

GRANT GUIDELINES



The South West Community Foundation is committed to creating stronger communities through local giving.

Founded by the people of south-west Victoria, for the people of south-west Victoria, the Foundation offers grants to community organisations working to improve the social infrastructure of the region. The Colac Community Fund Pitch Round is an opportunity for organisations in Colac Otway to pitch for their share of \$15,000 for activities that celebrate, support and strengthen the community of the Colac Otway region.

Colac Community Fund, a part of South West Community Foundation

SWCF's Colac CommunityFund gives not-for-profit, community based organisations in the Colac Otway Shire the opportunity to pitch for their share of \$15,000.

This is available for community-led initiatives that directly benefit community, ranging from the arts and environment, education, health and wellbeing, accessibility and inclusion, and community building.

Application assessment – criteria:

All applications will be considered on merit, and must align with the objectives of the SWCF to be:

- Community focused – we are part of, and work with the South west Community, responding to needs and realizing opportunities; and
- Collaborative approach – we work in collaboration, not competition with others, seeking to cross- leverage resources to best support the community.

To be eligible, grant applicants must:

- Be incorporated, have an ABN, or auspice by an organisation that is incorporated and has an ABN;
- Be not-for-profit;
- Be located in the Colac Otway Shire

- Be committed to providing either in-kind contributions, voluntary hours and/or financial contributions;
- Be capable of running the project to completion.

What can be funded?

A broad range of charitable projects are eligible for funding under the Small Grants stream:

- Delivering activities, programs and services;
- Training, support for volunteers;
- Purchasing equipment or materials;
- Community infrastructure;
- Community education, environmental and health projects;
- Community based music, theatre, arts or cultural activities; and
- Community resource development.

South West Community Foundation will not support applications that:

- Support religious or political parties or lobbying activities;
- Support projects or initiatives that take place outside the south west region;
- Come from an individual, private business or sole trader;
- Are ongoing organisational operational costs, (i.e. rent, utilities, wages, loan repayments, sponsorship)

A note on sporting clubs:

Although sporting and recreation clubs make a valuable contribution to our community, as a matter of law, their purposes are generally not recognised as charitable and applications from sporting clubs will generally not be supported. If your application is on behalf of a sporting club and genuinely strengthens the community, builds connection, or offers a service otherwise not being met in your community, it may be considered for support by SWCF.

Timeline:

September 1 2026 - Applications open
September 18 2026 - Applications close
Mid October - Successful applicants advised
October 30 2026 - Pitch Up Event
Early November 2026 - Payments processed & public announcement

Acknowledgement:

If your application is successful, it is expected that South West Community Foundation is appropriately acknowledged for its funding support. Logos, suggested acknowledgement statements and social media handles will be shared with successful applicants.



Contact us

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