

ONKAPARINGA GRANTS

Onkaparinga Grants and Funding Partnerships Framework 2025-30

More information

You can find more information at onkaparingacity.com/grants

Contact us

To talk to our Grants Advisor phone (08) 8301 7355
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Kaurna acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kaurna Nation and its people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land in the area now known as the City of Onkaparinga.

We recognise that this local living culture has developed over tens of thousands of years and that in today's contemporary context, Kaurna and other Aboriginal people are actively engaged in community life and bring their rich cultural heritage to the connected community and sustainable future we aspire to.

We are mindful of Kaurna people's spiritual relationship with country when we make decisions about the region and that protecting places of importance to Kaurna culture has an impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of Kaurna and other Aboriginal people.

We recognise our important opportunity to facilitate positive change in the way the community works together across Aboriginal communities, non-Aboriginal communities, local businesses, and service agencies, by actively engaging in a shared journey towards reconciliation.

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Introduction

The City of Onkaparinga is bursting with civic imagination, natural beauty and unique precincts. It is South Australia's largest metropolitan council and one of the state's fastest growing areas with over 182,800 people living residents.

Our vision is for Onkaparinga to be a place with a connected community and sustainable future.

We also know we can't solve complex challenges alone.

Considering this, the City of Onkaparinga is committed to working with the community to be involved in local matters and to make life better. This includes working towards community connectedness, developing skills and providing opportunities for people and businesses to participate in, influence, and contribute to community life.

Our grants program supports this commitment by providing funding to deliver projects that build inclusive and resilient communities where residents, local businesses and organisations are more connected with each other and the natural world.

The set of funding streams within the program is designed to enable the Onkaparinga community to respond to local needs with confidence and creativity in line with the Community Vision 2034's aspirations.

The Grants and Funding Partnerships Framework 2025–30 draws on the generous insights from the community, council staff and elected members through the Onkaparinga Grants Review in 2024–25 and will continue to evolve as part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

Scope of framework

The City of Onkaparinga invests over \$700,000 into community-led initiatives and events and community capacity-building through a range of grants streams, funded partnerships and related programs. This framework covers these activities and sets out a clear purpose and principles to guide our investment in community initiatives in Onkaparinga up to 2030. The framework will be reviewed and refreshed every four years to align with each new/updated Community Vision.

Strategic landscape and the council's role

The framework is designed to directly support the goals of key strategic documents that inform the City of Onkaparinga's priorities.

Diagram 1: Where council's grant program fits in the strategic landscape.



The City of Onkaparinga plays a central role in ensuring the region is a great place to live, work, invest in and learn. We are not a philanthropy or funding agency, but we provide grant funding to partner with individuals, volunteer groups, not-for-profits and purpose-oriented businesses to achieve our collective vision. Through the delivery of our grants program, we endeavour to:

- cultivate partnerships between government, service providers, communities and businesses for maximum community value
- strengthen community confidence in democratic processes and government transparency
- champion a shared, evolving vision for the future which provides opportunities for collective impact and innovation
- amplify community voices, supporting their capacity to advocate for their interests and influence positive outcomes
- support an economic environment that fosters diversity and innovation.

Program principles

We will use our Grants Policy principles to guide the strategic choices we need to make about who, what and how we fund through the Onkaparinga Grants Program.

Impact	We take a purposeful and strategic approach to funding projects that deliver meaningful outcomes in line with the Community Vision 2034 and the region's priorities.
Partnership	We use our funding to establish partnerships with individuals and organisations who share our vision for a connected and sustainable Onkaparinga.
Transparent	We are open and transparent in our funding decisions, processes and priorities.
Responsive	We listen to our communities and adapt our funding focus areas and processes to be relevant, timely and proportionate.
Leadership	We seek opportunities to foster community leadership, building and sustaining skills through our grants program.
Self-sustaining	We will walk with our partners on the path towards self-sufficiency and long-term outcomes, including multiyear funding where appropriate.
Value for money	We will prioritise grant funding projects that maximise the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for Onkaparinga communities.
Stewardship	We will consider the needs of our future generations when funding projects that respond to key global and local challenges.

Key deliverables

The Community Vision 2034, based around the four themes of community, environment, liveability and leadership, sets the framing for our grants program. Our funding streams make clear where we want to target its grant funding, to make the greatest impact in line with our strategic priorities. Relevant Community Vision 2034 goals will be reflected across the individual grant guidelines and through our grant assessment processes.

Theme	Community	Environment
Key result areas	Healthy, thriving people Connected, supportive communities	Resourceful, resilient living Valued natural world
Theme	Liveability	Leadership
Key result areas	Great places Strong local economies	Strong community voice Impact and trust

Framework implementation

This framework aligns funding streams with our priorities and community aspirations. It also seeks to ensure that funding is flexible and responsive to community needs.

Annual			
Connected and sustainable communities	9%	Up to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate grassroots initiatives that build inclusive and resilient communities where residents are more connected with each other and the natural world. Eligibility includes volunteer-run community groups and not-for-profits, sole traders, individuals (including artists), and schools (for community projects). Unincorporated bodies must be auspiced.
Community festivals and events	10%	Up to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community-led events that enhance local culture, celebrate social connection and contribute to the liveability of the region. Eligible partners include volunteer-run community groups and not-for-profits, sole traders, individuals (including artists), and schools (for community projects). Unincorporated bodies must be auspiced.
Local artists	5%	Up to \$7,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage creative practice of local talent, enable creation of new work and/or increase visibility of artistic diversity across the region. Strengthen the capacity of our cultural and creative industries and strengthen the local arts ecology. Eligibility includes local artists, arts organisations and businesses.
Local business	8%	Up to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the growth of small businesses that bring economic opportunities, diversity and innovation to the region. This can include initiatives like new technologies, circular economy projects, energy efficiency and emission reduction approaches, addressing market gaps, strengthening local supply chains, growing new audiences and tourism development. Eligibility includes small/medium businesses and social enterprises.
Community spaces and facility improvement	11%	Up to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable groups to undertake works that will further activate a public space, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) improving public safety, accessibility or the general appearance of an area or facility, ii) implementing energy efficiency upgrades, or iii) increasing biodiversity. Eligibility includes volunteer-run community groups and not-for-profits, sporting clubs, and business and tourism associations that lease council-owned buildings or manage community-owned facilities. Unincorporated bodies must be auspiced.

Multiyear			
Partnership program	24%	Up to \$20,000 for three years	<p>Healthy and sustainable communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the delivery of programs and services that generate systemic change by addressing the root community and environmental causes of challenges impacting the region. Eligible partners include volunteer-run community groups, not-for-profits, incorporated associations. <p>Vibrant and creative communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community groups and organisations to deliver programs and events that enhance local culture, celebrate creativity and contribute to the liveability of Onkaparinga. Eligible partners include not-for-profits, incorporated associations, corporations, trustee of a trust, sole traders with creative pursuits.
Commemorative events fund	5%	Up to \$12,000 for three years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support delivery of events aligned with a national commemorative date (e.g. ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day) and acknowledges Australia's wartime heritage. Eligibility is limited to RSL sub-branches operating within the City of Onkaparinga.
Program delivery expenses			
Workshops, training, promotion and storytelling	1%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and sustain skills in our communities. Promote the council's grants program through targeted campaigns and telling stories of positive change.

Measuring success

We want to be able to measure the contribution of our grants and partner contributions to the council's strategic priorities. This means any project funded must be aligned with one or more goals in the Community Vision. The measures outlined below will help us identify whether the grants program is helping to achieve our principles and goals. These measures also provide opportunities for us to improve and adapt our delivery.

Data will be collected across all funding streams. We will report publicly on what we fund and how our grant funded partnerships are contributing to realising our collective aspirations.

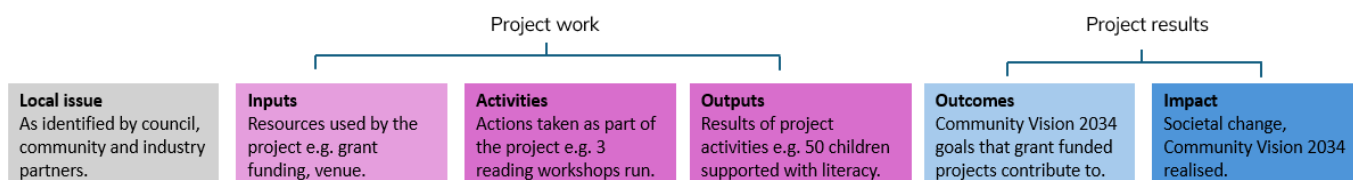
Our approach to capturing the impact of our funding programs will be proportionate to the individual funding stream and what is reasonable to ask of our grant partners.

Community Vision 2034 theme	What we will measure
Community	Number of volunteers aged 15 and over, and hours volunteered through grant funded projects. Number of arts projects funded and the audience/participant numbers. Percentage of funded projects/events that are reasonably priced or free and designed to be accessible, including for residents with a disability. Number of funded projects that work with target populations as identified in the Community Capacity Strategic Plan.
Environment	Percentage of grant recipients that undertook sustainability behaviours through project delivery e.g. landfill diversion, offset carbon emissions, engaged in circularity behaviours. Number of plants planted in public spaces, including parks and along waterways.
Liveability	Number of local businesses being used for goods and services by grant recipients. Economic impact created through a funded iconic regional event or local business initiative. Estimated day and overnight visitors staying in commercial accommodation, as well as intrastate, interstate and international visitors.
Leadership	Percentage of grant funded projects which cultivated new partnerships.

Grants program tracking	What we will measure
Who was funded	<p>Grant recipients funded by City of Onkaparinga for the first time.</p> <p>Percentage of young people, older people, First Nations, and disability-led projects applying each year versus number of overall applications received.</p> <p>Demographic data relating to funding distribution, including (but not limited to) the percentage of grant dollars that go to young people, older people, First Nations and disability-led projects.</p>
What was delivered	<p>Total amount of grant funding distributed.</p> <p>Number of grant funded activities delivered across the City of Onkaparinga.</p> <p>Number/percentage of grant funded projects that took place in council-owned facilities.</p> <p>Grant participant satisfaction rates.</p>
Benefit created	<p>Percentage of projects that would not have gone ahead without funding support from the council.</p> <p>Cash and in-kind contributions leveraged through our grants program.</p> <p>Case studies sharing success stories.</p>

A project logic model can help visualise the link between our grants program and wider social change. This is a collaborative process between us and the grant recipient to deepen the impact on the shared priorities.

Diagram 2: Grant framework program logic



Storytelling

Partnerships are foundational to achieving great things in Onkaparinga and as a council we're committed to celebrating those relationships. A core way that we do that is through utilising our platforms to profile our grant partners and the great work they're undertaking.

Allocation of funding

Each application will go through a decision-making process that supports proportionate and timely assessment relative to the scale of funding. Applications will be assessed based on eligibility and strategic alignment with funding priorities.

- Applications for monthly grants and the commemorative fund will be reviewed by council officers with recommendations approved by the chief executive officer or relevant officer with the appropriate delegation.
- Applications for the annual grants program will be reviewed by an assessment panel. Some panels are exclusively council officers, while others include community members or independent experts. Any annual grant panel will include no more than one elected member.
- The partnerships program will comprise of a mix of council representatives and independent community members.
- Community panel members will be identified through an expression of interest process. Selection criteria will be focussed on skills, experience and diversity.

Funding allocations above \$10,000 will go to elected members for approval.

All grant funding allocations will be reported annually to elected members, regardless of the assessment process.

In-kind support

In-kind opportunities, such as the provision of permits or use of venues, may be identified and made available at the discretion of the council.

How to contact us

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