



NRCF Community Grants 2024/25 Program Guidelines

1. Overview

The Annual Community Grants Program is NRCF’s flagship program. The Program has existed since NRCF was first established and in 2024/25, enters its 20th year. The Community Grants Program is funded ongoing through investment income from the corpus as part of NRCF’s annual obligation to distribute grants out of its Sub Funds. In addition, the grants program is funded from flow through donations from individual philanthropists and private foundations.

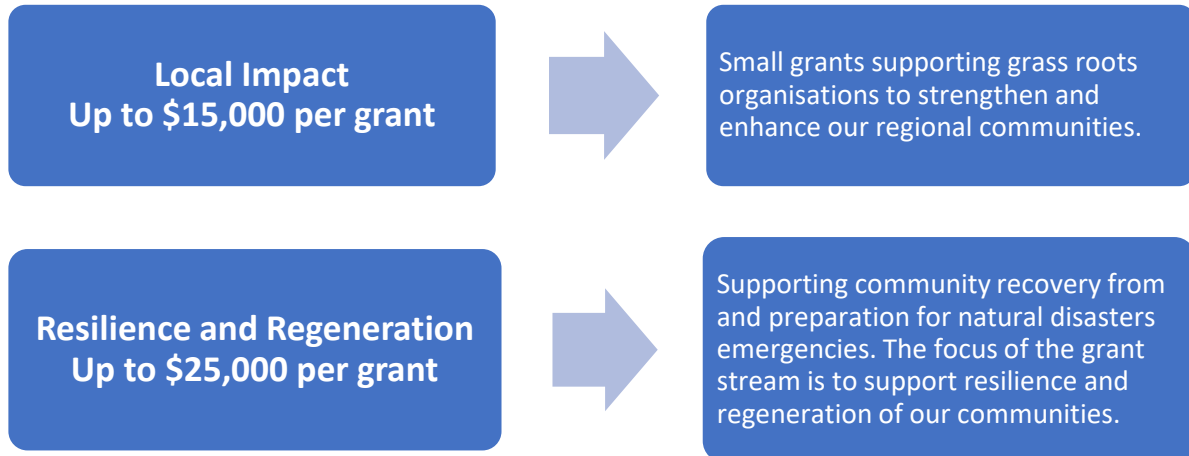
The NRCF Community Grants Program is managed by the NRCF grants team. Completed applications deemed eligible are forwarded to the Grants Committee who evaluate applications and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has final approval on all grants distributed under this Program.

The Community Grants Program supports not-for-profit community groups and/or organisations across the seven LGAs of the Northern Rivers that strengthen and enhance our regional communities. This includes Local Impact Grants (up to \$15,000) and Recovery & Resilience Grants (up to \$25,000). There will also be a focus on projects that support people with the practical cost of living considering the broader economic crisis.

2. Program Dates

2 September 2024	Applications Open
4 October 2024	Applications Close
October 2024	Assessment by NRCF Community Grants Assessment Committee
Early November 2024	Applicants notified of outcome - Grant Agreements and funds distributed
21 November 2024	Grant Giving Event
31 December 2024	Projects can begin
12 months from start of project	Acquittal report due 30 days after project end date. Must be no longer than 13 months from project start date.

3. Grant Streams



NRCF only accepts one application per grant stream from an organisation.

4. Focus Areas

NRCF is receiving strong feedback from the community sector that the cost-of-living crisis is having an increasingly negative impact across the region. This includes an increased difficulty affording essential goods and services like food and transport. **In 2024/2025 are particularly encouraging applications from organisations working to address cost-of-living issues.**

We also welcome applications addressing the following impact areas:

- Animal Welfare and Wildlife Conservation
- Arts and Culture
- Conservation and Environment
- Disability and Inclusion
- Education and Training
- First Nations Rights, Culture, Language and Equity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing and Homelessness
- Multicultural Celebration and Inclusion
- Seniors Support
- Youth Programs

5. Eligibility

Organisation Type	Any not-for-profit group or charitable organisation registered with the ACNC and holding DGR 1 status. Charitable organisations that do not have DGR-1 status (e.g. Incorporated Associations) will be supported to identify and auspice organisation.
Gross Revenue Limit	An annual gross revenue of less than \$5M.
Location	NRCF prioritises local Northern Rivers community-based organisations. We can consider national organisations with an independent Northern Rivers branch which has an annual gross revenue less than \$5 million.
Project Dates	Your project must run between 31 December 2024, and 31 December 2025.

NRCF can fund projects that:

- Deliver activities, events, programs and services
- Purchase equipment and materials
- Provide community infrastructure
- Strengthen and build capacity of your organisation to deliver outcomes

NRCF cannot fund projects that:

- Request 100% of project resourcing. The project budget must include in-kind support, volunteer hours, and/or other funding
- Promote religion or a political party
- Duplicate a project already being run by another organisation in your local area

Ineligible applications include incomplete applications, applications that miss the submission deadline or that do not meet basic eligibility criteria. Talk to us early and we may be able to help you resolve any challenges.

6. Evaluation Criteria & Assessment Process

Application is via our online grant portal Foundant. All eligible grants are assessed by a panel of community representatives and NRCF board members, who are knowledgeable and experienced in relevant local issues and grant giving. Grants will be assessed on criteria including:

1. **Community need:** clearly explain the need for change and how it's been identified.
2. **Measurable outcomes:** paint a picture of your project, describe the goals clearly, and detail how you will measure the impact.

3. **Project viability:** provide an accurate budget with realistic costs.
4. **Organisational viability:** show that the organisation can support core operations and demonstrate community support and partnerships.
Show the strength and sustainability of your organisation and the experience you have in the field related to the project.

Carefully consider how your project meets the need in your community, and how it aligns to the grant guidelines and streams before taking the time to submit the application.

Our grants rounds can be competitive, and we recognise that there is a huge need in our community with a limited pool of funds to grant. If you are unsuccessful, you will have the opportunity to receive feedback on your application and project from NRCF.

7. Successful Applicants

- Successful grant applicants will be advised in early November 2024
- We will partner with you through a Grant Funding Agreement. This will cover key details including use of grant funds and reporting requirements
- If your organisation requires an auspice arrangement, the sponsor will also need to sign the agreement, and grant funds will be released to the auspice organisation. The auspice may be asked to complete a basic risk management plan to demonstrate how you'll ensure the grant funds are managed effectively.
- Successful applicants are expected to attend a grant giving event to celebrate you and acknowledge our donors (late November).
- Your project will run between 31 December 2024, and 31 December 2025, we will be in touch throughout the project and love hearing updates

8. Further support

Our friendly grants team will support you with your application before it goes to the assessment panel. We will support you to make sure you have the right documents uploaded and we may ask for clarification about your project. Talk to us early and we may be able to help you resolve any challenges.

Learn more about NRCF here: <https://nrcf.org.au/about/>



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Accessibility

We have worked to make these guidelines and our grants platform easily accessible to everyone in our community. However, we understand that there may still be challenges of which we are unaware. If you experience difficulties accessing our forms or guidelines, please contact our friendly team.

If you have any questions about the Community Grants Program, please contact Kiri or Jen on 0499 862 886 or grants@nrcf.org.au (Monday to Thursday).