

Frequently Asked Questions

Q – How do I apply for a grant or scholarship?

A. To apply for a grant or scholarship from the Community Enterprise Foundation™, log onto our website <http://www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation/> and click on the 'Apply for Funding' tab.

From here, select the program you wish to apply for e.g. grant or scholarship.

If you have applied for a grant or scholarship previously, login using your existing login details. If you are a new user, you will need to register your details to commence an application.

Complete all relevant questions in the application form and attach all compulsory documents. Verify your application and if the system does not detect a problem, click submit application. Once your application has been submitted successfully you will receive a confirmation email with your application.

Applicants will generally be advised of the outcome of their application within four to eight weeks from the closing date.

Q - How do I reset my password?

A. To reset your password, navigate to the login page. Enter your email address used to login. Leave the password field blank and click 'forgot your password?'. A new password will be sent to your email address.

Q. What makes a good application?

A. A good application is engaging and concise but gives all the information required. Make sure you answer every question and attach the relevant supporting evidence. Read the program description carefully before applying and consider the eligibility criteria to understand what is being asked of you. Finally, inspire us! Tell us why your project will make a difference to your organisation, community, and/or you. We receive lots of applications and passion shines through.

Q. How long does it take to submit an application?

A. As a rough estimate, the entire process can take around 20-30 minutes. This includes registering as a user and completing your application. However, it can take longer if your project is complex. Note, you can save your application to complete at any time so long as the grant or scholarship is still accepting applications. Remember, we don't accept applications after midnight on the closing date.

Q - What organisations are eligible to apply for grant funding?

A. The Foundation can only fund not-for-profit organisations with a current and valid ABN. If your business or organisation wishes to apply for a grant but isn't a not-for-profit, you will need to establish a relationship with an organisation that fits this criteria and work with them to deliver the project.

We refer to these organisations 'Project Partners'. The project partner will receive the funds on behalf of the applicant to be spent on the project. It's preferable if the project partner makes a tangible contribution to the project. This contribution can be monetary or in-kind. Notable groups that need project partner support of their state governing body include Scouts and emergency services organisations. This is simple for the local group to arrange and the Foundation can assist if needed. Note, government entities cannot always be funded directly and generally need a project partner. Please contact the Foundation on 1300 304 541 to discuss before submitting your application.

Q – What type of projects can be funded by the Foundation?

A. The Foundation can only provide funding for projects that have a charitable purpose. This means they provide a benefit to the wider community. Traditionally, charitable projects fit into one of five main categories:

- a. the relief of poverty
- b. the relief of sickness and distress
- c. the advancement of education
- d. the advancement of religion
- e. other purposes beneficial to community

Each grant program also has its own criteria, so please read the funding guidelines carefully before applying to make sure your project is eligible.

Q – What type of projects can't be funded by the Foundation?

A. The Foundation cannot provide funding for projects that are illegal, commercial or confer private benefits, such as distributions to owners or members, benefits to members, benefits to individual entities that may not be members of an organisation and/or incidental or ancillary private benefits.

It's important to note the advancement of sport, recreation and social activities is not considered a charitable activity by the ATO. Therefore, applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate a benefit to the wider community and should clearly indicate which other local organisations are involved.

The Foundation is unable to fund projects retrospectively.

The Foundation will not consider projects that are vague, have insufficient value or that are of indeterminable value to the community.

Q – Can the Foundation fund a sporting club?

A. As mentioned previously, the advancement of sport is not considered a charitable activity by the ATO. However, this does not restrict not-for-profit sporting clubs from applying for funding for projects that are non-sporting or clearly demonstrate a benefit to the wider community and fit within one of the five charitable categories listed above.

Examples of charitable projects often championed by sporting groups include building and maintaining multipurpose public facilities, all-abilities programs, health promotion and leadership education.

Q – Can the Foundation fund a government entity such as a school, council, or hospital?

A. Under Australian Law, government entities are not considered charitable. It's for this reason the Foundation cannot fund federal, state, or local government entities for core government functions with a charitable grant.

However, on some occasions these entities have a separate fund with the correct charitable endorsement. For example, some state schools have a library or building fund that may be acceptable. To check whether your organisation has this status, log onto the Australia Business Register <http://www.abr.business.gov.au/> and type in your ABN.

Government entities that do not have charitable status but are supporting a project outside of core government responsibilities may still be able to complete an application for funding using a project partner. The partner must be a not-for-profit organisation with a valid ABN and will receive the funds on behalf of the entity to be spent on the project. It's preferable that the project partner makes a tangible contribution to the project, this can be monetary or in-kind.

Q- What kind of supporting documentation is required for grants?

A. The Foundation requires all applicants to provide copies of their most recent financial statements. This could be an annual report, balance sheet or profit and loss statement. Ideally, these should be audited but we understand that some smaller organisations may find this prohibitive. Letters of support are an effective way to demonstrate community need and benefit, particularly for large projects or initiatives that have a sporting or recreational element and need to show wide community benefit. Applications involving a project partner must include a letter of support from the organisation acting as project partner. A template is available on the Foundation website. Written quotes and costs provide solid evidence that the budget is realistic, well planned and allows us to verify that your budget is accurate. However, we are also happy to accept online estimates, catalogue listings and emails confirming price discussions where appropriate.

Q- What kind of supporting documentation is required for scholarships?

A. The Foundation requires all scholarship applicants to provide copies of their current school results and a letter of offer (when relevant) to the course they will be studying.

Q - What information should I put in the budget?

A- It's important to be realistic and do your research ahead of time. In the expense table, include all items for your project and provide a reasonable level of detail. Don't forget to include the total value of in-kind support as well. Your grant request amount will automatically be populated into the budget, but you will need to list all the other sources of income for your project. This included in-kind support and support from other organisations. Please do not list GST as a stand-alone item in your budget. If you are paying GST on goods and services, include it for that line item. If you are not paying GST on other items, do not include it. Please note, quotes, and estimates for budget items are compulsory. We understand that getting written quotes can be difficult sometimes, so we're happy to accept email or online quotes, catalogue listings, position descriptions and a range of other documents that confirm the cost of your program.

Q – What is in-kind support? Do I need to list the in-kind support we will receive?

A- Yes, you will need to include any in-kind support you receive related to the grant request and ensure it is represented as income and expenditure in your application. In-kind support is any contribution made to a project that has a dollar value but has been provided as goods or services instead of cash. Common examples are volunteer hours, equipment, services, or discounts.

Q – Can I request funding for more than one project?

A- Yes, you can submit multiple applications for funding to the same grants program. When writing your submissions, it's important to note you cannot apply for multiple projects on the same application, unless they are related. Each unrelated project requires its own application, which includes a separate project description and budget. You will need to complete the first application before beginning the next, unless you register the second application under a different email address.

Q- When will I find out if I'm successful?

A- Each grant program has its own opening and closing dates. Applicants will generally be advised of the outcome of their application within 4 – 8 weeks from the closing date.