



2026 Community Bank Mansfield & District - Community Impact Program

Open for applications from Wednesday, 29 April 2026 until midnight Tuesday, 26 May 2026.

Details of Program:

The Community Bank Mansfield & District's Community Impact Program is driven by a clear vision: to invest in the growth of a resilient, sustainable, and thriving Mansfield & District community.

Funded through a portion of profits generated locally, this program reinvests back into the community that created them—supporting projects and initiatives that deliver genuine public benefit, particularly those that may not have access to funding elsewhere. Jointly administered by Community Bank Mansfield & District and the Community Enterprise Foundation™, the program is made possible by the people who choose to bank locally.

Community and not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for funding for projects and activities that align with our five key impact pillars:

- **Leadership** – Investing in people, education, entrepreneurship, diversity, and our youth
- **Innovation** – Encouraging creative opportunities and social enterprise
- **Wellbeing** – Nurturing a healthy and supported community
- **Connection** – Strengthening partnerships, collaboration, and inclusivity
- **Liveability** – Preserving our region and supporting a sustainable future

This year, we're placing the decision-making power into the hands of the community. All eligible projects will be presented for public voting, giving locals the opportunity to support the initiatives they believe will make the greatest difference.

It's a program shaped by local people, making local decisions, to deliver lasting local impact—demonstrating how banking locally can truly make a difference.

Funding available: Funding will be awarded across three tiers:

- 5 x \$5,000 packages
- 4 x \$2,500 packages
- 5 x \$1,000 packages

Key program dates:

- Community Impact Program Information Evening: Tuesday, 28 April 2026
- Applications open: Wednesday, 29 April 2026
- Applications close: Tuesday, 26 May 2026
- Voting Opens: Monday, 15 June 2026
- Voting Closes, Sunday, 12 July 2026
- Funding Awarded: Tuesday, 21 July 2026, at the Mansfield Golf Club Presentation

Application Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply for community funding?

To be eligible for community funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be based in or servicing the Mansfield District community with a valid Australian bank account.
- Must be a Not for profit, community organisation with a valid ABN or be a group that is auspiced /partnered by such an organisation.
- Be a current Bendigo Bank customer, or willing to become a Bendigo Bank customer (unless special conditions apply).
- Must have attended the Community Impact Program Information Evening.
- Must not have any other sponsors who are financial institutions. This includes banks, brokers, insurance providers etc (unless special conditions apply).

NOTE: If you are using an auspiced / partnering organisation, they must confirm that they support the project, will receive the funds on behalf of the applicant, apply the funds to the project and detail how they are adding value to the project.

Who is not eligible to apply for community funding?

- Individuals or unincorporated organisations without an eligible project partner
- For-profit organisations.
- Previously funded groups who have not acquitted projects to the satisfaction of the Community Bank Mansfield & District.
- Projects or programs associated with gambling, illegal activities, political or religious purposes.
- Projects or programs that encourage violence or mistreat, exploit, or harm animals, create environmental hazards or present a danger to public health or safety.
- Funding to repay costs already incurred.
- Funds are not intended to support 'business' costs, such as staff salaries (personnel costs) and general operating costs. Nor will they be offered if the entity is totally dependent on our support to ensure its continuity.

How to apply for a Grant:

- **Review the Guidelines**
Before applying, all applicants must read and understand these guidelines to ensure their project meets the program requirements.
- **Prepare Your Application**
Only one application per project will be accepted. You may submit multiple applications to this program; however, each application must be for a separate project.
- **Submit Your Application**
Applications must be completed and submitted via the online application portal by midnight, Tuesday 26 May 2026.

The portal can be accessed at the following link:

<https://communitybankmansfield.smartygrants.com.au/>

A confirmation email will be sent to your registered email address once your application has been successfully submitted.

Please note: Late applications will not be accepted, and extensions cannot be provided.

- **Assessment Process**
Applications will be reviewed to confirm eligibility. During this stage, we may contact you to request additional information, supporting evidence, or clarification about your submission.
- **Community Voting**
Eligible projects will progress to a four-week public voting campaign, where the community will decide which projects they want to see funded.
- **Promotion Period**
Throughout the voting period, a broad promotional campaign will run across the Mansfield District to encourage community participation. Applicants are encouraged to actively promote their project during this time.
- **Final Outcome**
Funding recipients will be determined based on community votes and announced at the official event - Tuesday, 21 July 2026, at the Mansfield Golf Club

Application Requirements:

- Applications must clearly outline the proposed project and its benefit to the community.
- While a formal application is required, the project summary used for voting must be short, clear, and compelling.
- Applications should focus on:
 - The purpose of the project
 - Who it will benefit
 - The positive impact on the local community

Required supporting documentation:

Each application must provide the following supporting documentation.

- A current bank statement for your organisation
- A project budget which clearly shows how the funds will be spent, and quotes for all budget items greater than \$1,000
- Applications involving a project partner must include a letter of support from this organisation and a copy of their financials.
- Evidence of all necessary licenses, permits and insurances which will enable you to run your project (eg public liability insurance, local council permits etc)
- For projects involving children, evidence that relevant personnel have Working With Children Checks & evidence of your Child Safety Policy.

Managing your grant:

- **Keeping us informed**
You must notify us about anything which is likely to impact your organisation and/or its ability to deliver your project.
This may include, but is not limited to, changes to your organisation's name, address, financial situation, senior staffing arrangements, or significant changes to the project budget.

If you become aware of any incident that has the potential to damage the organisation's reputation or image, related events, any related company of the organisation or funding partner (Notifiable Conduct).

- **Grant agreement variations**

We understand that circumstances change, and things don't always go to according to plan. If there has been a change that will impact your project, you can request a variation to your grant agreement by contacting us.

We will consider your request, and if we decide to accept your proposed changes, we will issue a deed of variation for your signature.

- **Reporting requirements**

You will be required to complete a Project Acquittal Report within 60 days of your nominated project end date. The Project Acquittal Report will be submitted electronically through the application portal. The report includes information about the community benefits and a testimonial and 3 – 4 high resolution images of the project.

- **Enquiries and Feedback**

Application queries

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For technical support with application hub

SmartyGrants–Our Community
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