



# issues backgrounder

Number 1/June 2020

NSW Parliamentary Research Service

## Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Members of Parliament regularly receive enquiries about funding opportunities for community groups. This Issues Backgrounder is designed to assist Members and their electorate office staff to respond to these enquiries. This guide provides links to selected funding opportunities for community groups and is organised under the following sections:

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### Scope of this guide

This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all available grants in New South Wales and Australia. As funding opportunities constantly change and the range and number of opportunities varies across different sectors no single written guide can guarantee a complete listing of all funding opportunities for community groups. For example, the grants identified in [section 3](#) are indicative only across the ten subject areas reviewed by this guide. Similarly, the grants and sponsorship opportunities listed in [section 4](#) are derived from a select number of private organisations.

### Grant selection

Selecting the right grant for the needs of your local community is one of the most important factors when securing funding. A number of grant bodies recommend that applications should only be made to those organisations that match your project. To assist in this process, it is recommended that you contact the funding body about your application prior to submission. The majority of the funding bodies included in this guide provide additional information in their application guidelines or frequently asked questions (FAQs) sections on their websites. It should be noted that this guide also includes information on grants where the 2020 submission deadline has passed. This has been included to alert readers to the possibility that the new round of funding will most likely occur around the same time in 2021.

### 2020 edition changes

In the 2020 edition, a new section on [Funding sources for emergency or disaster situations](#) has been introduced. At the time of writing, there are a significant number of Federal and State Government funding initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some organisations have temporarily suspended their grant and funding programs due to the COVID-19 situation. Where relevant, this has been noted in the guide, while other funding opportunities are expected to open in the coming months.

While it is understandable that COVID-19 is a focal point for emergency funding responses at this time, this new section includes information on funding programs for [bushfire recovery](#) and [drought assistance](#).

All links are current as of the date of publication (19 June 2020). As funding opportunities constantly change, it is recommended that the enclosed links in this guide are monitored regularly throughout the year.

If you are aware of any community grants within your electorate that you would like to see included in the annual publication, please contact the Parliamentary Research Service Manager, Dr Matthew Dobson by email at:

[DPS.ResearchService@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:DPS.ResearchService@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## 1. Government gateways to community grants

### 1.1 Service NSW

[Service NSW](#) is a NSW Government initiative delivering improved one-stop services for government customers. The website offers the opportunity to search for community grants across the NSW Government sector. It also provides a directory of government departments and organisations that may offer community grant opportunities.

### 1.2 Community Development

The [Community Development](#) website provides access to a series of [philanthropic grants and trusts](#) and offers an interactive online hub to explore how to engage, build and strengthen communities.

### 1.3 Regional Development Australia (NSW)

In NSW, there are 14 [Regional Development Australia](#) (RDA) Committees covering all areas of the State. Each RDA Committee organises its own website. Links to the grant and funding information for each RDA Committee are provided below:

Regional Development Australia region						
<a href="#">Central Coast</a>	<a href="#">Central West</a>	<a href="#">Far South Coast</a>	<a href="#">Far West</a>	<a href="#">Hunter</a>	<a href="#">Illawarra</a>	<a href="#">Mid North Coast</a>
<a href="#">Murray</a>	<a href="#">Northern Inland</a>	<a href="#">Northern Rivers</a>	<a href="#">Orana</a>	<a href="#">Riverina</a>	<a href="#">Southern Inland</a>	<a href="#">Sydney</a>

### 1.4 Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government provides a [Grants and programs](#) webpage on its [business.gov.au](#) website. This resource offers users the opportunity to search for community grants and assistance packages across all levels of government.

## 2. Non-government gateways to community grants

### 2.1 Funding Centre

The [Funding Centre](#) is an enterprise of [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au) and provides a dedicated Grants [webpage](#). There is also an [EasyGrants Newsletter](#) available for an annual fee of \$125. Members of the NSW Parliament should note that the EasyGrants newsletter can be accessed through the Parliamentary Library's [homepage](#).

### 2.2 GrantGuru

The [GrantGuru](#) website offers a free 'basic option' that allows individuals to search for grants and funding opportunities for community-based and not-for-profit organisations.

### 2.3 Philanthropy Australia

[Philanthropy Australia](#) offers a searchable database of grants and other funding opportunities for community groups. Philanthropy Australia does not provide funding but offers resources through its [Fund seeker](#) and [Resources](#) website pages. In 2020, this includes access to the [Directory of Funders](#) at an annual subscription cost of \$110. The Directory provides a detailed listing of more than 200 grant-making organisations and provides information such as their contact details, purpose, geographical scope, grant restrictions and application procedures.

### 2.4 The Grants Hub

[The Grants Hub](#) directory website offers a subscription-based service that allows users to search over 1,000 grants from government, businesses, philanthropic sources, private donors, trusts, and other providers. A 14 day free trial is available with subscription rates from \$29 per month. Pricing information is available [here](#).

### 2.5 Social Change Central

[Social Change Central](#) (SCC) is an online hub for social enterprises which 'supports social enterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs through an easy-to-use, comprehensive self-service database which collates the most up-to-date opportunities available in Australia and internationally.' An annual membership costs \$50 and provides unlimited access to all funding opportunities for the year.

### 3. Grants in selected subject areas

For the subject areas reviewed in section 3, community grant information can also be accessed using the 'gateway' search websites identified in [sections 1](#) and [2](#).

#### 3.1 Arts

##### Create NSW

[Create NSW](#) is the NSW Government's agency for arts, screen and culture. Create NSW's Arts and Cultural Funding Program provides funding opportunities for arts and cultural organisations, professional artists and arts/cultural workers across a wide range of artforms and disciplines.

The [Funding and support](#) webpage provides funding opportunities such as:

- [Small Project Grants](#) support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers. Applications are open until 30 June 2020.
- [Creative Leadership Grants](#) provide opportunities for individual artists, practitioners and arts/cultural workers across musical theatre, archives, classical music and visual arts. [COVID-19 Initiatives](#) are designed to address sector-wide issues related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the practice of art and the well-being of the arts and cultural sector. Opportunities exist to support the creation of new work, adapt current work to digital platforms and to engage with audiences through online portals and to develop events and activities for when restrictions are eased.

At the time of writing, the Create NSW website also listed the following funding programs that were due to re-open in July 2020:

- Project funding
- Creative Koori Project funding
- Annual Organisation funding
- Local Government Authorities (LGA) Arts & Cultural Programs

[Screen NSW](#) provides information on screen [funding and incentives](#) in NSW.

##### Regional Arts NSW

The [Regional Arts NSW](#) website has a [grants](#) page that lists funding opportunities available to artists and not-for-profit organisations working in the regional arts and cultural sector. Major grant categories include:

- [Quick Response Grants](#): Small grants of up to \$1,500 that respond to arts and professional development opportunities that arise at short notice.
- [Country Arts Support Program \(CASP\)](#): This annual small grants program is administered by Regional Arts NSW on behalf of Create NSW. Regional Arts NSW expects to be informed about CASP Funding details for the 2021 grant

round in June 2020. The 2020 CASP Guidelines are available [here](#). CASP is guided by the ACDP's three major objectives:

- 1) A creative and vibrant NSW arts and cultural sector renowned for excellence and innovation (Quality);
  - 2) State-wide engagement with diverse audiences and communities (Reach); and
  - 3) A resilient NSW arts and cultural sector and cultural activities (Health).
- [Regional Arts Fund Community Grants](#): The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia. It meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in, and access to, the arts and encouraging greater private sector support. The RAF Community Grants program is awaiting new guidelines from the Federal Government before re-opening in mid 2020 for applications to the 2021 grant round. A comprehensive list of available arts grants is found [here](#).

### Commonwealth Arts grants

#### Australia Council for the Arts

The [Australia Council for the Arts](#) is the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body. Information on funding opportunities is available from the Council's [Grants Program](#) webpage. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the council has established the [2020 Resilience Fund](#) which will provide emergency relief to support the livelihoods, practice and operations of Australian artists, groups and organisations. The fund offers three funding streams:

- [Survive](#);
- [Adapt](#); and
- [Create](#).

The 2020 Resilience Fund opened on 3 April 2020 and there are no closing dates for the program.

The Council website includes a Resilience Fund [FAQs](#) section with further information on the application process for each stream.

#### Creative Partnerships Australia

[Creative Partnerships Australia](#) (CPA) promotes private giving, social investment and philanthropy for the arts in Australia. CPA encourages sponsorship and corporate support, and builds partnerships between artists, business, private donors and the community to support the arts. An overview of its funding programs is available [here](#).

### 3.2 Disability

The [Commonwealth Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) provides a [Community Grants Hub](#).

The following table lists the DSS Grants Programs that provide community funding opportunities as at 19 June 2020:

Grant title	Category	Description	Closing date
<a href="#">Saluting Their Service Commemorations Program</a>	Commemorative	The Saluting Their Service Commemorations Program aims to preserve Australia's wartime heritage and to involve people throughout the nation in a wide range of projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations.	11 Feb 2021

The [Ian Potter Foundation](#) provides national grants to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a broad range of sectors. In response to the evolving health and economic situation brought about by a combination of Australia's bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has changed its approach to grant and funding opportunities for the remainder of 2020. The usual funding rounds in September and December 2020 will not open. Instead, the Foundation will consider grant applications across all four of the Foundation's funding pillars only by invitation.

Information on the Foundation's on funding rounds is available [here](#).

### 3.3 Education

#### Public education

The [NSW Department of Education](#) offers access to a range of funding opportunities to the community through [scholarships](#). These include:

- [Public education scholarships](#) for students and professional development for teachers and principals working in public education. These scholarships are offered by the [Public Education Foundation](#), a not-for-profit organisation that provides scholarships to young people, their teachers and school principals. Further information on all 2020 Foundation scholarships can be accessed [here](#).
- The [NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships](#) provide funding of up to \$15,000 for a five-week study tour of schools or learning centres within Australia or overseas. The aim of this scholarship is to enable teachers to explore their field of teaching expertise. Scholarships are awarded in the year prior to travel.
- The NSW Department of Education also provides a number of scholarship options to cover the cost of training to become a qualified teacher. Prospective teachers can subscribe to [email alerts](#) to be notified when new scholarship offers are available.

In 2020, the NSW Teachers Federation is offering 15 [Future Teacher Scholarships](#) valued at \$4,000 each. Applications close on 4 September 2020.

#### Tertiary education

The [Good Universities Guide](#) website offers a [scholarship search function](#) covering more than 3000 scholarships in the higher education and vocational sectors.

Scholarships can cover costs ranging from tuition fees to living and accommodation costs.

The Commonwealth Department of Education and Training provides the [Study Assist](#) website as a resource on government assistance for financing tertiary study. There is also a [scholarships](#) webpage for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The Commonwealth Government also offers scholarships like the [Australia Awards](#) to provide financial support for their students.

### Education funding for regional students

The [Country Education Foundation of Australia](#) (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation that assists rural and regional youth to access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 per student per year. The [2020 CEF scholarships guide](#) notes that “There’s a scholarship for everyone and everything... covering the costs of textbooks, course fees, equipment, accommodation and living costs.” The CEF also supports and mentors students throughout their studies or apprenticeships. A complete list of local CEFs is available [here](#).

### 3.4 Environment

The [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) (DPIE) administers a number of funding programs including the [NSW Environmental Trust](#) and the [NSW Climate Change Fund](#). Funding opportunities are provided to local communities to enhance the environment and protect our heritage. Further information is available on the DPIE [Grants](#) page.

#### Landcare Australia

[Landcare Australia](#) administers the [Junior Landcare Grants Program](#). Under this program any school or youth organisation in Australia that would like to involve their students in Landcare projects can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. Information on other funding opportunities is available [here](#).

### 3.5 Gambling

The [Office of Responsible Gambling](#) leads the development of responsible gambling strategy and offers public policy advice to the NSW Government. As at 19 June 2020, the Office provides the following funding opportunities in 2020:

- [Infrastructure Grants](#); and
- [Gambling Research Capacity Grants](#).

### 3.6 Homelessness

The [Mercy Foundation](#) offers a [Grants to End Homelessness](#) program that supports seeding initiatives, services, projects, advocacy and research that will contribute to the goal of ending homelessness. The Foundation advocates for housing first and permanent supportive housing solutions. The average grant ranges between \$20,000 to 30,000, with larger grants up to \$50,000. The program will open in September 2020.



The Foundation also manages a [Social Justice Small Grants Program](#) that provides seed funding from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to assist communities and organisations in building capacity in the social justice area. In 2020, the focus for the grants program is “Justice in the Digital World”. Funding is only available for not-for-profit organisations.

### 3.7 Multicultural

The [Multicultural NSW Celebrating Diversity Grants Program](#) aims to celebrate cultural diversity and foster community harmony by offering two grant categories:

- **Celebrating Diversity - Events:** Grants of up to \$10,000 are available under the Events category. The total pool amount available is \$800,000, awarded over two funding rounds per financial year.
- **Celebrating Diversity – Projects:** Grants of up to \$40,000 are available for 12-month projects that can make a lasting positive impact on social cohesion at the grassroots level. The total pool amount available is \$600,000, awarded in one funding round per financial year.

Further information grant guidelines and eligibility criteria are available in the 2019/20 [Grants Program Brochure](#).

### 3.8 Road Safety

The [NSW Centre for Road Safety](#) offers [Community Road Safety Grants](#) to improve road safety awareness in local communities. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for road safety projects that involve community engagement and raise road safety awareness. Larger grants of up to \$30,000 are also available. Grant proposals need to identify a road safety issue and propose an effective project concept to address the problem. Transport for NSW will fund NSW community based organisations. Those grant applications which may impact upon road infrastructure will be subject to approval by Roads and Maritime Services or the relevant local council before being awarded. Application guidelines are available [here](#).

The Community Road Safety Grants program will be offered again in 2020-21. At the time of writing, program timelines and grant application dates were being developed. Interested applicants can also register for grant updates by emailing [Community Road Safety Grants](#).

### 3.9 Rural and regional grants

#### Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

The [Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal](#) (FRRR) provides access to a range of [grants](#) available to rural and regional NSW. Any Australian not-for-profit organisation that offers clear public benefit for communities living in small rural, regional or remote locations in Australia is [eligible](#) for funding. The FRRR website also provides a [Grants Calendar](#) that is regularly updated. Grants are organised under the following categories:

- People, Place and Prosperity
- Targeted Impact; and

- Leading Change.

At the time of writing, the Strengthening Rural Communities program was closed due to a [review](#) process. Applications will re-open from mid-July 2020. As of 19 June 2020 the website reported that the following grants were open:

Grant Program	Summary	Status	Key Dates
<a href="#">Visy Tumut Region Recovery Fund</a>	The Pratt Foundation Visy Tumut Region Recovery Fund supports local not-for-profit organisations and community groups delivering locally-led projects and activities that endeavour to support people in the Snowy Valleys Council region with their re...	Open	R3 closes 30 June
<a href="#">Tackling Tough Times Together (Always Open)</a>	The Tackling Tough Times Together program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the drought. Open year round, grants up to \$20,000 and \$60,000 are available, with EOIs invited for grants up to \$150,000.	Open	Round 18 Applications due 27 August

## NSW Department of Primary Industries

The [NSW Department of Primary Industries](#) provides another source of funding for rural and regional grants in NSW. Examples of community funding opportunities include:

- The [Recreational Fishing Trust Grants](#) fund a diverse range of fishing-related activities such as recreational fishing education, fishing access and facilities, aquatic habitat rehabilitation and protection and the enhancement of recreational fishing. These grants are open to fishing clubs and organisations, universities, councils, community groups and individuals. The Recreational Fishing Trust funding guidelines for 2019-20 are available [here](#).
- The [Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program](#) enables community groups to apply to the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust for matching funds to purchase native fish to stock rivers and dams across NSW. Grants range from a minimum of \$1,000 to \$6,000. Expressions of interest information for the 2020-21 stocking season is available [here](#).
- The [Habitat Action Grants](#) target the rehabilitation of fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW. These grants vary from \$2,000 up to \$40,000. At the time of writing, the 2020 grant details have not been released. The Fish Habitat Grants usually open in August each year and close at the end of September.

## Destination NSW

[Destination NSW](#) manages the [2020 Regional Flagship Events Program](#) to support events in regional NSW with the potential to generate significant levels of ongoing tourism. Funding opportunities are organised under the two categories:

- [Micro Event Fund](#): This new funding program supports community-based events with smaller budgets in regional NSW areas impacted by drought or the recent bushfire activity. The fund focuses on events that demonstrate an ability to engage and harmonise their local community, build destination appeal, attract visitors from outside the region and stimulate the local economy.
- [Flagship Event Fund](#): This fund offers annual (\$20,000) and triennial (up to \$30,000) grants that support Regional NSW events that have been running for more than two years. It offers grants to support marketing activities that increase visibility and attract visitors from outside the local area.

### 3.10 Sport and Recreation

#### Sport Australia

The [Sport Australia](#) (SportAUS) website provides information on a range of sports-related [grants and funding](#) opportunities. In 2020, these include:

- [dAIS - Athlete Grant](#);
- [Local Sporting Champions Grants Program](#); and
- [Women Leaders in Sport Grant Program](#).

#### NSW Office of Sport

The [NSW Government Office of Sport](#) provides funding to “nurture sporting talent, help build sports facilities and develop the industry as a whole.” The Office’s [Grants](#) webpage provides links to key community grant programs such as:

- [Sport Development Program](#);
- [Stronger Communities Program](#); and
- [Sport NSW](#).

#### Tennis Australia

Tennis Australia has the [Australian Open \(AO\) Community Grants](#) initiative to support programs that use tennis to strengthen underrepresented community groups. These include, but are not limited to, Indigenous Australians, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, the LGBTI community and persons with disabilities. FAQs on the Community Grants program are available [here](#).

## 4. Selected Private Sector Funding Sources

[ANZ Community Grants](#) provide a range of different funding programs:

- The [ANZ Community Foundation](#) supports projects run by charitable organisations that offer a direct and tangible benefit to local communities, providing small grants of up to \$30,000. The 2020 grant round will open on 1 July 2020. At the time of writing, the website indicated that further information will be made available in June 2020.
- The [ANZ & Sydney Mardi Gras Community Grants](#) provide funding of up to \$10,000 for “a range of purposes including education and training, community development and creation, arts and culture – anything under the rainbow.”
- The [ANZ Seeds of Renewal](#) grants program provides small grants of up to \$15,000, or technology equipment, to rural community organisations to support “community organisations for projects that will help their community thrive”.

The [Aurizon Community Giving Fund](#) offers grants up to \$20,000 to eligible charities or community groups working in the areas of health and wellbeing, community safety, environment and education.

The [BHP Foundation](#) has an [Australia Country Program](#) focused on improving educational opportunities and outcomes in science, technology, engineering and maths for under-represented groups, including girls and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The [Commonwealth Bank Community Grants](#) program targets charities who are working towards a better society for youth in our communities. Organisations can apply for a Grassroots Grant of up to \$10,000 each year over three years, totalling a maximum of \$30,000. Applications for the next round will open in 2020.

[Equity Trustees](#) administers a number of charitable trusts and foundations that provide [grant funding](#) across a range of areas. For example, this includes the [Noongar Charitable Trust](#) which provides funding for community projects (from \$5000 upwards) in the following categories: Health, crisis response, aged, children and youth, housing, cultural and heritage and education, training and employment. Incorporated Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations based within the Noongar community are eligible for funding. Grants are open all year round with the following annual application dates: 20 January, 20 April, 20 July and 20 October.

The [IMB Community Foundation](#) provides financial support to diverse, grassroots projects that make “positive changes in our communities.” Examples of NSW past community projects that received funding are available [here](#).

The [James N Kirby Foundation](#) offers support to organisations working in: Education and technology; environment; health; social welfare and the arts. From 2020, grant applications open on 1 November and close on 14 February each year.

The [Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund](#) provide individual grants programs under these categories: Arts and humanities, education; poverty and disadvantage; sustainability and environment; and other programs. The website includes a [Grant Finder](#) page with additional information on other grant programs.

The [Optus Future Makers Program](#) is described as “a capacity building and accelerator program that empowers social start-ups who leverage technology to address social challenges for disadvantaged and vulnerable people.” The program has three focus areas: good health and well-being, quality education and decent work and economic growth.

The [Snow Foundation](#) offers [grants](#) of varying sizes to organisations with a community focus. Grants are available for projects in the Foundation’s key focus areas of health, education and employment and social welfare. Requests for seed funding, capacity building and untied core funding will be considered.

The [Telstra Foundation](#) supports initiatives that “enable young people to thrive in their connected world.” Programs such as the [Telstra’s Kids Fund](#) offer grants to local community groups that assist children to play and learn. The Fund focuses on local community activities by providing support for activities such as cyber-safety programs, vegetable gardens, bouncing balls for sports clubs and books for children in childcare.

The [Transurban Group](#) offers grants of up to \$5,000 twice a year for projects that provide social and environmental benefits to local communities near Transurban road infrastructure. Grants are limited to those local council areas with a Transurban road. Eligible NSW locations are listed on their website.

The [Veolia Mulwaree Trust](#) provides funding to the community through one-off donations (up to \$1,000) and grants. Grant applications may cover a wide range of projects undertaken by not-for-profit community organisations. The Trust encourages applicants to read the [2020 community grants guidelines](#) and confirm that their organisation is located within an eligible area.

The 2020 [Westpac Foundation Community Grants Program](#) provides \$10,000 grants to community organisations that deliver local opportunities through education, training and employment initiatives.

[Woolworths](#) uses a social impact investment approach in its community partnerships, with a view to improving the health and well-being of its customers. This is achieved by “creating employment opportunities for young Australians and New Zealanders, and supporting communities facing natural disasters with emergency relief and post-disaster recovery.” In 2020, Woolworths is targeting positive changes in the areas of health, economic development and emergency relief.

## 5. Selected NGO Funding Sources

[ClubsNSW](#) offers community funding opportunities through its [ClubGRANTS online program](#) under the following categories:

**Category 1:** Supports specific community welfare and social services, community development, health services and employment assistance activities, and other projects aimed at improving the living standards of low income and disadvantaged people.

**Category 2:** Provides funding for general community development and support activities, such as junior sport/grassroots sport or veteran welfare activities.

**Category 3:** Support projects that assist communities with essential infrastructure and disaster readiness.

The [Enterprise & Training Company Ltd](#) (ETC) is a not-for-profit recruitment agency that provides employment, training and business services. ETC administers the [Community Support Fund](#), which seeks to reduce disadvantage, generate opportunity, increase support services and/or build capacity in the communities in which ETC operates.

The [Sisters of Charity Foundation](#) provides grants of up to \$15,000 to organisations that struggle to find funding to fight poverty, loneliness, suffering and oppression. The foundation offers [community grants](#) and [scholarships](#). The Community Grants Program focuses on [projects](#) that provide practical assistance designed to break down social isolation and alleviate the impact of poverty. The foundation aims its funding at initiatives that may have 'fallen through the cracks'. Grant applications open twice a year on:

- 1 February (Closing 31 March); and
- 1 August (Closing 30 September).

Application guidelines are available [here](#).

[Variety – the Children’s Charity](#) offers [community grants](#) for the purchase of equipment that will promote inclusivity for children. It targets NSW schools or organisations who provide services to children aged up to 18 years who are living with a disability, chronic illness, are facing financial hardship and/or are in need of critical care. Applicants are ineligible to apply if they have received a Community Grant in the last 24 months.

As part of its Community-University Partnerships (CUP) initiative, [Charles Sturt University](#) operates a [Community Grants](#) program which provides funding opportunities to [Indigenous](#), [cultural](#), [educational](#), [sporting](#), [health and wellbeing](#) and [environmental sustainability](#) activities and projects. The aim of the CUP Community Grants program is 'to build higher education aspiration and awareness among young people in rural and regional communities.'

## 6. Selected Local Government funding sources

[Local Government NSW](#) (LGNSW) works in partnership with the NSW and Commonwealth Governments to offer councils capacity building, development support and other resources across important local government functions. Information on current grant programs is available from the LGNSW website [here](#).

A list of all NSW local councils is available [here](#).

### 6.1 Metropolitan

#### Canterbury-Bankstown Council

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [Canterbury-Bankstown Council](#) has started a [Helping You Help Others](#) initiative. This is an advance of the 2020-21 grants program that will provide flexible financial assistance to eligible not-for-profit community groups to support programs and services that:

- provide crisis and emergency relief services to people currently experiencing hardship and are at risk of becoming entrenched in disadvantage due to the crisis;
- people newly experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19;
- those that are most at risk of serious infection (immune compromised, older people, diagnosed chronic medical conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples); and
- enable community organisations to continue to deliver their services via alternative delivery models.

#### Georges River Council

The [Georges River Council](#) offers [Community Grants](#) to enable organisations to partner with Council to help meet identified community needs. The grants are designed to support community organisations to offer alternative approaches to meeting community needs, and to develop programs and activities that encourage community participation and inclusion. The Community Grants Program is underpinned by the principles of the Council's 2018-28 [Community Strategic Plan](#).

#### Inner West Council

The [Inner West Council](#) offers a range of [grants](#) to develop projects and programs to address local community needs. These include: [Creative and Cultural Resilience Grants](#), [Community Wellbeing Grants](#), [Environment Grants](#), and [Community-Led Celebration Day \(Multicultural\) Grants](#). At the time of writing, the Council's Grant Program is postponed to 1 October 2020.

#### Liverpool City Council

The [Liverpool City Council](#) offers a range of [grants](#) to local residents and community organisations that operate within the Liverpool Local Government Area. In 2020, the Council is providing a Sporting Donations Program (up to \$500); as well as offering Project Development Support Sessions. In these, community groups are invited to

meet with the Council's Community Development team to present ideas for community projects and work on how to submit grant applications. Grants are awarded to projects that benefit residents, build or enhance the reputation of Liverpool City Council and support delivery of the Council's [Community Strategic Plan](#).

### **City of Parramatta Council**

The [City of Parramatta Council](#) provides a [Community Grants Program](#) that offers quarterly and annual funding opportunities. The program's aim is to provide support for local individuals and not-for-profit community, recreation, sporting groups, clubs, organisations, services and other social enterprises that contribute to the City of Parramatta's [vision](#) and its [Community Strategic Plan](#).

In 2020, the City of Parramatta Council has allocated a total of \$40,000 to its [Small Grants Fund](#) and the [Social Enterprise Business Planning Grant](#). As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has changed the operation of the Small Grants program for the foreseeable future. Potential applicants are advised to contact the Community Grants Officer before applying for a Small Grant.

### **City of Sydney Council**

The [City of Sydney Council](#) offers [grants](#) to support initiatives that enhance the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. These include: [Community grants](#), [Cultural grants](#) and [Environment grants](#).

[Community Services Grants](#) of up to \$50,000 per year are also available for a period of up to three years. These grants prioritise food and financial security, housing affordability, youth led projects to improve employment opportunities, resilient high-density communities, inclusion and accessibility, digital literacy and civic participation.

The [2020 grants and sponsorship program guidelines](#) and [policy](#) provide applicants with further information on the grant application process.

## **6.2 Regional**

### **Albury City Council**

The [Albury City Council](#) provides a [Grants and Funding](#) webpage which lists the current funding opportunities available to the community to support cultural, creative and sporting opportunities and infrastructure.

### **Coffs Harbour City Council**

The [Coffs Harbour City Council](#) offers a range of [grant](#) programs. In 2020-21, these include: [Community Arts and Cultural Development Grants](#), [Community Capital Infrastructure Grants](#), [Environmental Levy Grants](#), [Event Grants](#) and the [Sustainability Schools Program](#). The Council website includes a [Coffs Harbour Grant Finder](#) page with further information for community members searching for funding opportunities.



### Dubbo Regional Council

The Dubbo Regional Council has a [Grants and Funding](#) webpage which details the financial channels available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations and sporting clubs within the Dubbo Regional LGA. These include:

- [Community Financial Assistance Program](#) which is aimed at easing the financial burden of not-for-profit organisations that contribute to the creation or enhancement of well-being and amenity of the communities in the LGA;
- [Community Services Fund](#) which provides an annual donation to organisations for projects and services that deliver social, cultural or environmental benefits to communities in the LGA;
- [Bodangora Community Benefit Fund](#) provides grants for not-for-profit groups to deliver social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to local communities in the Wellington district. Projects must address an identified community priority; and
- [Event Development Fund](#) which supports the development of local not-for-profit events.

The [CEO Sponsorship Fund](#) also assists those not-for-profit organisations that are delivering a program aligned to the [Community Strategic Plan](#) to defray any costs associated with Council venues or the use of Council services.

### The City of Newcastle

The [City of Newcastle Council](#) lists a range of [grants and sponsorships](#) to “help activate public spaces, enhance community wellbeing and strengthen the city's reputation as a destination for tourism, business and events.” Current grants include: [Event Sponsorship](#) and the [Recreation Facilities Program](#). The following grants, [Community Place Making Grants](#), [Economic Development](#), and [Arts and Culture](#) are being reviewed by the City of Newcastle Council. However, at the time of writing (June 2020) this review is currently on hold while the Council implements a [Community and Economic Resilience Package](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Orange City Council

The [Orange City Council](#) provides [donations and grants](#) to community groups that provide a direct benefit to the community. The value of the Council's financial assistance program is approaching \$200,000. It covers areas such as:

- Sports;
- Small donations;
- Heritage grants; and
- Major event sponsorship.

Further information, including application guidelines, is available in the Council's [2020 Donations and Grants Policy](#).

## Wollongong City Council

The [Wollongong City Council](#) website includes a [grants](#) page to provide financial support to groups and individuals in the Wollongong community. These include: [Connecting Neighbours Grants](#), [Contribution to Public Bands and Choirs](#), [Minor Donations](#), [Small Cultural Grants](#), [Small Grants NAIDOC Week Event](#), [Community Events](#), [Heritage Grants](#) and [Sports Grants](#).

## 7. Funding sources for emergency or disaster situations

### 7.1 COVID-19 Grants

The [Service NSW COVID-19 support webpage](#) provides a [Covid-19 Assistance Finder](#) to identify the support available in areas such as health, employment, food, housing and finances.

Create NSW has [announced](#) a number of [COVID-19 measures](#) to support artists and small to medium arts funding opportunities for arts and cultural organisations, artists and arts/cultural workers across a range of art forms.

The City of Sydney has also introduced three new and two updated grants through its [COVID-19 Relief grants program](#). For example, the Community Services Grant provides direct financial support to not-for-profit organisations (including social enterprises) servicing the local area to address food security, digital inclusion and social connection for vulnerable and at need community members related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding is available in amounts from \$5,000 up to \$50,000. At the time of writing applications for funding had closed.

The [COVID-19 National Funding Platform](#) is a collaboration between Australian Communities Foundation and Philanthropy Australia to provide a national funding platform to coordinate the philanthropic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to register their COVID-19-related funding needs so that philanthropic funders can understand the granting opportunities available and respond to the critical needs of the sector.

[Combatting Social Isolation for Seniors during COVID-19 Grants Program](#) provides one-off funding for organisations to create programs that foster social inclusion for seniors. Activities must help older people connect with each other through online engagement or other ways. To be eligible a program must target people aged 65 years and over or for Aboriginal people, aged 55 years and over.

[The Feed Appeal Community Grants Program](#) is a state based program that supports community charities that deliver food relief programs. 2020 Applications for the grants program – run by NFP FoodShare – have been brought forward in light of COVID-19. Grants are available up to \$50,000 for projects that will improve the lives of people that are experiencing hunger and/or food insecurity in their local community.

This section provides links to centralised COVID-19 resources offering grants and other funding assistance to community groups. The Coffs Harbour City Council provides a comprehensive [grant listing](#) of COVID-19, bushfire, drought and other disaster funding sources. Other centralised COVID-19 funding opportunities include:

- [Australia Council for the Arts: 2020 resilience fund](#);
- [Funding Centre: COVID-19 grants](#); and
- [The Centre for Volunteering: COVID-19 resources](#).

### 7.2 Bushfire recovery

#### Bushfire recovery assistance

Service NSW provides a bushfire recovery grant of [up to \\$50,000](#) for directly-impacted small businesses and/or or non-profit organisations that have experienced direct damage to their premises or equipment as a result of the NSW 2019–2020 bushfire event (beginning in August 2019). Funding is available to help pay for the costs associated with the clean-up and reinstatement of an organisation's operations.

The NSW Government also provides the [NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service](#) which has been designed to assist people to navigate the support and financial assistance available across all levels of government.

The Regional Arts NSW website includes [bush fire grants fact sheets](#) on potential funding opportunities for regional arts organisations, artists and their communities.

The following section provides additional links to centralised resources offering funding and bushfire recovery assistance to community groups:

- [Grants Hub: Bushfire grants and financial assistance](#);
- [Funding Centre: Grants for bushfire relief](#);
- [The Centre for Volunteering: Grants for bushfire and drought relief](#);
- [NSW Council of Social Service: Bushfire relief assistance resource](#); and
- [Philanthropy Australia: Response and recovery services](#).

### 7.3 Drought assistance

In the 2019 edition of the *Funding Opportunities for Community Groups* publication, a new sub-section on drought assistance was introduced. This was in response to the NSW drought situation at the time of publication. As the NSW Department of Primary Industries' [Combined Drought Indicator](#) map shows (as at 19 June 2020) that 90.1% of NSW was experiencing either intense drought (5.9%), drought (6.2%) or was drought affected (78%) in June 2020, this section has been retained. At this time, only 9.9% of NSW was classified as either non-drought or recovering.

#### NSW Rural Assistance Authority

The NSW [Rural Assistance Authority](#) (RAA) website provides a dedicated [Drought Hub](#) offering farmers and rural small business a range of [Drought Financial Assistance](#)

measures. The NSW Government has also released a [2020 Drought Package](#) which details funding initiatives including (but not limited to):

**[Drought Assistance Fund](#):** The NSW Government is offering a one-off \$50,000 interest-free loan to transport stock, fodder and water, genetic banking of breeding herds and installing on-farm fodder and water infrastructure. The loans term is seven years and there are no repayments required in the first two years.

**[Farm Innovation Fund](#):** The NSW Government is offering a loan scheme for capital works up to a value of \$1 million per project for infrastructure works (such as sheds, silos, water storage) to prepare for dry conditions, to build resilience and improve on-farm efficiency.

**[Drought Transport Subsidy](#):** The NSW Government is offering a transport subsidy that can be applied to the cost of transporting fodder, water to a property for stock or household (domestic) use, stock to and from agistment, and stock to sale or slaughter. A separate cap of up to \$50,000 is available for journeys completed between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

**[Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy](#):** The NSW Government is subsidising 50% of eligible costs for the permanent transport of stock off a farm which is facing financial hardship and where livestock are at fat score 2 or below (dairy cattle 3 or below), to a maximum of \$20,000 per financial year. Application [guidelines](#) are available from the Rural Assistance Authority.

**[NSW Local Land Services Rates](#):** The NSW Government is waiving all Local Land Service rates for 2021 including general rates and rates for animal health and pests, the meat industry levy and costs for routine stock moving permit and stock identification. Applications are not required as these waivers will be applied automatically.

**[Water Licences](#):** The NSW Government is providing a rebate of up to \$4,000 per licence to the fixed component of bills for general water access licence holders in rural and regional NSW across surface and groundwater systems, and to customers of Irrigation Corporation. The majority of eligible licence holders will receive a rebate in 2020/21.

### **Commonwealth Drought Assistance Initiatives**

**[Drought Communities Program Extension](#):** In January 2020, the Australian Government announced that it would provide funding under the Drought Communities Program Extension to a further 52 councils experiencing hardship due to the drought. This funding is for local infrastructure projects and other drought-relief activities. It is designed to provide short-term support by addressing social and community needs and increasing local employment. Grant opportunity guidelines are available [here](#).

**[Drought Community Support Initiative](#):** In February 2020, the Australian Government announced further funding for the Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) to continue support for farming households affected by the drought. Under this program, up to \$3,000 in short-term funding is available to eligible farming households who are facing hardship due to drought. Round 2 funding is available through [The Salvation Army](#) and [St Vincent de Paul Society](#).

**Farm Household Allowance:** Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is an Australian Government support package available to eligible farmers experiencing hardship (including drought) for up to four cumulative years. FHA offers farmers breathing space to implement plans and seek training to become financially self-sufficient, so they are better placed to sustain their farming businesses. From 31 March 2020, FHA recipients who receive payment on any day from 12 March to 13 April 2020 will receive the Economic Stimulus Payment of \$750. In addition, from 27 April 2020 a Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 per fortnight will also be paid to FHA recipients.

### **FarmHub**

Another source of information on drought assistance grants is [FarmHub](#). This online portal has been designed to provide farmers with a single access point for information and advice on how to manage hardship. FarmHub was developed by the National Farmers' Federation, and its original focus was on drought. Recent developments include the provision of information relevant to farmers and farming communities, including learning and development opportunities and other training resources. FarmHub provides a comprehensive [directory of assistance](#) available to farmers from a range of government and private sources.

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For further information please contact the Research Service on 9230 2356.

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