



SHIRE OF

**Chapman Valley**

*love the rural life!*

**COMMUNITY GROWTH FUND  
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Shire of Chapman Valley allocates an annual budget amount to form the Community Growth Fund (CGF). The fund provides the Shire of Chapman Valley the opportunity to support and assist services, activities and programs throughout the Shire.

The intention of the CGF is for funds to be fully allocated within each financial year and there will not be any accrual of unallocated funds beyond the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

In the event there are residual unallocated funds at the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year these funds will form part of the Shire's End of Financial position and a new amount placed into the Draft Budget for Council consideration for the forthcoming financial year.

## **AIM**

The Shire of Chapman Valley Community Growth Fund is to provide funds to not for profit community based organisations, event organisers and individuals to support the promotion and development of social, economic, recreational, art and cultural projects for the benefit of residents of the Shire of Chapman Valley.

## **1. OBJECTIVES**

The Objectives of the Chapman Valley Community Growth Funds are to:

- Assist the efficiency of operations of community groups by improving organisational development, asset purchases, marketing and management.
- Encourage partnerships fostering cooperative planning between groups to maximise effective use of resources
- Increase the range of and access to quality events, activities, services and groups within the Shire of Chapman Valley.
- Support community development initiatives and socially responsible community approaches.
- Encourage the community to actively promote Chapman Valley's positive attributes.
- Encourage the development of excellence and leadership in recreational, sporting, economic, tourist, environmental, skill/capacity building and cultural pursuits.

One of the most effective means of promoting community development is through the use of volunteers and non-government organisations. The Shire of Chapman Valley acknowledges and supports the contribution that community members make of their time, labour and expertise toward improving our community's quality of living.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITY**

The responsibility for the selection and approval of successful grant applications rests with the Chapman Valley Shire Council who will meet to determine funding allocations. Shire staff plays an important role liaising with CGF applicants to ensure submissions meet criteria described in this guide, and to manage the payment of grants.

It is the responsibility of the project contact person in the submission to ensure their community project is completed on time, within budget and reporting documents completed.

**3. CRITERIA**

- Arts, culture & entertainment
- Disability Services
- Youth & family services
- Seniors
- Event management & sponsorship
- Natural environment & cultural heritage
- Tourism & promotion
- Sport and recreation
- Health
- Crime prevention & community safety
- Monuments & projects to commemorate
- Events or people
- Upgrading community facilities
- Skill & capacity building

**4. ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**In order to be eligible for funding an organisation must:**

- Council shall consider requests for donations on their individual merit however, generally will decline appeals for applications:
  - ~ of a State or National nature, or
  - ~ if they are not concerned or connected with the Chapman Valley area.
- Be a non-profit organisation and, depending on amount of grant requested, be able to supply audited accounts and annual reports.
- Demonstrate a substantial degree of community support and representation
- Undertake to give due recognition to the Shire of Chapman Valley for its contribution to their activities
- Reflect the objectives and strategy of the larger association (Local, Regional, State or National). E.g. Tennis West ...and Shire of Chapman Valley Strategic Community Plan <http://www.chapmanvalley.wa.gov.au>
- Agree to complete a specified evaluation/project completion report including an invoice for agreed project grant amount . *Failure to do so may render the applicant ineligible for future funding.*
- As a general principle, funds for any project may only be considered where maximum Government (State and Federal) funding has been obtained, the Club, or Organisation, is ineligible for Government funding, or Government funding has been refused (in whole or part).
- Council will be seeking evidence of procurement of, or attempted procurement of, Government grant monies.
- It must be demonstrated that Council funding is necessary to the success of the project.
- Detailed project financial information including budget estimates, quotes etc. accompanied by project drawings and specifications, to a satisfactory standard, must be provided.
- Detailed financial information about the Club or Organisation will also need to be provided. Such information will need to include financial statements.

**In order to be eligible for funding an individual must:**

- Achieve or demonstrate recognition in their field of endeavour at a State, National or International level. Recognition at a regional level may be considered in special circumstances.
- Demonstrate a substantial degree of community support.
- Provide a letter of support from the Association or Organisation relevant to their field of endeavour
- Provide the names and contact details of two referees.
- Undertake to give due recognition to the Shire of Chapman Valley for its contribution to their activities.
- Agree to complete a specified evaluation report. *Failure to do so may render the person ineligible for future funding.*
- Funding application requests for individuals will only be to a maximum of \$1000.00.

## 5. APPLICATIONS

Applications will only be considered if they are submitted on the CGF Application Form and completed in full. Projects are expected to be conducted within the Shire of Chapman Valley with possible exception of funding to outstanding individuals. Check the Application Form to see if you are required to provide additional information such as:

- Membership information
- Funding profile and non-profit status
- Clear description of your project's broad community benefits
- Marketing intentions and acknowledgment of Shire of Chapman Valley contribution
- Project budget including details of matching funding

## 6. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

### A. MINOR GRANTS - Requests under \$2000

Typically used for small purchases. Written applications must clearly state:

- amount requested;
- grant purpose;

Other documents we may require are:

- Financial statement for the most recently completed financial year
- The most recent annual report or an equivalent document, such as the President's report, outlining activities of the organisation
- Quotations for all items

### B. GENERAL GRANTS and EVENT SPONSORSHIP– Over \$2,000

Grant requests over \$2,000 will suit community-based organisations seeking management funding (to assist with the running of your organisation – including wages & honorariums) or project funding (to help your organisation plan and conduct activities).

Some applications for grants in excess of \$10,000 may be deemed inappropriate under the Community Growth Fund guidelines and redirected to other funding avenues, such as the Ministry of Sport and Recreation 'Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund' (CSRFF), or Lotterywest. Please discuss grant applications for major capital works (e.g. clubroom renovations/upgrades, new facilities) with the Community Development Officer.

Your event need not be considered a major cultural or sporting activity to qualify for funding. For example, you may plan to coordinate a conference or forum aimed at a specific audience

or addressing a particular issue. Because your event is likely to attract visitors to the district, and help your organization build networks and broaden its knowledge base, it is likely to be considered as worthy of funding assistance.

Sponsorship can also be provided in the form of wages for an event co-ordinator or honorarium.

Please discuss your event plans with the Community Development Officer.

### **C. WHAT WON'T BE FUNDED**

- Private and commercial business' and organisations
- Applications which are not completed on the CGF form.
- General *ongoing* operational costs of organisations such as, wages, salaries, rent, utilities, etc.
- Political organisations or events.
- Projects or facilities which have none or limited public access.
- Projects or activities which are considered to be hazardous.
- Organisations who have failed to comply with the acquittal process or guidelines for previous grants.

## **7. ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications for grants received by the Shire of Chapman Valley on or before the closing date will be registered and an acknowledgment of their receipt sent to applicants.

### ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Community Growth Fund Committee members will have access to a full copy of all valid applications.

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Eligible organisations and individuals will be ranked and prioritised by examining each of the following:

- Ability to achieve tangible and/or measurable outcomes for the benefit of the Shire of Chapman Valley community;
- Effort for cooperative and partnership arrangements with others;
- Relevance to the current issues and status of the community;
- Evidence of consultations with relevant others in and out of Chapman Valley;
- Levels of volunteer participation and wider community participation;
- Funding history and profile, and capacity to make a significant financial or in-kind contribution to the project;
- Other state/ federal funding available to the applicant;
- Alignment and/or linkages with Local, Regional, State or National Strategic Plans or Objectives of associated organisations.

### NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

All applicants will be notified in writing of the success or otherwise of their application, as soon as Council has finalised its funding commitment. Commencement of the project or expenditure of expected funds must not take place until this notification is received in writing.

## PUBLICITY

The Shire of Chapman Valley may use your event, project or activity for publicity purposes and if so will ask for promotional material to be used.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Applications for funds and other written information provided to Council will be treated confidentially. However, the provisions of the *Freedom of information Act, 1982*, apply to all documents held by the Shire of Chapman Valley.

## 8. DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS

Where Council considers the information provided by the applicant in accordance with the these guidelines to be satisfactory, the provision of any funds will be in accordance with the following;

- payment will only be made at the conclusion of the project, subject to supply of final report and tax invoice, in strict accordance with the determination as to amount and conditions set by Council; unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Council reserves the right to approve/decline any application irrespective of previous decisions of a similar nature and no prior decision in any way or manner can be construed as setting a precedent.

## 9. GRANT CONDITIONS

### PERIOD OF FUNDING

Community Growth Fund grants applications become available immediately after annual budget has been adopted by Council and must be expended by 20<sup>th</sup> June following, unless agreed otherwise at the outset **OR** a written request for an extension and carry-over of funds is made to, and approved by, the Chapman Valley Shire Council. Advertisements will be called immediately after annual budget has been adopted by Council.

If Council endorse the carry-over of grant funds into the next financial year these funds will be transferred to a Reserve Fund under the conditions:

- a) Funds must be spent and acquitted in the next financial year (i.e. funds will not be carried over again beyond this year);
- b) Any unspent funds after the initial carry-over into the next financial year are to be place back into the Municipal Fund before the end of that year; and
- c) the grant recipient will not be eligible to receive any further CGF grants until the current allocated funds have been fully acquitted.

### PURPOSE OF GRANT

Funds are allocated only for the purpose of the project as described in the application and must not be used for any other purpose or transferred or assigned to any other party without the prior approval of the Council.

### UNSPENT FUNDS

Funds which are unspent at the conclusion of the funding period must be returned to Council within 60 days of the completion of the project, activity or event, or the end of the financial year, whichever occurs first. If you anticipate a surplus of funds and have plans for its expenditure you are advised to seek Council approval, bearing in mind the expectation that any secondary project will also have broad benefits to the community.

#### ABN/GST REGISTERED

Incorporated applicants must have an ABN. GST registration is not essential; however the Shire is obliged to meet all relevant GST legislative requirements. Please ensure your budget figures included in your application are **GST EXCLUSIVE**.

#### 10. EVALUATION AND ACQUITTAL

Groups, organisations or individuals receiving grants from the Community Growth Fund must submit to Council acquittal and evaluation of the outcomes of the grant provided by Council within 30 days of either the conclusion of the project or activity, or the end of the financial year, whichever falls first.

Information to be provided will include:

##### FINANCIAL REPORT

- A statement of actual and budgeted expenditure in relation to the grant. For grants of \$10,000 and over, this statement must be audited.
- Copies of supporting documentation such as of receipts, invoices, accounts and financial statements

##### GRANT EVALUATION/COMPLETION REPORT

Recipients of the grant will be asked to assess their performance according to the following indicators:

- Be a non-profit organisation and, depending on amount of grant requested, be able to supply audited accounts and annual reports.
- The level of public awareness of their activity or project.
- Public presentations (number held / attendance levels).
- Amount/type of media coverage generated.
- Involvement of volunteers.
- Demonstrate a substantial degree of community support and representation.
- Reflect the objectives and strategy of the larger association (Local, Regional, State or National).
- Agree to complete a specified evaluation report. *Failure to do so may render the applicant ineligible for future funding.*
- Maximum Government (State and Federal) funding has been obtained.
- Undertake to give due recognition to the Shire of Chapman Valley for its contribution to their activities
- To be used for projects upon land under the care, or control, of Council; unless it otherwise determines
- Demonstrated that Council funding is necessary to the success of the project

Tangible evidence to support performance indicators should be included such as photos, press clippings, copies of fliers, newsletters, documents produced etc.

**Failure to satisfactorily complete performance evaluation and acquittals may disqualify recipients from further grants from the Community Growth Fund.**