Get Ready Community Grants

Guidelines 2022

BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL

Contents

B
S
C

Get Ready Community Grants 2022

Background

Bellingen Shire was impacted by floods in February and March 2022. In response, funding was provided for recovery and Bellingen Shire Council conducted a survey and a number of Community Roundtables for feedback on the impacts and how the funding could be put towards preparation and recovery.

Community spirit has been central to the resilience of the Bellingen Shire before, during, and after natural disasters.

In recognition of the important role our community groups, volunteers, and organisations play in supporting residents through adversity, Bellingen Shire Council is administrating the Get Ready Community Grants 2022 program.

With funding provided jointly by the Federal and State governments after the February-March 2022 Floods, this program is aimed at supporting local emergency services and community organisations to be equipped, and community groups integral to community wellbeing to be strengthened.

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S
C

Stream 1

Local Emergency Services and Community Organisations

Support local emergency services and organisations to be prepared for disaster risks.

Enable emergency services and community organisations to strengthen their ability to respond during a disaster and support community.

Pool: $50,000

Stream 2

Strengthening Community Groups

Support the revitalisation and growth of local community groups after the impacts of fire, pandemic, and flood.

Increase community participation, capacity, skills and resources in recovery.

Ensure the diverse needs of the community are represented and met.

Pool: $45,000

⚠️ Please note: Applicants cannot apply for more than one grant stream

Grant objectives

Support local emergency services and organisations to be prepared for disaster risks.

Enable emergency services and community organisations to strengthen their ability to respond during a disaster and support community.

Stream 1: Local Emergency Services & Community Organisations

Expected Outcomes

- Local Emergency Services and Community Organisations are able to build on resources, equipment, or training to help community protection, response, and recovery

- Increase effective community resources regarding disasters.

Expected Benefits

- Local Emergency Services and Community Organisations are better prepared for disaster or able to support response and recovery.

- Bellingen Shire residents are supported by more organisations fit for purpose to help in the disaster cycle.

Please note: Applicants for Stream 1 are unable to apply for a grant under Stream 2.

Eligibility: Stream 1 Local Emergency Services and Community Organisations

How much can you apply for?

Funding is available up to $10,000

Eligible applicants can only receive one grant under the Get Ready Community Grant Stream 1 program.

Applicants that apply for this stream cannot apply for Stream 2.

Who can apply

- Local Emergency Service organisations
- Incorporated Not For Profits
- Section 355 committees

Who can not apply

- Current employee of Bellingen Shire Council
- Political parties
- Organisations that do not operate in the Bellingen Shire.

Eligible projects

- Purchase and/or install small scale infrastructure that reduces risks related to natural disasters or enables support of community recovery e.g., water tank, fire hoses, upgrade to community hall kitchen to support displaced community members during a disaster

- Resources, programs, services or projects in readiness for a natural disaster e.g., disaster risk audit/planning, community planning, organisational continuity planning.

Ineligible Projects

- The project must be consistent with the objectives of the Get Ready Community Grants program

- The project must not be commercial in nature or be used to purchase items that may be used to generate income

- Ongoing operational or administration costs such as rent, electricity, wages

- Activities that do not occur within the Bellingen Shire

B
S
C

Grant objectives

Support the revitalisation and growth of local community groups after the impacts of fire, pandemic, and flood.

Increase community participation in groups and build capacity, skills and resources in recovery.

Ensure the diverse needs of the community are represented and met.

Stream 2: Strengthening Community Groups

Expected Outcomes

- Community groups and organisations build awareness of their work and grow membership.

- Community groups are strengthened to recover and support its members and wider community in recovery and resilience

- Diverse needs of the community are represented and met.

- Community members can participate in activities that strengthen their sense of belonging and build resilience.

Expected Benefits

- Bellingen Shire residents have resources and opportunities to participate and be involved in activities and groups beneficial to their wellbeing, recovery and resilience.

- Effective community driven recovery from floods and other natural disasters.

- Increased community resilience.

- Community capacity building in managing risks and effective recovery.

- Building resilience in Bellingen Shire is shared, diverse, representative and celebrated.

Please note: Applicants for Stream 2 are unable to apply for a grant under Stream 1.

Eligibility: Stream 2 Strengthening Community Groups

How much can you apply for?

Funding is available up to $5,000.

Eligible applicants can only receive one grant under the Get Ready Community Grant Stream 2 program.

Applicants that apply for this stream cannot apply for Stream 1.

Who can apply

- Incorporated Not For Profits
- Auspiced unincorporated community organisations*

Who can not apply

- Current employees of Bellingen Shire Council
- Australian or NSW government agencies
- Political parties
- Organisations that do not operate in the Bellingen Shire
- Organisations that are not incorporated or without an auspice.
- Emergency Services and Community Organisations who are eligible and applied for funding under Stream 1.

An auspicing body is a legally constituted not for profit organisation that will take legal and financial responsibility for a grant if awarded.

Eligible projects

- Activities that increase community awareness of your group and encourage involvement/grow membership e.g., website, marketing, volunteer promotional event.
- Projects that support your community group to play a role in the preparedness, response, recovery or resilience to disasters such as floods e.g., workshops to train volunteers, sharing information during a disaster

Ineligible Projects

- The project must be consistent with the objectives of the Get Ready Community Grants program
- The project must not be commercial in nature or be used to purchase items that may be used to generate income
- Ongoing operational or administration costs such as rent, electricity, wages
- Activities that do not occur within the Bellingen Shire
- Projects already funded by another Council grant.

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C

How to apply

How do I apply?

Applications will be made through the Good Grants online system

Should you have any difficulty using the Good Grants system, please contact the Community Resilience Team.

Who do I speak to regarding my project or for more information?

Contact the Bellingen Shire Council Resilience Team:

(02) 6655 7300

resilience@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

FAQs and workshops

Bellingen Shire Council will provide opportunities to support community and organisation to apply for the grants through workshops, information points and FAQ information sheets.

These will be announced and shared with community when the grant is launched.

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Application Assessment Criteria

- Eligible applications will be assessed on its individual merit as part of a competitive process

- Applications must demonstrate how the project or activity aligns to the purpose and objectives of the grant program

- Demonstrate that the project or activity is well planned, that suitably skilled persons are involved (where applicable)

- Demonstrate that the applicant is financially viable with the capacity to deliver the project.

- Purchases of equipment or infrastructure need to demonstrate a clear link to:

  Stream 1: Disaster risk, response, and recovery management

  Stream 2: Activities that boost community participation or engagement.

- Demonstrate an understanding of local needs or how the project links and contributes to other ongoing community initiatives.

- Council reserves the right to part fund projects

Other Important Information

- A budget should be provided as part of the project and should be detailed and accurate.

- Budget items in the application should be GST exclusive.

- Quotes and/or cost estimates should be provided where applicable.

- Successful grantees will be required to report on progress, provide evidence of activities, and demonstrate their impact on the community. Projects may be subject to external evaluation by Council appointed evaluators.

- All projects and activities must comply with all current government requirements regarding COVID-19.

- Projects should be completed within 12 months of funding being announced

Assessment Process

- Applications will receive a confirmation email once their application has been submitted

- Applications will be assessed by a panel of 2 Council staff and 1 Resilience NSW staff member.

- The assessment panel will make recommendations for approval to the Council at the Council meeting that most closely follows the assessment period.

- Successful applicants will then be notified as soon as possible after the Council meeting

- In the interests of fairness, the assessment panel will, where possible and appropriate, ensure apt dispersion of funding across the Shire

Successful Applications

- Successful applicants will be notified in writing through a formal letter of offer and be required to enter into a funding agreement with Council

- Applicants may also be required to provide additional information such as evidence of the appropriate public liability insurance for the period covering your activity

- Payments will be made on receipt of a tax invoice or the Council can generate a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI)

- An applicants inability in meeting the grant agreement may result in support being withdrawn and may not be eligible to apply for other grants provided by the Council

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Recognition of Assistance and Acquittal

Recognition of Assistance

- Successful applicants must acknowledge Bellingen Shire Council's support for their project.
    - Acknowledgements may be in the form of (but not limited to) signage, logos on websites, promotional and/or information materials and/or the opportunity to speak at an event or activity related to the project.

- Successful applicants must also acknowledge the joint Australia and State Government support for this project as per the Disaster Recovery Funding Australia Guidelines: https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements-2018.pdf

- The NSW Government or Commonwealth Government, or Council may use any information submitted by successful grant recipients for promotional material. Information may be used in the form of press releases, case studies, promotional material and in response to media enquires relevant to the Local Government Recovery grants program

Acquittal

- Successful applicants will be required to acquit their grant within two months of completing the project.

- Evidence of the project being completed, including expenditure and outcomes, must be provided.

- Any unspent funds will need to be returned to Council at the time of acquitting the project.