

### 7.2.3 EMERGENCY RELIEF SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Fee Harrison, Manager Community Strengthening
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council approves the guidelines for a one-off grant program for organisations whose primary purpose is to provide emergency and food relief to assist them implement projects that will focus on their ongoing sustainability.**

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the guidelines for the one-off Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants.

#### COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

##### **Inclusive Services**

Community development and advocacy to support the Monash community.  
Deliver high performing services.  
Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

##### **Good Governance**

Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation.  
Effectively communicate and engage with the community.

#### BACKGROUND

Monash Council has one of the largest community grant programs in Victoria and is proud of its commitment in supporting and valuing the dedicated community groups and organisations within our municipality.

Organisations such as Monash Oakleigh Community Support & Information Service (MOCSIS) and Monash Waverley Community Information & Support (MWCIS) provide emergency food relief and support to the Monash community. These organisations have reported their services continue to be accessed at higher levels every year and require greater support to continue to provide this service to the community.

At its meeting on 28 May 2024, when considering the allocation of the 2024/25 Monash Community Grants Program, Council resolved in part that it:

*Allocates the residual surplus to create a one-off grant program to support emergency relief organisations to undertake projects which will support their sustainability.*

Officers have subsequently developed this grant program and associated guidelines to ensure the grant meets the needs of these agencies to deliver for the Monash community, as presented in this report.

## DISCUSSION

Monash Council is committed to supporting our local emergency relief organisations to provide support to members of the Monash community who find themselves needing assistance with food, material aid and financial relief.

The agencies that deliver these services are seeing a higher need across the community due to the increased cost of living, rising grocery, housing and living expenses, with those who have not previously accessed these services being impacted. These organisations are heavily reliant on a volunteer base and have highlighted to Council some of the challenges that the organisations are facing regarding their long-term viability to continue to provide the services at the current level.

The establishment of the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants will enable Monash's emergency relief agencies to apply for a once-off grant to assist with the implementation of projects that will focus on their ongoing sustainability. This may include projects such as:

- Business planning
- Strategic planning
- Succession planning
- Volunteer attraction and retention
- Website development and design
- Marketing and fundraising
- Training for volunteers
- System coordination and partnerships

Items that are ineligible for funding through this program will include coordination wages/salary, ongoing staffing costs, activities that are core business for the organisation and fundraising activities (including events).

The grants will open on Monday 1 July and close on Friday 26 July 2024. This timeframe ensures applications will be open for 4 weeks. Officers will liaise with the agencies to discuss potential projects and activities which could be supported through this funding round.

Guidelines have been established for this program to assist and guide applicants to ensure their eligibility (Attachment 1). Applications will need to provide information on the need for the project, evidence of partnerships, the capacity for the organisation to undertake the project and how the funding will be spent.

Applications for the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grant will be submitted online, via the SmartyGrants portal.

An evaluation matrix will be developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, ensuring that the applications are considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. A funding pool of \$78,768.20 is available and partnerships between organisations to apply for this funding will be encouraged.

All applicants will be advised the outcome of their application by the end of August, with all successful applications being formally acknowledged at the September Council meeting.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants will be funded from the existing 2024/25 Monash Community Grants Program budget. The allocated budget for this program is \$78,768.20.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Whilst this is a stand-alone grant program the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants align with the MCGP Policy (Attachment 1) that is based on Council's values and strategic objectives outlined in the Monash Council Plan 2021-25, in particular "An Inclusive Community".

Monash Council has a proud history of working in partnership with community-based organisations to meet the needs of local residents and to deliver positive community outcomes. The funded activities in this program will support key Council plans, strategies and frameworks including but not limited to:

- The Council Plan 2021-2025
- Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- Monash Loneliness Framework 2020-2025

## CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash community sector has a rich history of innovation in promoting community participation and civic engagement. The contribution of community organisations in providing support and emergency relief to the Monash community is well recognised and respected by Council.

The 2024/25 Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants funding facilitates these organisations operating in Monash to draw on this legacy and continue their social and community services. The social implications of the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants are significant. Grant funding will provide support for these organisations to be sustainable going forward so they can support the diverse needs of our Monash community (e.g. children and families, young people, elderly people and people with disabilities), and facilitate the accessibility of community services.

## HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants are entirely consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. In particular, the program supports:

- freedom of expression;
- peaceful assembly and freedom of association;
- taking part in public life; and
- cultural rights.

## **GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants are a subset of the Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP). As these programs are both focused on having a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment (GIA) was undertaken in September 2023. This was included in the MCGP Allocations Report that was tabled at the May 2024 Council meeting.

As per the previous GIA, data will continue to be collected on how projects address gender inequality, how inclusive/accessible they are and the anticipated reach of the projects by gender.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council endorse the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants guidelines to provide funding to local organisations that provide emergency and food relief to assist in projects that will focus on ongoing sustainability.

## **ATTACHMENT LIST**

1. 2024 25 Emergency Relief Sustainability Grant [7.2.3.1 - 2 pages]



# 2024/25 Emergency Relief Sustainability Grant Guidelines

Monash Council is committed to supporting its local emergency relief organisations to provide support to members of the Monash community who find themselves needing assistance with food, material aid and financial relief. The agencies that deliver these services are seeing a higher need across the community due to the increased cost of living, rising grocery, housing and living expenses, with those who may not have previously accessed these services being impacted.

The establishment of the Monash Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants will enable Monash's emergency relief agencies to apply for a once-off grant to assist with the implementation of projects that will focus on their ongoing sustainability. This may include projects such as:

- Business Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Succession Planning
- Volunteer attraction and retention
- Website development and design
- Marketing
- Fundraising (ie. Grant seeking, writing, upskilling, etc. Does not include fundraising activities/events)
- Training for volunteers

The grants will open on Monday 1 July and close on Friday 26 July. This timeframe ensures applications will be open for 4 weeks.

A funding pool of \$78,768.20 (excluding GST) is available and partnerships between organisations to apply for this funding are encouraged.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to receive an Emergency Relief Sustainability Grant, applicants must:

- have the primary purpose of their organisation as the provision of emergency relief and support;
- provide their services within the City of Monash boundaries;
- maintain public liability insurance cover for a minimum of \$20 million;
- have no debts to Council and have completed all previous Monash funding acquittal requirements;
- be able to deliver the project by 30 June 2025.

Previous funding from other Monash Council grant programs has no effect on an applicant's eligibility to apply.

● 293 Springvale Road (PO Box 1) Glen Waverley VIC 3150 **Web** [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au) **Email** [mail@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@monash.vic.gov.au)  
● T (03) 9518 3555 **National Relay Service** (for the hearing and speech impaired) 1800 555 660  
● **Interpreter Services** 普通话 4713 5001 廣東話 4713 5002 Việt Ngữ 4713 5003 Ελληνικά 4713 5004 हिंदी 4713 5005  
Other languages 4713 5000 Italiano 4713 5008 한국어 4713 5010 සිංහල 4713 5020 தமிழ் 4713 5021



## Assessment

Applications will be checked for eligibility, then reviewed internally by Council officers and assessed against the Assessment Criteria.

### Assessment criteria

1. Addresses an evidence-based need or opportunity
2. Evidence of partnerships with other organisation(s)
3. The capacity of the organisation to undertake the project
4. Budget expenditure (proposed)

## How to apply

Visit [www.monash.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/grants) and click on *Emergency Relief Sustainability Grants*.

Applications are made through the [SmartyGrants](#) online portal.

## Timeframe

Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel. Applicants will receive a response from Council by the end of August.

Once receiving notification of a successful application the project must commence and be completed by 30 June 2025.

All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the September Council meeting.

## What won't be funded

Items that are ineligible for funding in this program includes the following that will not be funded:

- Activities and services that are the core business of the organisation;
- Coordinator wages/salary
- Commercial/for-profit projects/services;
- Fundraising activities;
- Capital infrastructure;
- Gifts and prizes;
- Groups who meet regularly in venues that have Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs);

## Acquittal

An online acquittal must be completed through SmartyGrants at the conclusion of the funded activity.

## More information

For assistance or more information, email us at [monash.grants@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:monash.grants@monash.vic.gov.au) or call the Community Grants Team on 9518 3555.