TasNetworks Community Grants Program

Information Pack

TasNetworks | Powering a Bright Future

Grant guidelines

TasNetworks is deeply connected with the Tasmanian community, and we're dedicated to driving positive change where we live and work.

As a business serving all Tasmanians, we understand the importance of balancing our operations with care for people and the planet, and we're taking active steps to address social and environmental challenges.

At TasNetworks, our mission is to 'Power a Bright Future' for Tasmania. We believe that partnering with not-for-profit organisations dedicated to our key focus areas can lead directly to a more resilient community.

Through the Community Grants Program, we empower the community to take proactive measures to enhance community resilience or to tackle the challenges posed by rising cost-of-living. We are collectively building a stronger and more prepared Tasmania for the future.

Grants of up to $10,000 each are available, with these grants being specifically directed towards projects aimed at addressing our two key focus areas:

- **building community resilience**
- **tackling rising cost-of-living impacts.**

We'll consider applications:

- from incorporated entities or charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- delivering projects in Tasmania
- aimed at addressing one or both of our focus areas.

Applications we won't consider:

- projects undertaken outside of Tasmania
- provision of free or discounted electrical infrastructure, electricity, or any other core product
- initiatives with poor safety and/or environmental outcomes
- any project, event or organisation that could be inconsistent with our vision or role in the Tasmanian community
- individual, or fundraising campaigns
- where the applicant is a for-profit organisation or unincorporated entity.

Royal Life Saving Tasmania - Mole Creek Pool
Training 14 new volunteer lifeguards to reopen the community pool

Riverside Lions Club - RESiPacks
Delivering 50 backpacks of essentials to homeless individuals

Community resilience

Community resilience is the ability of a group of people to adapt, recover, and thrive in the face of challenges, including natural disasters, economic pressures, or other emergencies. It involves being prepared, fostering strong connections, and working together to address risks and vulnerabilities.

This could include projects which build community resilience around major weather events, such as bushfires and stroms, but any project which ensures our communities are better equipped to respond to and recover from crises would be considered.

Cost-of-living relief

Cost-of-living relief helps individuals and families manage the rising expenses of daily life, such as housing, utilities, food, and transport. It aims to reduce financial stress by providing access to affordable services, community support, and targeted assistance programs.

By addressing the pressures of living costs, relief initiatives empower people to maintain their well-being, participate fully in their communities, and build more stable and secure lives.

These efforts are essential in creating a fairer and more supportive society.

Don't underestimate the power of a strong application.

Here are some tips to help you through the application process:

Support your application:

- Tell the story of the community need that you are seeking to address
- Consider attaching a video or image which shows the potential impact of your initiative.

Keep it simple:

- Be direct and to the point
- Dot points are a good way to go
- Stay relevant – avoid unnecessary jargon.

Tell your organisation's story:

- Provide some background on your organisation and the work you do
- Tell us why your project is important to the community?
- How will your project deliver positive outcomes on cost-of-living impacts or community resilience.

Don't leave it to the last minute:

- Allow time to gather everything needed and review your application
- If you aren't sure about something, don't be afraid to ask.

Variety Tasmania - Variety School Breakfast Program
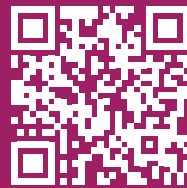*Expanding their breakfast club program to support kids from Rosebery and Zeehan*

Applying is easy
To submit your application, go to: www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants

Before you apply, make sure you have read the full Terms and Conditions at the end of this document.

Need more information?

Visit **www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants** or email us at **community@tasnetworks.com.au**

What to expect after applying

1. **Application submitted**

2. **Shortlisting and assessment**
   - Eligibility checks
   - Shortlisting of applications against assessment criteria

   You may be contacted at this stage if any clarification is required.

3. **Grant approvals**
   - Community Grants Assessment Panel evaluates the shortlisted applications
   - Community Grants Assessment Panel determines the successful applicants

4. **All applicants notified of the outcome of their application**

5. **Letter of Offer issued to recipients outlining key terms and requirements**

   Financial forms required to enable payment of grant funds will also be issued.

6. **Completed forms are returned to TasNetworks within two weeks**

7. **Funds dispersed to recipients**

8. **Successful recipients announced by TasNetworks media statement and social media**

9. **TasNetworks' support publicly acknowledged by recipients**

   Please ensure TasNetworks' media announcement has been issued first.

10. **Quarterly progress reports provided to TasNetworks**

11. **Acquittal completed following project completion**

Swanwick Community Association - Community Garden
Creating a new community garden in Swanwick

Frequently asked questions

About the program

What is the TasNetworks Community Grants Program?

The TasNetworks Community Grants Program offers grants of up to $10,000 to eligible Tasmanian not-for-profit organisations. These grants support projects in our focus areas: increasing community resilience and reducing cost-of-living pressures.

Why have you chosen these focus areas?

We are passionate about improving the lives of Tasmanians. With many in our community facing significant challenges, these focus areas ensure that grant funds go to projects that empower local communities to address critical issues.

Eligibility

What types of organisations are eligible for grants?

We can only accept applications from incorporated entities or organisations registered with the ACNC that operate in Tasmania.

Are there specific geographic areas or communities targeted?

We accept applications from across Tasmania. In our decision-making, we aim to achieve a fair geographic spread among successful projects.

Can we apply if we've previously received a TasNetworks Community Grant?

Yes, organisations that have completed their previously funded project and submitted the required acquittal form are eligible to apply again.

Can we apply for operational expenses?

We focus on providing funds for projects, not general operational expenses. However, operational costs directly related to delivering the project will be considered.

Can we apply for a grant for multiple projects?

We accept one application per organisation. If multiple applications are submitted, we will choose one to proceed and remove the others from consideration.

Applying for a grant

How do I apply?

During the application period, a link to the application form will be available on our website at **www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants**. The form must be completed in one sitting, as it does not include a save function.

When must our project start?

Projects must commence within 12 months of receiving grant funds under this program.

Can I apply for a project that has already started?

Yes, but preference will be given to new initiatives. For ongoing projects, make sure that you explain how the grant would enhance or expand the existing project.

What can I do if there are technical issues?

We recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid last-minute issues. Should you need help, email us at **community@tasnetworks.com.au**.

To ensure fairness, we are unable to accept any application which is received after the close of the application period.

Can we include supporting documents in our application?

Yes, we encourage you to upload relevant documents, images, or other materials that demonstrate your project's expected outcomes and impact.

Assessment and decision-making

How are applications assessed?

Applications are reviewed by an assessment panel to evaluate eligibility and alignment with our focus areas. Factors such as geographic spread, community engagement, and compatibility with business priorities are also considered.

How does TasNetworks ensure fairness and transparency in the grant process?

We follow a structured assessment process and ensure all applications are reviewed against consistent criteria to maintain fairness and transparency.

After you apply

Will I be contacted about our application?

Applicants will receive a confirmation of their application via email. If there are clear errors or missing information, we may contact you for clarification.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application once final decisions are made.

When will I know if we have been successful?

We aim to notify all applicants as soon as we can after making final funding decisions. This may be up to one month after the close of applications.

What happens if our application is successful?

Successful applicants will need to complete the necessary paperwork to finalise their grant. Funds will be transferred via electronic funds transfer, and details of your project will be published on our website.

What are our reporting obligations if successful?

You must provide regular progress updates and submit an acquittal form upon project completion, detailing how the funds were used.

What happens if I don't meet reporting requirements?

Failure to provide updates or an acquittal form at the end of your project may result in your organisation becoming ineligible for future grants and being required to return the funds.

Additional questions

Is there a limit to the amount of funding we can request?

Yes, our grants are capped at $10,000 per application. If your project exceeds this amount, you should explain where additional funds for the project will come from.

Can I request feedback on an unsuccessful application?

While we would like to provide detailed feedback, the high volume of applications limits our ability to do so. Basic information may be included in your notification email, but not all applications will receive detailed feedback.

Can I know the questions which appear on the application form prior to applying?

Yes, we understand the importance of being prepared. A preview of the application form is available on our website at **www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants**, allowing you to review the questions and prepare your responses before starting your application.

Terms and conditions

1. Definitions

In these Terms, the following definitions apply:

a. **'Applicant'** means an organisation which applies for grant funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program.

b. **'Application'** means an application for grant funding submitted by an Applicant.

c. **'Community resilience'** means a community's capacity to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from challenges, ensuring sustained strength and well-being.

d. **'Cost-of-living relief'** means initiatives that provide practical support to help individuals and families meet essential living expenses. This includes programs such as food assistance, financial literacy workshops, and energy-saving initiatives.

e. **'Eligibility Criteria'** has the meaning given in clause 4 a.

f. **'Funding Agreement'** has the meaning given in clause 5 e.

g. **'Guidelines'** means the information contained in the TasNetworks Community Grants Information Pack.

h. **'Submission Period'** has the meaning given in clause 3 b.

i. **'TasNetworks'** means Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (CAN 176 357 299).

j. **'TasNetworks Community Grants Program'** means the program administered by TasNetworks whereby financial assistance of up to $10,000 is provided to eligible Tasmanian organisations for initiatives which meet the Guidelines.

k. **'Terms'** means these Terms and Conditions of the TasNetworks Community Grants Program.

2. Focus areas

Applications will be accepted for projects addressing community resilience and/or cost-of-living pressures for Tasmanians.

Our chosen focus areas are intentionally broad in nature so that Applicants can consider how grant funding may assist with issues present in their community.

3. Submission of applications

Participation in the TasNetworks Community Grants Program is subject to these Terms:

a. The Applicant acknowledges that, in submitting an Application, they agree to be bound by these Terms.

b. Applications for the TasNetworks Community Grants Program will be open for a period as outlined on the TasNetworks website each year ('Submission Period').

c. TasNetworks will accept Applications during with the Submission Period and Applications received outside of the Submission Period will not be accepted.

d. The Applicant warrants that, to the best of their knowledge, all information provided in the Application is correct and is not misleading in any way.

e. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse to consider Applications which are incomplete, which lack sufficient detail, or which, in TasNetworks' view, are inconsistent with our vision or role in the Tasmanian community.

f. Applications must be submitted in the method advised by TasNetworks. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse applications which are submitted in alternative methods.

4. Eligibility

a. To be eligible to receive funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program, the Applicant must be:

- An incorporated entity or a charity registered with the with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission

- Operating within Tasmania

- Delivering activities that are aligned to the program's focus areas.

b. The Applicant warrants that, in submitting the Application, their organisation fits the Eligibility Criteria.

c. If requested by TasNetworks, the Applicant must provide evidence establishing that they are able to comply with the Eligibility Criteria, to the reasonable satisfaction of TasNetworks.

d. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse to consider any Application if TasNetworks holds a view that the Applicant does not satisfy the Eligibility Criteria.

5. Granting of funds under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program

a. TasNetworks will only review Applications which comply with these Terms.

b. TasNetworks' decision to award, or not to award, any Applicant a grant under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program is final and binding on all Applicants.

c. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse any Application at their sole discretion.

d. TasNetworks will notify all Applicants who submit a properly completed applications during the Submission Period of the outcome of their Application as soon as reasonably practicable.

e. TasNetworks may require a successful Applicant to enter into a formal Funding Agreement with TasNetworks. In any cases where TasNetworks requires such an agreement, the grant funding is subject to entry by the Applicant into a Funding Agreement on terms acceptable to TasNetworks.

6. Empowering communities

a. The TasNetworks Community Grants Program aims to empower communities to deliver outcomes that benefit their people. As part of this program, applicants are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities with TasNetworks to enhance their project's impact. This could include working together to deliver emergency preparedness and resilience workshops or installing emergency relief packs in local communities to better equip them for unforeseen challenges.

7. Funding criteria

a. All Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel against a range of criteria, including:

- fulfilling community needs in relation to community resilience and cost-of-living pressures

- proposal clarity and detail

- project's impact and innovation

- feasibility and resource allocation

- community engagement and inclusivity

- long term community benefits.

8. Proper use of funds

a. If the Applicant is granted funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program, the Applicant must use the funds received to further the objectives of the Applicant and in accordance with any representations made within the Application or in any Funding Agreement entered into between TasNetworks and the Applicant.

9. Reporting requirements

a. Grant recipients will be required to provide regular updates on the progress of their project and expenditure of funds.

b. All grant recipients are required to provide an acquittal on an approved form at the completion of the grant expenditure.