

# 2025 Thrive Community Grants Application Guidelines.

## Connection and participation.

We believe every child and young person should have the best opportunities to connect with friends, family and the community, participate in activities that build resilience, develop new skills and enrich their lives, and feel they belong.

Connections provide us with happiness, security, support and a sense of purpose, are critical to our identity and important for our wellbeing.

And connection is a protective factor for mental health.

However, we know that poverty, discrimination and disadvantage can make it very difficult for children and young people to participate in community life.

## About the grants.

Each year, Bank of Melbourne Foundation Thrive Community Grants offer up to \$50,000 to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

We invest in smaller, local charities that provide children and young people with opportunities to connect and participate in community life.

We prioritise funding to support children and young people facing the greatest barriers to reaching their potential.

## Priority Groups.

Our focus is on supporting children and young people (0–24 years):

- From Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- From culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including children of refugee and asylum seeker families.
- With disability.
- Who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- Living in out-of-home care.
- Who are incarcerated or have had contact with the criminal justice system.
- Experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Living in regional, rural and remote communities.
- In low ICSEA schools (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage).

## Eligibility.

1. Your organisation is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR-1 status) and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).
2. Your organisation can provide recent, audited financial statements, signed by the auditor. Those with annual revenue less than \$500,000 are exempt from requiring an auditor's report.
3. Your organisation has an annual gross revenue of less than \$5 million.
4. Your organisation receives less than 60% of its annual revenue from federal, state or local government funding, where income is above \$1 million per annum. This is not applicable for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations or income derived for provision of NDIS services.
5. Your proposed initiative is located within Victoria or Tasmania.
6. Your organisation is not currently funded with a grant from Westpac Foundation.

## What we will fund.

Our priority is to support programs that bring children and/or young people (0–24 years) together to participate in activities that support social and emotional wellbeing.

- Foster individual learning and interests through education, training or skills development.
- Develop independence, engage in society and join the workforce.
- Create connections and build relationships with others.
- Feel they belong to a wider community, social or cultural group.
- Build resilience, self-awareness and confidence.
- Have the practical things they need to participate and develop as active members of the community.
- Have a positive sense of identity and culture.
- Have a say about things that matter to them.

## What we won't fund.

- Charity works outside Australia.
- Programs outside of VIC/TAS.
- Sponsorship or fundraising activities.
- Residential camps, except where that is the core purpose of the applicant organisation.
- Research.
- Individuals.
- Programs targeting adults.
- Individual therapy.
- Health services.
- Medical equipment.

## Selection criteria.

### 1. Demonstrating organisational alignment and robustness.

- With an inspiring vision, goals, programs and services that align with building a fairer, more inclusive community.
- Experienced working with children and young people facing disadvantage and discrimination to foster social connections and participation in community life.
- Strong governance, with appropriate systems, risk and compliance processes, and child protection policies and practices.
- Sound financial management.

### 2. Program demonstrates an innovative, collaborative approach to engaging children and young people facing disadvantage.

- Program directly involves children/young people from one or more of our Priority Groups.
- Program addresses a clear community need with strengths-based and child/youth centred approaches.
- Program reflects an evidence-based approach, with clear rationale.

### 3. Demonstrating commitment to social impact, creating effective opportunities to uplift connection and participation for children and young people in our Priority Groups.

- Clarity on intended program outcomes.
- Committed to measurement and outcome evaluation.
- Compelling link between the program and its contribution to longer term social impact.

## Additional information.

- Previous Thrive Community Grants from Bank of Melbourne Foundation, BankSA Foundation or St. George Foundation must be acquitted, or a progress report provided, before submitting a new application.
- Our approach is to ensure grant partners are receiving only one grant at a time across the Westpac Group Foundations. If your organisation is currently receiving a grant from Westpac Foundation that overlaps with the same grant period, you are not able to receive another grant at this time.
- We also like to ensure our grants are spread across a diverse range of organisations including organisation size and maturity, geographic location, and Priority Groups.
- Auspiced applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## How to apply.

You can apply by completing the online application available on our website:

**[bankofmelbournefoundation.com.au](http://bankofmelbournefoundation.com.au)**.

Applications will be assessed against the criteria by the Foundation team.

Incomplete applications and those that do not meet the grant eligibility criteria will not be assessed.

For enquiries or assistance please contact the Foundation team on: **[bomfoundation@bankofmelbourne.com.au](mailto:bomfoundation@bankofmelbourne.com.au)**

## Key dates.

- Zoom Information Session on Wednesday 30 April 2025, 12.30pm AEST. Registrations via our website (a recording will be available after the event).
- Applications open on Monday 5 May 2025.
- Applications need to be submitted by Friday 30 May 2025.
- Applicants will be notified of outcomes by Friday 8 August 2025.
- Funding for successful applicants will be provided by Friday 29 August 2025.

# Application Questions and Guidance Notes.

The Thrive Community Grant application questions are set out below with some explanatory notes to help you complete your application through SmartyGrants. **Use this as a guide only.**

## Eligibility.

\* indicates a required field

All eligibility questions require a response. If your organisation is not eligible, you will not be able to proceed to the application.

### **1. Is your organisation endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) and registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC)?\***

Yes  
No

### **2. Can your organisation provide its most recent (within 18 months) audited financial statement, signed by the auditor?\***

Yes  
No

- Please note, financial statements must be audited rather than reviewed (an auditor's review is not as detailed as an audit). Organisations whose annual revenue is less than \$500,000 do not require the financial statement to be audited (or reviewed).

### **Please upload your signed, audited financial statement:\***

- Please ensure the auditor's report is clearly signed by the auditor.

### **3. Is your organisation's annual revenue under \$5 million?\***

Yes  
No

### **4. Does your organisation receive less than 60% of its annual revenue from federal, state, or local government funding?\***

This is not applicable to:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- Income derived for provision of NDIS services.
- Organisations with annual revenue less than \$1 million.

Yes  
No  
N/A

### **5. Is your proposed program being implemented in Victoria and/or Tasmania?\***

- For activities taking place only in NSW, QLD, WA and/or ACT, please apply via St.George Foundation.
- For activities taking place only in SA or NT, please apply via BankSA Foundation.

Yes  
No

## About your Organisation.

### 6. Organisation\*

Primary Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State, and Postcode are required.

Website

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email

### 7. Primary contact for this application\*

Position

Phone Number

Email

### 8. Secondary contact for this application

Position

Phone Number

Email

### 9. ABN\*

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	<a href="#">More information</a>
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

### 10. What is your annual revenue?\*

- Use your most recent audited financial statement to provide this information.

### 11. Please provide an overview of your organisation's purpose, vision and goals\*

Must be no more than 150 words.

- If this information is on your public website, just provide the link.
- Cover the core reason your organisation exists and the long-term, aspirational social outcome(s) it aims to achieve.
- Describe specific, measurable objectives that guide your work, or provide a link/attach a current strategic plan.
- Include a link or attach your theory of change if you have one.

### Upload your strategic plan and theory of change:

### 12. Please describe your organisation's approach to Child Protection/Safety\*

Must be no more than 100 words.

- This may include a risk and or governance framework, risk or compliance processes, child protection policies and practices.

### Upload your Child Protection policies and procedures:

## About your Program.

### 13. Is the proposed program:\*

A pilot of a new approach  
Growing or extending an existing approach  
Ongoing program

### 14. Program title\*

- Title should be short but descriptive.

### 15. Amount requested\*

- Must be a dollar amount up to \$50,000.

### 16. Which Priority Group(s) does this program directly target?\*

- Select the primary Priority Group, even if it may include individuals from other groups. For example, if you are targeting low ICSEA schools, select that group only.
- Select 'experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage' if you are targeting a number of the groups, or low income specifically.

### 17. Which best reflects the main age group(s) directly involved?\*

- Select as many as appropriate.

Early years (0–4 yrs)  
Middle childhood (5–9 yrs)  
Pre-adolescence (10–14 yrs)  
Adolescence (15–19 yrs)  
Youth (20–24 yrs)  
All the above

### 18. In which location is your program taking place?\*

- Select as many as appropriate.

Metropolitan  
Regional  
Remote

### 19. Where will the program be taking place?\*

- If known, name the suburb(s) or region (e.g., East Melbourne) where the program will be delivered.

### 20. Please provide a summary of the proposed program\*

Must be no more than 200 words.

- This is like the 'elevator pitch'. Concise and clear.
- State the program's key objective.
- Describe what will you do to meet this objective. What activities will take place?
- State where it will take place – location.
- Who will the program directly target (e.g., age range, Priority Group).
- How does the program benefit children and/or young people?

## **21. How are participants identified and selected for the program?\***

Must be no more than 200 words.

- Describe how you identify participants (e.g., open application, referral from schools or social services, opt in etc).
- Explain how participants are selected and who is involved in the selection process.
- Describe how you ensure the process is fair, transparent, and inclusive.
- Explain how many participants the program can accommodate and how that plays into the selection process.

## **22. What is the social need you are seeking to address in this program?\***

Must be no more than 150 words.

- Explain the specific social issue(s) the program aims to address.
- Describe how this impacts the target group or community.
- Include supporting data or research that demonstrates the social need/issue.

### **Upload supporting data or research:**

## **23. How does your program address this need?\***

Must be no more than 150 words.

- Describe how the program directly addresses the identified social need.
- Provide any evidence on the effectiveness of this approach (provide links/attachment).
- If this is a pilot, describe what about this approach is new and why it is expected to succeed.

### **Upload program evaluation or research findings:**

## **24. How many children and/or young people will this program directly target?\***

- Must be a number – approximate or anticipated is okay if it is not yet defined.
- Please provide the number of direct beneficiaries only – that is, children or young people directly participating in the program.
- Note: We don't assess applications by relative reach numbers – we understand the cost to serve differs in different contexts. Our assessment focus is impact.

## **25. If you have any additional supporting material for your program, please upload or provide links:**

## **26. How have you engaged with the community/key stakeholders to ensure support for this program? \***

Must be no more than 150 words.

- Outline how key stakeholders (e.g., organisations, community members, experts, participants) have been engaged and involved to support the program.
- Describe how feedback from stakeholders has influenced program design or delivery.
- Let us know who you are collaborating with to deliver this program (if relevant).

## **27. If you have recent letters of support, please upload:**

- These may be from participants, funders, schools or affiliated community organisations etc.
- Providing support letters is optional.

## **28. What key risks and challenges do you anticipate for this program and how will you address these?\***

Must be no more than 150 words.

- Outline specific risks or challenges you foresee with implementing the program.
- Describe how each risk could affect the program's success if not addressed and any plans to reduce or manage them.
- Highlight steps the organisation is taking to prevent potential challenges.

## Outcomes & Impact.

### 29. Describe how you evaluate the effectiveness of the program?\*

Must be no more than 100 words.

- Outline your approach to evaluation.
- Advise whether evaluation will be undertaken internally or by external advisors.
- Describe how you use evaluation data.

### 30. What are the expected key outputs for your program?\*

- Outputs are the tangible results of activities, such as 2,000 trees planted, three workshops held, 40 scholarships awarded, or an online platform created.
- List specific, quantifiable outputs that directly result from program activities during the year grant period. Include target numbers where appropriate.
- Explain how you will measure the results.

Output	How will results be measured?

### 31. Describe the key intended/anticipated short to medium-term outcomes of your program (no more than 3)\*

- Outcomes are the short-to-medium term changes resulting from products, programs, or services, e.g., a 20% increase in school attendance, a 30% reduction in teen incarceration rates.
- Include the key outcomes/changes you are targeting with the program.
- Focus on the highest priority, achievable outcomes – just the top 3.
- Specify how they will be measured to report at the end of the funding period.
- Ensure the outcomes are realistic within the funding period.

Key outcomes	How will this be measured?	Notes
One per row. No more than 3.		

### 32. Please select the most appropriate outcome category for your program from the five Thrive outcomes\*

- Select only ONE from a dropdown list of five.
- We understand there may be more than one relevant outcome, but we ask that you select the one most relevant to your program.
- This will assist us to report on the broad outcome areas of our Thrive Community Grants.

Thrive Outcome	Guidance
Engaged in school/education	Access to or participation in school, improved education or learning outcomes
Built skills and confidence	Personal development, behaviour change, emotional regulation, resilience, independence, learning new skills (e.g., arts, sports, language, technology)
Improved social connection/inclusion	Participation with peers, family or in community activities, access to services or support, building relationships
Positive identity, culture, belonging	Strengthening connection to culture, sense of belonging to a wider community, social or cultural group
Improved job readiness	Participation in work experience, training, employment pathways or support to improve employment prospects



## Income and Expenditure.

### 33. What will the funds be used for?\*

Must be no more than 100 words.

- Describe what the funds will cover, e.g., activities, resources, evaluation, personnel.
- Focus only on the most critical aspects of funding needs.

### 34. What other sources of funding will also be supporting the program over the grant period?\*

- Include pro bono/in-kind/volunteer contributions, funding from other sources etc.
- Provide clear descriptions for each item e.g., 'Council community grant', 'company X sponsorship', 'fundraising donations'.
- Use the 'Notes' column for any additional information you think we should know.

Description	Income type	Confirmed?	\$	Notes
				Must be no more than 20 words.

### 35. How will you use the funding to help achieve your program objectives over the funding period?\*

- Itemise anticipated costs with concise descriptions e.g., 'onsite power & water for 6 months', 'purchase of uniforms', 'part-time staffer x 40 hours', 'consultant for social impact framework'.
- Include any indirect costs that may not be easily attributable to the specific program. For example, IT, finance, HR, learning and development, measurement and evaluation.
- Use the 'Notes' column for any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Description	Expenditure type	Confirmed?	\$	Notes
				Must be no more than 20 words.

