provide a summary of the last three years of financial information. This information should be drawn from audited statements. If the organisation has an exemption for audited statements, the information should be drawn from the end of year financial reports provided to members. This section is not marked as compulsory as Councils, Universities and State Government Departments are not required to complete it however if it is not completed by other organisations it may prevent the application progressing to the assessment stage.

*Financial Position:* Please provide further information on your financial position including an explanation of any significant changes in financial position, details of what reserves are set aside for, planned future strategic projects, etc.

*Legal Entity:* Please indicate how many years your organisation has been a legal entity for.

*Legal Disputes:* Please indicate if there are any outstanding legal disputes and, if there are, what the details of the dispute are.

*Current Committed Projects:* Please provide a list of projects that your organisation is currently committed to. If your organisation has a large number of committed projects, please provide details of at least four projects that are relevant to the application.

*Projects Undertaken:* Please provide a list of projects that your organisation has completed in the last three years. If your organisation has a large number of completed projects, please provide details of at least four projects that are relevant to the application.

### **Sponsor Details**

If the applicant organisation is a not-for-profit but is not a legal entity, then they must have a sponsor who is a not-for-profit legal entity. The sponsor takes legal and financial responsibility for the project and must complete this section.

Through this section the TCF is seeking general organisational information (organisation name, address, ABN number, etc) about the sponsor and a formal commitment from the sponsor that they are willing to take on legal and financial responsibility for the project should it be successful.

### **Partner Funding, Agreement and Declaration**

This section describes what commitments the applicant is entering into by submitting the application. The section also seeks permission from the applicant to provide information to another funder if the TCF thinks they may be interested in funding the project.

*Partner Funding:* From time to time the TCF is approached by other funders to provide information on projects that may meet their funding criteria. This question seeks permission for the TCF to provide a copy of the application, in the strictest of confidence, to another funder if the TCF thinks it may fit the other funders criteria. There are no implications for TCF funding if you choose not to allow the TCF to provide the application to another funder.

*Agreement and Declaration:* Please read all the details carefully and consider if you agree and can declare that they are true before completing the authorising officer details. The authorising officer should be someone in the organisation who can make the commitments outlined in the agreement and declaration.

## **Reviewing and Submitting**

Once you have completed your application you should review it thoroughly and ask someone else to review it for you. TCF staff are available to review your application and can provide advice to you before you submit, we encourage you to take up this offer.

If you would like to print out your application or email it to another party you can press the download in pdf button at the bottom of the review section. You can do this at any time during your application development.

If you are comfortable with your application, you are ready to submit it. You will not be able to submit the application if any compulsory questions are not completed or if you have not provided a response that is within the parameters that the TCF has set. If this is the case the question will show up with a red square around it when you are on the review page.

Once you have double-checked everything you should press the submit button. The TCF encourages you to submit your application well before the deadline in case there are any last-minute issues. You should keep in mind that the TCF does not accept late applications.

### **Changing Your Application**

Once the due date and time have passed you cannot make any changes to your application.

If the funding round is still open, you can only make changes to your application by contacting the TCF Office on 6270 5843 and asking for the application to be reopened. If the application is reopened, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is resubmitted by the due date and time.

### **OUR TOP TEN TIPS:**

1. Read and follow these guidelines and application questions carefully - they will help you put your best case forward.
2. Discuss your project with TCF staff.
3. Aim to complete the application at least a few days before the closing date to address any last-minute issues. Late applications are not accepted.
4. Check and double-check your budget and GST status.
5. Make your application easy to read – short, sharp and succinct and avoid using industry jargon.
6. Be realistic – with project benefits, timeframes and the budget.
7. Provide evidence to support your proposal.
8. Ask a person unfamiliar with the project to read the application with a critical eye.
9. Provide the requested information only.
10. Aim for your application's full approval, but plan for other results.

# Grant Application Checklist

Please use this checklist to help complete your application.

***Incomplete applications will not be considered.***

<b>Before you prepare your application:</b>	Read the guidelines carefully and consider if your organisation is eligible to apply	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consider carefully the 'eligibility and assessment' information (page 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contact the Fund to discuss your project	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Before you submit your application, make sure you:</b>	Provide information relating to your organisation, including ABN and GST status and incorporation or entity details	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indicate the region and project area	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Complete all the required fields on the application form – you will not be able to submit your application until the required questions have been answered.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If your organisation is unincorporated or is not a legal entity:	
	• provide details of your sponsor; and	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• attach the letter from your sponsoring organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Obtain Council or other approvals where necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ensure you have approval from the authorised officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contact the TCF Office to request a review of your application before submitting the application	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Read the Personal Information Collection Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Submit the application on time. The TCF does not accept late applications, try to submit your application by 4.30pm on the due date to give you time to deal with any issues that you may encounter.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Keep a copy of your funding application for your records. A copy will be emailed to you once you press the submit button.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Assessment Process

The Board assess all applications on their individual merits and against all other applications, in accordance with the processes outlined in these guidelines. The Board may refer an application to relevant people for specialist advice.

After assessing an application, the Tasmanian Community Fund will either:

- award the grant in full
- award the grant in part (if this is acceptable to the applicant and the community benefit is considered sufficient)
- award the grant subject to meeting special conditions or
- not award the grant.

### Assessment Timetable

Activity	Timeframe
Grant round opens	Monday, 1 January 2025
Grant round closes	Tuesday, 31 December 2025
Applications acknowledged	Within two weeks of the application being submitted <i>If you do not receive an acknowledgment letter, please contact the office on 6270 5843</i>
Applications assessed	<i>Applications submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the assessment month:</i> The applications will be assessed in February, April, June, August, October, December
Applicants advised of outcome	Late February, April, June, August, October and December
Grant deeds arranged	Within six weeks of the advice
Grants disbursed to successful applicants	On receipt of signed grant deed <i>Subject to completion of grant deed (including return of any additional information required) and meeting any special conditions</i>

### Lodgement

Applications should be electronically submitted through SmartyGrants – [www.tascomfund.org](http://www.tascomfund.org)

## Arrangements for Successful Applicants

TCF will appoint a Client Manager to work with successful applicants to ensure that there is a shared understanding of requirements.

### Grant Deeds

All successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant deed with the TCF Board, on behalf of the Crown in Right of Tasmania. If the applicant is unincorporated or is a non-legal entity, the grant deed will be with the project sponsor.

### Withdrawal of Grant

The Tasmanian Community Fund has a responsibility to ensure the funds are managed in the best interests of the Tasmanian community. Grant recipients must ensure public funds are properly expended.

Once awarded, the Board may withdraw the grant, **at any time before or after the grant deed is issued**, if obligations to the Fund have not been met including:

- the Board's assessment was based on misleading or incorrect material information provided in the application
- there are any material changes, within or beyond the applicant's control, that would alter the Board's decision
- the Tasmanian Community Fund is unable to gain appropriate information to progress the Grant Deed or any other aspect of the project management
- the recipient is unable to demonstrate to the Fund's satisfaction that the grant, or part of the grant, has been used for its intended purpose and on the approved items
- the recipient has not received prior written approval from the Fund for any changes to the project, budget or timetable
- it becomes apparent that the project had commenced or been completed prior to the successful negotiation and signing of a grant deed
- the recipient fails to submit a progress or final report by the scheduled due date
- the project has not commenced within 12 months of the signing of the grant deed, whether or not the reason(s) is under the control of the recipient or
- the grant is used for a private benefit.

If the grant has been paid in part or full, the Tasmanian Community Fund has the option of seeking the return of the funds. If the grant has not yet been paid, the grant may be cancelled.

An organisations record in meeting its obligations will be considered when assessing any future grant application.

In some circumstances, organisations may re-apply for funding if their grant has been withdrawn. Please discuss this with Fund staff.



## Information for Sponsors

An incorporated association or other not-for-profit legally constituted body must take responsibility for the project. This means that if an unincorporated not-for-profit body wishes to apply for funding, it must have a sponsor to auspice the project. Applicants and sponsors must both meet the organisation eligibility requirements on page 5 ie. they must be not-for-profit, with no overdue Fund reporting requirements.

If the grant is awarded, the sponsor agrees to accept legal and financial responsibility for the project. In particular, the sponsor will ensure:

- the grant is used only for the purpose in which it was provided, and for the specific items listed in the deed
- the project is completed within the agreed timeframe
- prior written approval from the Fund is sought if changes to the project, budget or timeframe are required and
- reporting obligations are completed by the due date, including an audit report where applicable.

### Letter from the sponsor

Sponsors are required to include a signed copy of the letter at **Attachment A** on their official letterhead.

### Grant deed

The grant deed will be made with the sponsor.

### Grant payment

The grant is paid to the sponsor, not the applicant.

Please ensure the applicant and sponsors have come to an arrangement about the process for paying the costs of the project. Some sponsors may choose to forward the grant funds directly to the applicant; others may wish to hold the funds and reimburse funds on production of invoices. This is a matter between the sponsor and applicant.

### Grant acquittals

The project sponsor is ultimately responsible for ensuring reporting requirements have been met.

## What you can expect from the Tasmanian Community Fund

The Board will manage the Fund in the best interests of the community by ensuring that:

- individual member obligations under the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005*, the Board's Code of Conduct and that the Board's actions are consistent with grant-making best-practice
- individual Board members are informed about community issues and build relationships with community organisations
- funds are used to maximise the value of projects to the Tasmanian community
- funding decisions are made through a fair, consistent, objective and rigorous assessment of applications against published criteria
- funds are distributed to a broad range of community organisations and projects throughout Tasmania
- information about the Fund's operations and processes is provided in an accessible, accurate, timely and courteous manner and
- assessment guidelines, list of grants awarded, audited annual reports and newsletters are made available publicly.

## What the Fund expects from applicants and recipients

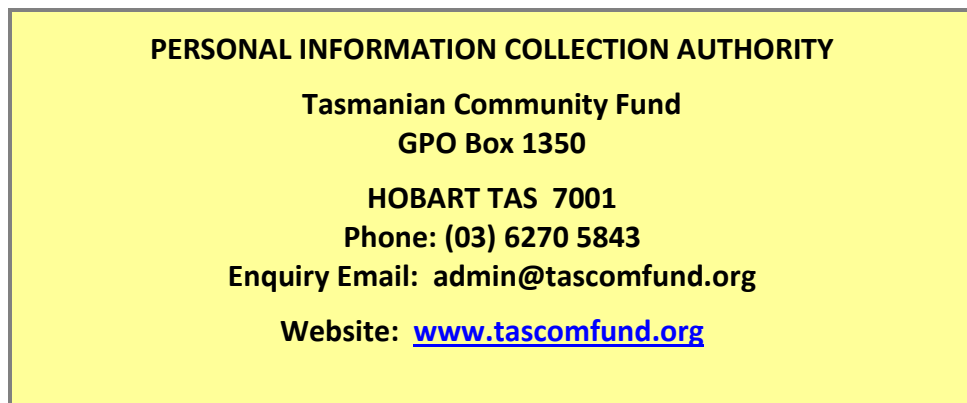
The Tasmanian Community Fund expects grant applicants to assist the Board when they are assessing grant applications by:

- providing accurate and complete information in accordance with the Fund's guidelines
- meeting any reasonable requests for additional information, including through site visits
- providing the application with the required information, in the requested format, by the grant round closing date and
- notifying the Fund of any changes which may affect the grant application once submitted.

The Tasmanian Community Fund expects grant recipients to be accountable for the expenditure of public funds by:

- only expending funds on the approved purposes and specific items
- meeting any special funding conditions
- completing the project within the agreed timeframe
- seeking written consent from the Fund prior to any changes to the project, budget or timeframe
- returning unexpended funds to the Fund for distribution to other recipients
- providing complete reports to the Fund in a timely and accurate manner

- for grants over \$50 000 and other selected grants, providing financial information to auditors nominated by the Fund
- meeting any requests for information about the project, including site visits
- assisting an independent evaluation of the project if required
- meeting requests for media coverage of the project and
- acknowledging the Tasmanian Community Fund funding towards the project.



Personal information will be collected from you for the purpose of assessing applications for grants and will be used by the Tasmanian Community Fund for managing, assessing, advising upon and determining the relevant application and may be used for other purposes permitted by the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005* (the Act).

Failure to provide this information may result in your application not being able to be processed.

Your personal information will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected and may be disclosed to contractors and agents of the Tasmanian Community Fund, courts and other organisations authorised to collect it.

Your basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary for the efficient storage and use of the information. Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to the Tasmanian Community Fund. You may be charged a fee for this service.

The Tasmanian Community Fund is subject to the Tasmanian Right to Information Legislation and therefore applicant details and their applications may be the subject of a right to information request.

## Attachment A: Sponsoring Organisation Letter

**This letter must be provided on the sponsoring organisation's official letterhead**

[Date]

Mrs Sally Darke  
Chairperson  
Tasmanian Community Fund  
GPO Box 1350  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mrs Darke

Our organisation is incorporated or is a not-for-profit legal entity and is prepared to act as the sponsoring body for the *[name of applying organisation]* should it be successful in obtaining funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) to undertake *[name of proposed project]*.

We are aware that the grant will be paid to our organisation and we accept the legal and financial obligations involved in accepting the grant.

In particular, our organisation will accept responsibility for ensuring:

- the grant is used only for the purpose for which it was provided, and for the specific items listed in the deed;
- the project is completed within the agreed timeframe;
- prior written approval of the TCF Board is sought if changes to the project, budget or timeframe are required; and
- reporting obligations are completed by the due date, including providing sufficient evidence of expenditure of the grant.

I understand if we do not meet our obligations, the TCF may withdraw the grant and request that any funding be returned.

I understand that if our organisation or the applicant has outstanding obligations from previous grants, including overdue reports, this application will not be considered for funding.

I am authorised to provide this letter on behalf of the sponsoring body.

Yours sincerely

[name]  
[position in organisation]

## Frequently Asked Questions When Applying

**Q: Do I need to keep to the word limit?**

**A:** Yes. All applicants have the same opportunity to make their case for funding. The SmartyGrants application form has been set up so that applications cannot be submitted if the word count is not adhered to. The Tasmanian Community Fund may not accept applications or may remove excess information if unrequested attachments are provided.

You do not need to use the full word count if you can explain your project in fewer words than the specified word count.

**Q: Will the Fund accept a late application?**

**A:** Applications can be received until 5pm on 31 December 2025. Applications are assessed 6 times each year and need to be electronically submitted through SmartyGrants by 5pm (Tasmanian time) on the designated submission date (Jan 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15, November 15) any late applications will be assessed at the next board meeting.

**Q: How many copies must I provide?**

**A:** Applications will only be accepted electronically through the SmartyGrants system. As a result, you do not need to provide any hard copies.

**Q: What do I do if application information needs updating?**

**A:** If there are material changes to your application, please let the Fund office know as soon as possible. This may include:

- other funding secured or unsuccessful grant applications;
- approvals/permits granted or refused; or
- additional support for the project (ie. in-kind, new partnerships, etc).

**Q: What are my chances of receiving funding?**

**A:** This is very difficult to answer.

Each round, the Fund receives more applications than it is able to support. This means some meritorious projects are not funded or only receive partial funding.

The Board will assess each application on its merits against all other applications received. Preference is given to applications which meet the criteria to the strongest degree.

To help put a best case to the Board, applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with Fund staff prior to submitting an application. Applicants should also ensure that they provide the information requested in the guidelines.

As a guide, between 25% and 40% of applications have been funded each round.

**Q. How do I know that my application will be assessed fairly and objectively?**

- A.** The Board is required by its governing legislation to perform its duty in an honest manner and in the best interests of the community. In addition, the Board members must take steps to avoid any conflict of interest.

The Board takes a number of other steps to assess applications fairly:

- All applications are considered by each Board member individually, and then discussed and agreed as a group.
- Applications are assessed on their merits against the guidelines, and against all other applications received.
- Board and staff members must declare any potential conflict of interests, and do not participate in any decisions involving a potential conflict.
- The Board makes public its funded projects.
- The Board presents an annual report for tabling in Parliament.

**Q. Will my application be returned to me?**

Applications are submitted electronically, and a copy will be emailed to you once you press the submit button.

Keep a copy of your funding application for your records as the Tasmanian Community Fund is not able to provide further copies.