# Collaboration Grant Fact Sheet

# Funding amount

Up to $7,000

# What is this grant for?

This grant supports partnerships and scaling to achieve positive outcomes in the local community through **collaboration with one or more organisations**. It provides an opportunity for organisations to respond to emerging community needs/ trends in a collaborative way and or to trial new ideas that provide sustained impact.

# Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit and incorporated organisations, clubs and groups who are actively engaged in the local Whitehorse City Council community.
- An auspice of an appropriate organisation including a not-for profit and incorporated organisation.

# Who should not apply?

Applicants seeking funding for projects that are:

- Delivered mainly by one organisation with others listed only as supporters
- Focused only on internal organisational benefits

# Important things to note

- This grant applies for programs and initiatives listed in the Connection Grant and Innovation Grant, but if there is **more than one applicant** applying.

# Conditions of funding

- Provide written acknowledgement of Whitehorse City Council's funding support in promotional material, publications and annual reports for the duration of the grant
- Agree to take part in occasional checks by Council to make sure the funding is being used as approved
- Meet any additional conditions outlined in your funding agreement
- Meet additional key requirements outlined in your application, including your commitment to Whitehorse City Council's environmental sustainability goals and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights.

# Examples of eligible projects

| Focus area | Project examples | Why they are eligible |
|---|---|---|
| **Cross-Organisation Community Programs** Projects where multiple groups co-design and deliver services | • A Neighbourhood House, library and health service partnering to run an ongoing wellbeing hub for older adults <br> • Schools, youth services and local businesses delivering a coordinated youth mentoring and employment pathway program <br> • Settlement services and community groups working together on long-term support programs for newly arrived migrants | Partnerships and referral pathways remain in place after funding ends. |
| **Shared Service Models** Projects that reduce duplication and improve efficiency | • Several community organisations sharing outreach workers or coordinators <br> • A joint volunteer recruitment and training program across multiple organisations <br> • A shared booking system or resource hub for community programs | Builds stronger, more efficient service systems. |
| **Collective Capacity Building** Projects that strengthen multiple organisations at once | • Joint governance and financial management training for committee members across groups <br> • Collaborative leadership development programs creating community champions <br> • Peer learning networks between organisations in the same sector | Skills and knowledge are embedded across the sector. |

# Examples of eligible projects (continued)

| Focus area | Project examples | Why they are eligible |
|---|---|---|
| **Place-Based Collaboration** Projects focused on a neighbourhood or priority community | • Community safety or social connection initiatives co-designed with local traders and resident groups <br> • Integrated service days or pop-up hubs run by multiple organisations together | Builds long-term relationships in a defined place. |
| **Inclusion & Access Partnerships** Projects that remove barriers through collaboration | • Disability organisations partnering with mainstream providers to make programs accessible <br> • Multicultural organisations working with sporting clubs to increase participation <br> • Intergenerational projects linking schools, aged care and youth services <br> • Integrated service days or pop-up hubs run by multiple organisations together | Inclusive practice becomes part of standard delivery. |
| **Data, Learning & Systems Change** Projects that improve how services are planned and delivered | • Shared data collection and evaluation frameworks across partners <br> • Joint research projects to identify gaps and future needs <br> • Development of common referral pathways and service protocols | Improves decision-making and service coordination long term. |

# Assessment criteria

| Criteria A: Community need or emerging priority | Criteria B: Achievement of community outcomes | Criteria C: Project sustainability | Criteria D: Capacity to deliver |
|---|---|---|---|
| Application demonstrates a clear community need for the proposed project/ initiative and is supported by relevant data, case studies and/or, local knowledge. | Application clearly articulates how their proposed project or initiative will achieve strategic community outcomes and how this will be measured. | Application demonstrates that the success of the project/ initiative will not rely on ongoing funding from Council. | Application demonstrates that the organisation has genuine capacity to deliver the project/ initiative and clearly shows how funding from Council will be used. |
| 20% | 35% | 25% | 20% |

# What assessors look for

Strong applications usually show:

✓ Two or more organisations working together with defined roles

✓ Clear benefit to the community (not just the partners)

✓ Evidence of community need

✓ Measurable outcomes (eg increased participation, improved access, stronger networks)

# How funding levels are determined

Each application receives a weighted score based on the assessment criteria. This score helps determine how much funding may be offered, subject to available funds.

How well you score will directly impact how much funding you receive based on the below thresholds:

**More than 85% — 100% of the requested funding**

**Over 75% to 85% — 85% of the requested funding**

**Over 65% to 75% — 75% of the requested funding**

**Less than 65% — funding may be considered subject to available funds**

Meeting the assessment criteria does not guarantee funding. Final funding decisions are subject to Council approval and available budget.

# Example of how the assessment criteria will be applied to your application – Criteria A

| Criteria A - Evidence of community need or emerging priority | Assessment applied and examples of why | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **Not demonstrated** | **Minimally demonstrated** | **Adequately demonstrated** | **Strongly demonstrated** |
| **Requirements per policy:**<br><br>• Describe the need or issue your project is responding to<br>• Provide evidence that the need exists in the Whitehorse community<br>• Explain why the project is important now | No evidence provided.<br><br>Need described is vague, generic, or unrelated to the proposed project.<br><br>Does not identify a specific issue or gap.<br><br>No reference to Whitehorse or the local community.<br><br>No explanation of why the project is needed now. | Limited or generic evidence.<br><br>Assertions made without data or examples.<br><br>The "why now" explanation is weak and generic. | Clear and relevant evidence provided.<br><br>Clearly describes a community gap.<br><br>Provides local context and informal evidence.<br><br>Explains why the project is relevant at this point in time. | Clear and relevant evidence provided with multiple, high-quality evidence sources cited.<br><br>Clearly defines the issue and who it affects.<br><br>Provides strong, place-based evidence linked to Whitehorse. |

# Example of how the assessment criteria will be applied to your application – Criteria B

| Criteria B - Achievement of community outcomes | Assessment applied and examples of why | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **Not demonstrated** | **Minimally demonstrated** | **Adequately demonstrated** | **Strongly demonstrated** |
| • Describe the outcomes your project will achieve<br>• Show how these outcomes align with Council's strategic priorities<br>• Explain how your project activities will lead to these outcomes | Outcomes are unclear, vague, or listed as activities only (e.g. "run cooking classes"). No link between activities and change for participants.<br><br>Does not explain *what will change* for participants or how success will be measured. | Some outcomes described but not measurable or time-bound. Weak connection between activities and outcomes.<br><br>Identifies change but lacks clarity on *how much*, *by when*, or *how it will be measured*. | Clear outcomes described with basic measures. Logical connection between activities and outcomes is evident.<br><br>Shows a reasonable outcomes framework but limited detail or evidence of measurement. | Outcomes are clearly articulated across a change pathway (awareness → knowledge → skills → behaviour change), with timeframes, indicators, measures and data sources clearly identified.<br><br>Demonstrates strong outcomes thinking, clear causality, and practical evaluation methods aligned to Council priorities. |

# Example of how the assessment criteria will be applied to your application – Criteria C

| Criteria C - Project sustainability | Assessment applied and examples of why | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Not demonstrated | Minimally demonstrated | Adequately demonstrated | Strongly demonstrated |
| Outline how your project can continue or have lasting impact beyond the funding period<br><br>Demonstrate how the project will be maintained, supported or embedded over time | No consideration of what happens after funding ends.<br><br>Treats the project as one-off. | Sustainability mentioned but relies on ongoing Council funding.<br><br>Sustainability is aspirational rather than planned. | Some elements of lasting impact identified, but limited detail.<br><br>Identifies ongoing benefits but not embedded. | Clear plan showing lasting impact without further Council funding.<br><br>Shows skills, relationships and behaviours will continue independently. |

# Example of how the assessment criteria will be applied to your application – Criteria D

| Criteria D - Experience and capacity to deliver | Assessment applied and examples of why | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **Not demonstrated** | **Minimally demonstrated** | **Adequately demonstrated** | **Strongly demonstrated** |
| • Outline how you will deliver the project as proposed<br>• Outline how you will manage the funding responsibly<br>• Demonstrate relevant experience, skills or partnerships | No evidence of experience, partnerships, or risk management.<br><br>Does not show capacity to deliver responsibly. | Limited experience or vague delivery approach.<br><br>Section completed partially.<br><br>Experience is implied rather than evidenced. | Relevant experience and basic risk management identified.<br><br>Shows competence but limited detail. | Strong track record, partnerships, and proactive risk management.<br><br>Demonstrates readiness, credibility, and risk awareness. |