

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANT GUIDELINES

If our community is to thrive it is important to promote community connections.

We know that connections matter. That strong ties with family, friends and the community provide people with happiness, security, support and a sense of purpose. And that this connectedness builds resilience in people. Resilience that can assist people in coping with a life crisis.

These connections matter especially for those who are vulnerable. Age, disability, chronic illness, ethnicity and socio-economic conditions are all factors contributing to the social marginalisation of vulnerable people and community groups.

The current COVID-19 crisis has impacted people and communities in significant and varying ways. As we all spend more times in our homes, cut off from friends, family and colleagues, the lack of physical connection can become challenging. In these circumstances it is no surprise that people are feeling increasingly worried, anxious, overwhelmed and lonely. At Give Where You Live Foundation we recognise that now more than ever community connection and engagement is needed to support our communities through these challenging times.

With the support of AWA Alliance Bank, we are therefore broadening our focus within the Community Connection grant round to include:

- reducing social isolation of vulnerable community members to promote resilience,
- supporting social participation of vulnerable community members to promote resilience,
- assisting with social connection during the COVID-19 crisis, or
- supporting community engagement activities to better understand the needs and challenges of community during the COVID-19 crisis, so you are better able to support your community, or refer on to other services.

In previous years funding within the Community Connection grant round have included funding to support community events. Whilst applications are welcome for these activities, consideration will need to be made as to how they will ensure they comply with relevant Government guidelines.

The maximum grant request in this Grant Round is \$10,000. All grants are non-recurrent and will be for the 12-month period of 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021.

Only **one** application will be accepted from each organisation in the Community Connections Grant Round.

## **WHAT AND WHY**

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Community Connection grants support both decreasing social isolation and increasing social participation for vulnerable populations. While using the terms decreasing social isolation and increasing social participation may seem like the same thing, these two terms are different. **Social isolation** is the absence of social interactions, contact and relationships with family, friends and neighbours on an individual level, and with “society at large” on a broader level. The term social isolation is often used when talking about programs that relate to seniors, people with disabilities, refugees or even young mums. **Social participation** goes a step further. Social participation refers to a person’s involvement in activities that provide interaction with others in society or the community, it often

includes active involvement in contributing to society (not just connecting) and can result in empowerment, and an increase in control over decisions impacting those engaged.

Strong social and community connection can act as a protective factor. It can build resilience for when people are in crisis.

The Foundation believes that small community focused organisations have a role to play in building these connections, particularly for vulnerable people.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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To be eligible to apply for a Community Connections grant from the Give Where You Live Foundation you must be able to demonstrate that your application:

- aligns with the [Survive and Thrive](#) Program Area/Community Connections focus area. Program/focus areas are the community issues which the Foundation regards as a priority.
- will impact and benefit the G21 region (The G21 region is defined as the five local government areas of the City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Borough of Queenscliffe, Golden Plains Shire and Colac/Otway Shire; see our [list of communities and postcodes](#) considered part of the G21 region) and;

In addition applicant organization\* must be endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and registered (and up to date) on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) register. You can visit [www.abr.business.gov.au](http://www.abr.business.gov.au) to check your organisation's endorsements. You can visit <http://www.acnc.gov.au/> to check your charitable organisation registration status.

\* Note this means you can be a not for profit organisation, a registered charitable organisation, an educational institution, an association or a cooperative, a social enterprise or in some cases a government/quasi-government entity.

**Note:** While you **DO NOT** need to be endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 to apply for a Community Connections Grant, if you do have DGR1 status (and TCC) you can still apply for a Community Connections Grant.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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Eligible organisations may submit an application until **3:00pm Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. All Community Connections Grant applications and support documentation **MUST** be submitted via the online application form which can be found at the Give Where You Live website.

Please contact Give Where You Live **before the due date** if you need assistance in submitting the online application form, face difficulties uploading files, etc... We regret late or paper applications cannot be accepted.

Successful submission of your Community Connections Grant application will be acknowledged by email and will include a PDF copy of the application you submitted

Before submitting an application please ensure that you have read the following which can be found on our website:

- Give Where You Live Foundation Grantmaking Guidelines
- Community Connections Grant: Guidelines
- Community Connections Grant: Tips for Completing Your Application
- Community Connections Grant: Tips for Using Our Online Application Form

A word version of the online application (Community Connections Grant: MSWord Doc version of the Application) is also provided to assist you in preparing your application and can be found on our website.

Applicants are assessed on the merit of their submitted application (including requested attachments). The process is managed by the Give Where You Live Foundation staff in conjunction with independent grant review panel members representative of the community who rate applications against the following key criteria:

- **Theory of Change / Grant Program Alignment** (degree to which this application clearly aligns with the Foundation's Theory of Change and grant program / focus areas - 10%)
- **Community Need** (ability to clearly define a community need/service delivery gap clearly aligned with the Foundation's Theory of Change and Survive and Thrive / Community Connections Program/Focus Area and present a project that will meet that need) - 25%
- **Organisational Capacity** (ability to demonstrate organisational competency to deliver the proposed project) - 15%
- **Evaluation and Impact** (ability to demonstrate impact aligned with the Foundation's Theory of Change and a clear plan to collect data that will demonstrate this impact) - 35%
- **Budget and Financial Management** (ability to demonstrate financial and budgetary accountability, transparency and effective management.) - 15%

These assessments are used to prioritize and make recommendations to the Give Where You Live Foundation Board. The Give Where You Live Foundation Board retains final and discretionary approval of all grant awards.

Applicants will receive initial notification via phone by 1 November 2020 with written follow-up as appropriate. Successful applicants will receive funds by 4 December (on receipt of a returned signed funding agreement and requested documentation).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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Please be aware that the following terms and conditions will apply to all successful grantees:

- This funding round is for 12 months (1 November 2020 through 31 October 2021).
- Any unspent funds are required to be returned to the Give Where You Live Foundation for reallocation.
- Any significant delay or changed circumstances for projects or organisation must be advised. Any requested variations need to be submitted in writing for prior approval by the Give Where You Live Foundation.
- CEO (or equivalent) participation in a Grant Announcement event (July 2021)
- Grant Project Manager attendance at any appropriate Grantee Meetings (dates TBA)
- Submission of Progress and Final Reports and Acquittal Statements to document expenditure and the impact and outcomes achieved by the project.
- Host a possible site visit.
- Acknowledgement of funding and use of Give Where You Live Foundation logo.
- Marketing and media support e.g. submission of media collateral for use within Give Where You Live Foundation marketing materials, guest speakers, special event invites.

We are happy to help you put the best application forward. If you have any questions about eligibility criteria, the assessment process, the application questions or difficulty in completing the online application please contact one of the Grants & Impact team:

**Kerry Farrance**

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