

# Guidelines for local funding

## How we work

Bendigo Bank's Community Bank branches return the profits they make to the communities they are part of.

At Community Bank Mt Eliza:

- 80% of our branch profit is given back to our community via grants and sponsorships to local not for profit community organisations and initiatives.
- 20% of our profit is able to be paid as dividends to our local shareholders.

Decisions on sponsorships are made by the local volunteer board of directors of Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd. This local company runs the Community Bank in partnership with Bendigo Bank.

We have two funding streams: sponsorships and grants.

## Sponsorships

**We fund most local applications as sponsorships.**

**Applications are open 11 months of the year (closed in June).**

### Criteria

Successful applicants must:

- Be an Australian organisation with a valid Australian bank account.
- Be a customer, of Community Bank Mt Eliza, or willing to become one.
- Be a locally based not for profit organisation, delivering services and value to the wider Mt Eliza community.
- Protect the integrity of both Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd and Bendigo Bank
- Not have any other sponsors who are financial institutions.
- Deliver clear brand awareness or business acquisition outcomes for Community Bank Mt Eliza.

### We do not support

- Individuals fundraising for a secondary organisation.
- Political parties or religious organisations.
- Activities or initiatives which:
  - are illegal or attempt to change the law
  - are political or aim to direct political donations
  - mistreat, exploit or harm animals
  - involve gambling or alcohol
  - exclude or offend any part of the community
  - encourage violence or involve the use of weapons
  - create environmental hazards
  - present a danger to public health or safety
  - require retrospective funding
  - contribute to modern slavery.

### Your application

We use Smarty Grants to administer our funding programs. You'll need to set up a Smarty Grants profile (which can be used for future applications).

Our online application form is designed to be quick and easy.

Your application should include:

- A current bank statement for your organisation.
- Information and demographics about your target audience and number of expected attendees/participants.
- Confirmation of all necessary licences, permits and insurances required to run your project/event (e.g. public liability insurance, permits).
- For projects involving children, confirmation that relevant people have Working With Children Checks.
- Project budget details which clearly show how you will spend the funds.
- Financial details about your organisation (for example, a recent annual report).

We may contact you during the assessment process for more information.

**Follow us on social media to see the types of organisations we currently support**

[facebook.com/communitybankmteliza/](https://www.facebook.com/communitybankmteliza/)

[instagram.com/communitybank\\_mtelizea](https://www.instagram.com/communitybank_mtelizea)

[linkedin.com/company/community-bank-mt-eliza](https://www.linkedin.com/company/community-bank-mt-eliza)

We will issue you with an Agreement to sign and ask you for a tax invoice before making the payment.

## Assessment

### Objectives (5%)

- The extent to which the initiative aligns with our vision, values and objectives and the potential community benefit.

### Feasibility (40%)

- There is adequate lead time for the sponsorship to be effectively activated/leveraged.
- The initiative is realistic and achievable.
- The required permits/insurances are in place.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated clear, realistic and measurable project goals and objectives for the audience.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated capacity to deliver the initiative (e.g. track record, adequate resources and staff).

### Program activation potential (40%)

- Potential to deliver business acquisition outcomes.
- Potential to deliver brand awareness.
- The extent to which the initiative aligns with our marketing objectives.
- Opportunities for our involvement.
- A clear demonstration of who the proposed initiative will reach.

### Value for money (15%)

- Support requested versus the expected benefits.

## Reporting

You will be required to complete an acquittal form following your project end date. It will be requested and submitted through Smarty Grants and should include information about how the funds were spent, benefits delivered, participant/recipient information, or achievements of the project. Photos are also helpful.

We understand that things don't always go to according to plan. If there has been a change that will impact your project, please let us know.

## Reciprocity

Our sponsorships are based on mutually beneficial relationships. If your organisation refers business to Community Bank Mt Eliza, we can increase our support.

## Privacy

We respect the information you provide to us in your application. View our [privacy policy](#).

## Grants

Our grant program supports social purpose outcomes for our community. Applications are open all year.

We support organisations seeking funding for initiatives in areas such as:

- Animal welfare
- Choice and empowerment
- Community resilience
- Digital
- Disaster recovery
- Environmental
- Financial
- Health
- Housing
- Learning, skills and development
- Safety
- Social cohesion

This program is managed by the Community Enterprise Foundation in partnership with us. Eligible organisations must be an incorporated community or not for profit organisation (or be partnership with one). Criteria are similar to our sponsorship program, but we do not seek reciprocal business outcomes from grants. Social purpose outcomes are their goal.

We liaise closely with local eligible organisations and generally have a long-term relationship with them.

If you have not received grant funding from us before, please get in touch to arrange a meeting with our board representative first.

## FAQs

### I'm fundraising for cancer research. Can I apply?

We don't provide grants to individuals or groups who are fundraising on behalf of third party organisations. We applaud your efforts, but our priority is to support and serve the Mt Eliza community and the local organisations working here.

### We have an account with another Bendigo Bank branch. Is that OK?

If your account is based at another Community Bank it might be best for you to apply for funding from them. Every Community Bank is set up to support their local community and customers. Talk to the staff at Community Bank Mt Eliza if you would like to open an account with us.

### Do I have to apply online?

Yes. Applying through Smarty Grants is a requirement. Our sponsorship team are available to help you.

### Who gets funding?

See our [website](#) or [social media](#) for examples of our local impact stories.

### Should I apply for a sponsorship or a grant?

If you are unsure, please use our sponsorship application form.

## Contact us

### Sponsorship and grant enquiries

Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd  
PO Box 307, Mt Eliza VIC 3930  
E: [sponsorship@mece.com.au](mailto:sponsorship@mece.com.au)  
[www.mece.com.au](http://www.mece.com.au)

### Applications

<https://communitybankmteliza.smartygrants.com.au/>

Apply now

### Banking enquiries

Community Bank Mt Eliza  
9787 1224  
102 Mt Eliza Way, Mt Eliza VIC 3930  
E: [mteliza@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:mteliza@bendigoadelaide.com.au)  
[www.bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza)

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