

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Surf Coast Shire

<https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Grants/Small-Grants-Program>

The Small Grants program supports community group projects and initiatives by encouraging development of project ideas and improvement of services in Surf Coast Shire.

Funds can be provided for **projects and activities** in these categories:

- Community initiatives
- Environment
- Culture and arts
- Recreation and leisure

Grant rounds are held in March & September

<https://surfcoastevents.com.au/event-organisers/event-grants-sponsorship-program/>

Council's Event Grants and Sponsorship Program provides support to events that foster economic, community and/or cultural development, and prioritise positive environmental outcomes.

The program is available to not-for-profit and commercial event organisers that hold an event in the Surf Coast Shire, and offers four event funding streams:

- Community Event Grants
- Boutique Creative/Special Focus Event Grants
- Tourism Event Grants
- Event Sponsorship

Details on each funding stream, including eligibility criteria and application process, can be found on the [Event Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines](#).

These are quite specific to the Event Grants Program and may or may not suit an event run by SCLCC.

Community Event Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support participation and celebration of our local communities• Usually small scale in nature, with a dominant social and community focus• Predominantly attract local residents	\$500 - \$3,000
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Bendigo Bank Community Grants Program

<https://cia.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au>

How to Apply for Grant Funding

Is your organisation in need of funds for a Community project? The Foundation facilitates a wide range of grants for eligible charities and not-for-profit organisations in Australia.

The Foundation works closely with Community Bank and Corporate partners that choose to reinvest their profits back into their local communities via a structured charitable grant programs.

There are limited guidelines on the website and no mention of funding amounts. However, there has been success in the past for some church activities that support the community.

Writing Successful Grant Applications

<https://www.communities.tas.gov.au>

A very clear website that outlines the “Fundamentals of Grant Writing”.

Coker, Libby (MP)

Libby.Coker.MP@aph.gov.au

The Member for Corangamite, Libby Coker, distributes a monthly bulletin containing many grant opportunities. Contact her office to be added to the mailing list.

Church Grants

Presbytery of Port Phillip West

The Simpson Fund

The Simpson Fund is a fund managed by the Presbytery that is used to provide grants each year to **Communities of Christ** as defined in the Presbytery’s “Regenerating the Church Strategy” within the Presbytery to support projects that will in a direct way support the mission of God through the activities and communications of the church locally.

The parameters of the grant are set annually by the Presbytery. In 2021 were grants available up to \$5,000 and small equipment and capital work projects grants available up to \$3,000.

Mission Projects were prioritised according to the degree to which they reflect the vision and goals of the PPW Presbytery 'Regenerating the Church 2021 Strategy'.

Synod Vic-Tas

This is a summary of the information found on the grants@victas.uca.org.au website. Refer to the website for annual updates and timelines for applications.

Contact: Grants Coordinator, Natalie Brown (03) 9251 5420 .

Each year, we offer a range of grants to individuals, congregations, Presbyteries and affiliated agencies and Ecumenical bodies throughout Victoria and Tasmania. There are three categories of grants:

- Educational
- Annual
- Financial

All grants have specific qualifying criteria, application processes and evaluation requirements.

Some are funded from donations or bequests from generous individuals to be used for specific or general purposes. We are very grateful for such kind support. To honour these gifts, much time is given to matching the funding source/s with the projects. It is essential that funding is used for the approved purpose, and each project is reviewed at the end to ensure this happens.

Educational grants and scholarships

There are many grants and scholarships available for individuals (ordained and lay) and groups. There are also many types of grants available, including theological education, youth ministry, lay education, continuing education, regionalisation, tertiary education, secondary education and bursaries for ministers' children.

Annual Grants

Our annual grants assist mission and ministry, capital works and rural congregations. They are funded from a combination of bequests, specific purpose funds and general Synod funds (Mission and Service Giving and interest on investments).

Each approved program is carefully matched to funding sources according to specific parameters. Great care is taken to ensure the money adheres to the approved purpose and

fund criteria. Any part of the grant which is not used for the approved purpose is returned for redistribution.

Annual evaluation reports for a calendar year are due by April of the following year.

Annual Grants for Mission Programs

Each year, grants are offered to support specific ministry or mission programs. These are available for a period of up to five years, as nominated, to be paid in monthly instalments. The program is applicable to congregations, parish missions, presbyteries, Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) and ecumenical groups of which the Uniting Church is a contributing member.

The application forms and accompanying Mission Proposal Supporting Document are available each April. Completed applications are submitted via presbytery or Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) as appropriate to the Grants Coordinator in July. The proposals are considered by the relevant committee in August and September, and applicants will be advised of the outcome in October before the grant takes effect the following January.

For congregations and parish missions, please note applications must be reviewed and endorsed by the relevant presbytery before submission. It is recommended applicants work closely with their presbytery from the early stages of the application so it has a comprehensive understanding of the proposal. Presbyteries generally require applications be submitted in June to allow sufficient time for endorsement.

Recipients of successful grants are to provide annual program evaluations to keep us abreast of the progress. This helps us gauge the program's continuing viability and apply any learnings to future grant programs. It also assists those managing compliance for a number of funding sources.

Capital works programs

Grants may be available to assist with mission-focused building projects. Funding for successful projects will be available from the January following approval for two years and is held at our office to be drawn from as required.

Each year, grants are offered to assist mission-focused building projects and are available for two years beginning the January after approval. Funds are drawn down as required to either pay the service provider directly or reimburse the UCA entity.

The grants are funded from three sources:

- Capital Works Fund
- Heritage Buildings Fund (Victoria and Tasmania)
- Early Childhood Building Maintenance Relief Fund.

This program is applicable to congregations, parish missions and presbyteries. Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) agencies can only apply for the Early Childhood fund.

Application forms and the accompanying Mission Proposal Supporting Document are available each April. Completed applications are submitted via presbytery or Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) as appropriate to the Grants Coordinator in July.

The proposals are considered by the relevant Committee in August and September, and applicants will be advised of the outcome in October before the grant takes effect the following January.

For congregations and parish missions, please note applications must be reviewed and endorsed by the relevant presbytery before submission. It is recommended applicants work closely with their presbytery from the early stages of the application so it has a comprehensive understanding of the proposal. Presbyteries generally require applications be submitted in June to allow sufficient time for endorsement.

We also recommended applicants work closely with Synod Property Services when developing the project scope and costings before applying. All projects require separate approval of the details of the building project by the Property and Operations Committee or its delegated

Successful applicants must provide annual program evaluations to keep us abreast of the progress. This helps us gauge the program's continuing viability and apply any learnings to future grant programs. It also assists those managing compliance for a number of funding sources.

All approved programs are carefully matched to funding sources according to specific parameters so it is imperative the grant adheres to the approved purpose and criteria.

Small rural congregations

Small grants of up to \$3,500 may be available to small rural congregations in townships of less than 2000 people. These are to assist with ministry or facilities that will build community either as a congregation or in connecting with the wider community. Funding for successful projects will be paid directly to congregations in the November following approval.

Grants up to \$3,500 are available to small rural congregations to build a community, either as a congregation or in connecting with the wider district. The funds may be used to assist with the direct costs of mission programs or facilities, as agreed by the presbytery. In normal circumstances, the regular maintenance of property will not be given a high priority.

Eligible congregations are located in self-contained townships of populations up to 2000 people. A self-contained community is one that is not part of a group of conjoined communities. A successful grant recipient cannot apply for a grant more than once in any three-year period.

The application form will be available each June.

Completed applications are submitted via presbytery to the Grants Coordinator by the nominated date in August. The proposals are considered by the relevant committee in September, and applicants will be advised of the outcome in October or November.

Financial assistance

Several other grants and funding opportunities can be considered at any time of year. These include:

Emergency grant from the Capital Works Fund

Grants of up to \$10,000 may be available to congregations to assist with urgent capital repairs they are unable to cover themselves.

Emergency grant from the Sustentation Fund

Congregations may apply for up to \$10,000 to assist with the cost of stipend for a minister in placement, which the congregation is unable to cover themselves. This grant is to allow time for a presbytery consultation of Life and Witness of the congregation to determine its future and also ensure the minister is paid during this period. The application requires the congregation to provide information regarding its financial position and a cash flow for the period the grant is to cover. Successful grants will be paid in monthly instalments.

Grant from the Disability Access Fund

Congregations may apply for a grant to contribute up to 50 per cent of the cost of disability access works, such as accessible toilets and ramps, up to a maximum amount of \$50,000. The application requires the congregation to provide details of the scope and cost of works, plus information detailing how the remainder of the project will be funded. All proposed works are to comply with the Australian Standard (AS 1428.1) for disability access. Please note any building works will also require the separate approval of the building scope and costing.

Other

Other funding opportunities may be available to congregations, including:

- Access to proceeds from a property sale to assist with capital projects and, if eligible, some missional or operational projects
- Access to proceeds from a property sale to invest in an interest-only Mission Fund, of which the interest earned may be used for a mission project

- Access to a loan to assist with a capital project.

Arts Memorial Fund

The Kirk Robson Theology and the Arts Memorial Fund

This was established to animate the conversation between theology and the arts. It aims to support creative initiatives engaging communities and artists in collaborative projects seeking social justice. Indigenous participation and inclusion is encouraged, where possible. Theological reflection will form a key aspect of the project, articulating the learnings and experience of the community as they engage in the art project. Academic research projects are also invited. Expressions of interest and request for an application form should be addressed to grants@victas.uca.org.au.

Applications close: 30 April

Grants for Lay Education

Lay people, lay preacher candidates and pastors in placement can apply for funding support through the Centre for Theology & Ministry, as well as from other sources.

Applications close: 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, 1 November

Grants for Youth Ministry

Funds are available to support the development of Youth Ministry through educational opportunities, running of events and programs related to Youth Ministry.

Applications close: 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, 1 November

Access to a Loan

Congregations may apply for a loan to assist with the cost of a capital project. This requires the congregation to demonstrate its financial capacity to support the loan for the duration of the lending.

Please note that any building works or property purchase will also require the separate approval of the project scope and costing.

Compiled by Mary Bremner and Rosemary Thompson for the Forward in Faith subcommittee of the Surf Coast Linked Congregations Council

November, 2021