2026 Program Guidelines

Community Funding Guide

Community Bank · Southern Peninsula

The role we play is to feed into prosperity, not off it.

Community Bank Southern Peninsula is committed to developing partnerships that assist in achieving positive community outcomes. We recognise that without successful communities, there cannot be successful businesses.

We invest in local organisations that facilitate activities to build and strengthen our community. Our community funding is made possible by the profit generated from banking services provided at our branches.

Community Funding plays a valuable role in financially supporting local community organisations while also promoting local Community Bank branches.

Support categories

- Emergency and community support
- Sport and recreation
- Environment and animal welfare
- Arts, culture and heritage
- Health and wellbeing
- Facilities and infrastructure
- Education and research

About us

The Community Bank Southern Peninsula is community-owned, operating three Peninsula branches in Rye, Rosebud and Dromana, and a dedicated lending hub in Rosebud. We employ over 20 local staff to ensure our commitment to creating excellent customer service is front of mind.

Our Company is a certified Social Enterprise and holds the franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank, to operate our Community Bank branches.

Community banking is based on a Profit-With-Purpose model, meaning profits are returned directly to the community that generated them. We reinvest most of our profits back into the community through grants and sponsorship.

Our presence on the Peninsula for over twenty-five years has resulted in the return of 11 million dollars to the community in funding, a significant achievement of which we are immensely proud.

Some of the features of SmartyGrants are

You can save your progress and return to complete your application at a later time or date. Your application is always autosaved

- Your application is stored online, therefore there is nothing for you to save to your own computer, and;
- You can be certain that we have received your application when you submit it
- SmartyGrants offers technical support to our applicants

SmartyGrants Community Funding Platform

Our organisation has transitioned to the funding platform SmartyGrants. This is an online supported platform that enables our organisation to manage our grants and sponsorship requests in a more efficient and effective way. It offers a range of features that make the grant/sponsorship management process more streamlined, including online application forms, automated processes, and reporting tools.

This will also streamline the application process for our clubs and community groups.

SmartyGrants provides an easy way for grant seekers to complete their application form online.

Grant or Sponsorship?

We've streamlined our application process for our two funding options: Grants and Sponsorships. Now, all applicants can get started with the same easy-to-use form.

Sponsorship: Our community sponsorship program facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships with eligible organisations in our community.

We sponsor events, projects or organisations through the provision of money, goods or services in return for customer acquisition opportunities and brand recognition. Most applications fall under this category.

Grant: Our grants are paid to an organisation to address a social issue within the community. Your community and not-for-profit organisation can apply for funding to support projects that offer clear community benefit, contributing to social outcomes, community welfare, environmental, health, education, or cultural areas.

Community funding timeline

Our Community Funding applications will open Tuesday 1 September 2026.

We're excited to announce an update to our Community Funding program, designed to better support the evolving needs of our community groups.

Recognising that fixed funding deadlines don't always align with when support is needed most, we are moving from our traditional twice-yearly rounds to a year-round application model. This means you can apply for funding whenever it best suits the needs and timelines of your group.

All applications will be submitted online. Once this application has been submitted:

- Our Community Engagement Advisor will contact your group.
- Community Funding Committee and Board assess the application.
- Funding allocation correspondence will be sent to applicants.

Funding decisions

The Community Funding Committee review the applications and make recommendations to the Board on which projects to fund. As such, the Board's decision to approve, decline or approve partial funding, will be final. At times, the Board may wish to use funds which are held in trust by the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF). If applications are to be funded from this source, the applicants may need to provide additional information or engage the support of a project partner to secure their funding.

Our expectations of applicants

- Keep us informed. If there is a delay or change to your project, we like to know about it
- Demonstrate a willingness to be a positive advocate to enhance our profile and encourage members to be their bank of choice
- Authorise us to promote our sponsorship and/or support of your group within internal and external marketing, including social media
- Complete all required acquittals within 30 days of completion of your project or sponsorship. Obtain approval for use of our logos, naming conventions and press releases within your own promotion of our support
- Stay in contact – invite us to see completed projects or to group events, share our posts and tag us on Facebook and Instagram @CommunityBankSouthernPeninsula

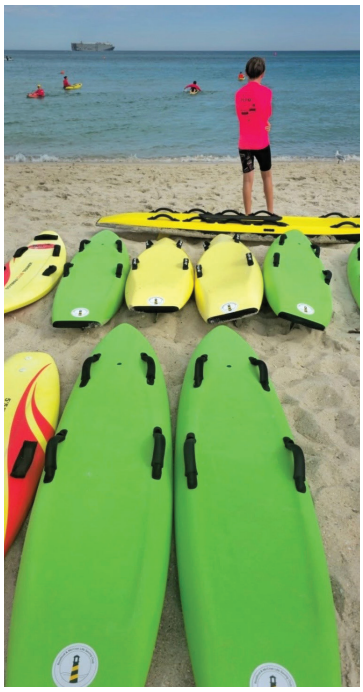
Key funding conditions

Funding will only be provided to organisations that meet the following criteria:

- Be of a not-for profit nature
- **Maintain banking status with Community Bank Southern Peninsula Branches – Rye, Rosebud or Dromana**
- A limit of one receipt of funding in a twelve-month period
- To review the full eligibility criteria for Grant and Sponsorship funding, please review the attached criteria documentation. Please read carefully prior to commencing your application.

We are unable to consider any application in the below categories

- Support any activity that is political or sectarian in nature
- Is for the sole benefit of an individual
- Is commercial in nature Events or programs that denigrate, exclude or offend minority group
- Programs or events that may represent a hazard to the community
- Programs sponsored by competitor banks, brokers and financial institutions
- Third party funding Wages/administration costs for an ongoing or long term position



It's a win-win when you bank with us. Your better banking has helped support the clubs, projects and organisations at the heart of our local community.

Where else can great banking create such a positive impact -
$11 million and counting!

How to apply

- Follow our social media platforms for updates on our funding round process and how to apply
- Read through our Community Funding criteria documents to ensure your project meets eligibility guidelines
- Have a clear idea of your project. Please make sure you include a budget, quotes, current financial statements and documents to support your application
- If you have any questions, please contact Renae: renae.dunston@bendigoadelaide.com.au

For more information contact

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Talk to us today

Community Bank · Southern Peninsula

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Community Bank · Rye
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We're open: 9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Thursday
9.30am – 5.00pmFriday

Community Bank · Rosebud
Samantha Sheridan – Branch Operations Manager
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We're open: 9.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Lending
Laura Nestoriwskyj – Branch Operations Manager
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Community Bank · Dromana
Karen O'Keefe – Branch Operations Manager
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We're open: 9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Thursday
9.30am – 5.00pmFriday

Bendigo Bank

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