



2026 Community Grants Program Guideline

Program overview and frequently asked questions



Introduction

This guideline will help you apply for a Powerlink's Community Grant. It provides information on what makes a strong application, how we assess applications considering our community investment objectives, and answers frequently asked questions.

Please read this guideline in its **entirety** prior to applying for funding.

Delivering benefits to local communities

Powerlink is committed to creating lasting benefits for the communities in regions that are, or will be, impacted by Powerlink project activity. Through our Community Grants Program, we partner with local not-for-profit organisations to invest in community-led projects that strengthen resilient, connected and sustainable communities.

By supporting community investment in regions where we have project activity, we help address changing community needs, build local capacity and strengthen the relationships that enable us to work alongside our host communities.

Powerlink's Community Grants Program provides funding for **one-off, short-term** projects that deliver lasting community benefits through investment in local infrastructure, equipment, assets and initiatives that strengthen resilient, connected and sustainable communities.

Funding

Funding is available for projects in **eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs)**. LGAs are selected based on Powerlink's project activity in an area. Eligible LGA's in 2026 are listed in the eligibility section of this Guideline.

Powerlink's Grants Program supports projects commencing in the following calendar year. Therefore, Round 4 grants will support projects that occur in 2027.

Community clubs, groups and not-for-profit organisations in eligible LGAs can apply for funding **up to \$5,000**. Powerlink may, at its discretion, award partial funding to successful applications.

Please review the Powerlink website to find out more about the program, including the value of funding, along with eligible localities and key dates <https://www.powerlink.com.au/community/community-grants>

Eligible Local Government Areas in Round 4

Powerlink Community Grants in 2026 are available within the following LGA's:

Local Government Area
Isaac
Banana
Rockhampton
Gladstone
Cairns
South Burnett
Somerset
Toowoomba
Western Downs
Gympie

Who is eligible to apply?

The following applicants are eligible to apply:

- Community groups, community clubs or not-for-profit organisations.
- Parents and Friends (P&C) groups that coordinate school improvements .
- Incorporated associations or similar legal entities.
- Organisations auspiced by an incorporated entity (or equivalent) that can manage the funds on their behalf.

In addition, all applicants must:

- Hold public liability insurance (minimum \$10 million) and any other required insurances (e.g. workers compensation, volunteer insurance) or be able to secure these before entering a funding agreement.
- Commence and complete projects in the following calendar year after receiving funding (e.g. the 2026 round funding is used to deliver projects during 2027 calendar year).
- Deliver their project within the nominated Queensland LGA.

Who is not eligible for funding?

Powerlink community grants are not provided to:

- Individuals or sole traders.
- Unincorporated associations or newly formed groups that have not been yet incorporated.
- Organisations that operate for profit, or projects intended for commercial financial gain.
- Previous recipients of Powerlink funding that have not completed the required acquittal process.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Funding may be used for one-off projects, initiatives, purchases, infrastructure upgrades that deliver a **lasting community benefit in areas that are impacted by Powerlink projects**.

Examples include:

Infrastructure and facilities

- Construction of new community infrastructure (e.g. shade structures, seating, storage sheds).
- Upgrades to community halls, sporting facilities, or public spaces.
- Accessibility improvements (ramps, handrails, disability access).

Equipment purchases

- Purchase of durable equipment with an ongoing community benefit.
- Sporting equipment with a useful life beyond 12 months.
- Audio-visual equipment for community events or activities.
- Safety equipment (defibrillators, emergency response equipment).

Environmental improvements

- Community gardens.
- Water-saving infrastructure.
- Solar or energy -saving installations.
- Landscaping or revegetation infrastructure.

Technology and fit-out

- Computers or IT equipment for community programs.
- Permanent fit-out items (tables, chairs, storage systems).

Community wellbeing and resilience

- Community-led initiatives that strengthen wellbeing, resilience, preparedness and social connection.
- Mental health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Community resilience or preparedness activities.

What can't we fund?

Funding cannot be used for **recurring or day-to-day operational costs**.

Examples include:

Staffing and wages

- Salaries
- Contractor fees for ongoing delivery
- Administration support
- Training programs or attendance at conferences.

Running costs

- Rent
- Utilities
- Fuel
- Insurance
- Internet and phone bills.

Consumables

- Catering
- Office supplies
- Printing
- General event costs
- Uniforms (unless part of a durable equipment package).

Ongoing program delivery

- Membership fees
- Subscription costs
- Routine maintenance
- Travel and accommodation.

We are also unable to fund:

- Education and/or training programs.
- Projects or initiatives that have already commenced .
- Individual endeavours.
- Events of any kind (Powerlink has alternative avenues for community event sponsorship).
- Mass fundraising drives, appeals or donations.
- Gambling, political and religious activities.
- Projects that rely on ongoing or repeat funding.
- Projects that occur after Powerlink's construction work in the region is complete.
- Recurring operational program delivery or ongoing service provision.
- Travel costs.
- High-risk activities that pose an unacceptable safety or animal welfare risk.
- Projects that are the core business of government.
- Activities that are not aligned to Powerlink's community investment objectives and criteria.

Unsure if your project is eligible? Read through the FAQ at the end of this document or send us an email at communitygrants@powerlink.com.au

Powerlink's Community Investment Objectives

Powerlink's Community Grants Program aims to support community-led projects that deliver lasting social, economic and environmental benefits through investment in local infrastructure, equipment and assets that demonstrate value and strengthen resilient, connected and sustainable communities.

Projects are required to demonstrate alignment to one or more of the following objectives:

1. Strengthen community infrastructure

Support the development, upgrade or enhancement of community assets and infrastructure that improve liveability, accessibility and community participation.

Examples: halls, sporting facilities, meeting spaces, safety infrastructure.

2. Build resilient and connected communities

Invest in infrastructure, equipment, assets and community initiatives that improve community wellbeing, preparedness and social connection.

Examples: emergency response equipment, community gardens, shaded gathering spaces, mental health or wellbeing programs (not training).

3. Support sustainable community outcomes

Enable projects that improve environmental sustainability and long-term resource efficiency.

Examples: solar systems or energy-saving infrastructure, water-saving infrastructure, recycling stations.

4. Enhance community safety and wellbeing

Improve access to infrastructure, equipment or initiatives that support physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Examples: defibrillators, playground upgrades, safety fencing, community wellbeing or resilience initiatives.

5. Support local economic participation

Strengthen local economic participation and community outcomes through infrastructure, equipment or community initiatives that support local activity and connection.

Examples: community equipment that supports local participation and activity, tourism infrastructure, shared community business facilities.

6. Improve accessibility and inclusion

Support projects that remove barriers to participation and improve access for all community members.

Examples: accessibility upgrades to community facilities, inclusive play equipment, modifications to shared community spaces.

Applying for Funding

- ☐ Read through this Guideline in its entirety to ensure your application aligns with our requirements
- ☐ Check that your organisation or initiative is located in an eligible LGA
- ☐ Click on the link on the [Powerlink Community Grants](#) page (this will appear when Round 4 is “live”)
- ☐ Click on the “Apply Now” button – you will be redirected to the Smarty Grants portal
- ☐ Create a login
- ☐ Fill out all the details required. *You can save and come back to your application at any time.*
- ☐ Complete the budget section accurately and **attach quotes** for all aspects of your funding application
- ☐ Ensure you attach evidence of Public Liability Insurance
- ☐ Apply by the nominated deadline. Extensions will not be granted under any circumstances.

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed by a Powerlink’s assessment team. Applicants will be advised via email of the outcome of their application within approximately eight weeks of the closing date.

Applications will be assessed against the following weighted criteria:

Community need and benefit (30%)

- Clearly outlines the benefit to the local community.
- Outlines the number and diversity of people benefiting from the project.
- Demonstrates community need.

Alignment with grant objectives (20%)

- Describe how the project will contribute to Powerlink’s community investment objectives.

Value for money (20%)

- Demonstrates that the amount requested is fair and reasonable and reflective of the value of the project to the participants involved and the local community.
- Outlines the project budget and if any co-contributions are being made.

Project readiness and feasibility (15%)

- Has a clear scope outlining the delivery of the project, approvals (if needed), and has realistic timeframes.
- Describes the organisations skills and capacity to deliver the project.

Sustainability and long-term benefit (15%)

- The project demonstrates a long-term benefit to the community and has considered the long-term benefit or sustainability of the initiative.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement with Powerlink which sets out the rights and obligations of the parties in relation to the program. Obligations include commitment to undertake the project according to applicable laws and agreement to indemnify Powerlink of any liability in relationship to the acceptance of the funding.
- If applying with an auspice, the auspice is required to enter into a funding agreement with Powerlink.
- Provide any required insurance certificates.
- Request prior approval when using the Powerlink logo on promotional material.
- Provide an acquittal report which details the number of people to directly benefit from the project, a summary of the projects outcomes and share any feedback and success stories at the end of the initiative.
- Reporting may include request for the following information key performance indicators:
 - Number of people to directly benefit from the project
 - Number of volunteers directly participating in the project
 - Share two photos of the initiative with/without Powerlink representation for use in future promotional purposes.
- Advise us of any changes in circumstance relating to the funded project e.g. change in main contact person, project/activity, budget or schedule changes etc.

Key terms and conditions

Powerlink is not legally bound or required to provide funds or advance any payment amounts until a funding agreement is in place. To receive funds if your application is successful, you will need to:

- Return a completed funding agreement.
- Provide any relevant documentation on request (e.g. additional insurance evidence, audited financial statements).
- Maintain any relevant insurance certificates (e.g. minimum \$10 million public liability insurance).
- Provide a tax invoice for the funding to be paid.

By submitting an application for funding, you agree:

- Completion of the application will not necessarily result in funding.
- You unconditionally agree to bear all expenses and costs associated with preparing your submission.
- All information provided by the applicant is true and accurate.
- You have confirmed approval from an authorised person to submit the request on behalf of the organisation.
- You agree to undertake the project in accordance with all applicable laws.
- There is adequate insurance for the project activities and all relevant approvals for activities are secured.

Powerlink reserves the right to undertake quality assurance checks to ensure funding is spent in accordance with the funding agreement.

Privacy

The information an applicant provides in their application form will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). For more information see the powerlink.com.au/privacy-statement. In submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the Powerlink collecting any personal information contained within the application, including the name, contact details and role of its officers to assess the application and for the purpose of funds administration.

Frequently Asked Questions

What type of organisations are eligible to apply, and can we submit multiple applications?

Incorporated community groups and not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for the Powerlink Community Grants Program. Not-for-profit organisations that are not incorporated are eligible to apply if they are auspiced by a not-for-profit organisation or their local Council involved in the project.

Only one application per organisation will be accepted during the submission process.

Do we support activities and events undertaken by schools, P&Cs and P&F organisations?

Powerlink's Community Grants Program does not fund events of any kind (Powerlink has alternative avenues for community event sponsorships). However, you may be eligible to apply for funding of other items to support your school such as equipment or infrastructure upgrades. Please note that you may be required to apply with a peak body, Council or not-for-profit organisation depending on the type of insurances and legal entity your organisation is.

Does Powerlink support activities that include animals, sporting activities and high-risk community events?

Powerlink Community Grants Program funding does not support events of any kind (Powerlink has alternative avenues for community event sponsorships). However, sporting and community organisations may apply for funding where the application aligns with the program objectives and eligibility requirements.

Applications are encouraged to focus on projects that improve community infrastructure, equipment, safety, accessibility or sustainability outcomes. For example, upgrades to a local tennis club, community hall or sporting facility to improve safety, accessibility or community use.

Powerlink does not support high-risk activities that pose an unacceptable safety or animal welfare risk. All funded projects and activities must hold the appropriate level of insurance.

We are seeking funding to support a project that is being delivered in a locality that is not listed on your website. Can we still apply for funding?

Only projects that are being conducted in LGAs listed on the website are eligible to apply.

Your organisation needs to have Queensland representation, and your project needs to be undertaken within one of the nominated LGAs.

If your project is located in more than one of the LGAs (i.e. crosses an LGA boundary), select one the primary locality, and provide detail of the project's locations and activities in the project information section in the application form.

Can we apply for projects and activities that have already commenced?

No, as the funding supports short-term projects only. We do not provide funding for projects and activities that have already occurred or commenced prior to the eligible start dates. The 2026 Round 4 funding is to deliver projects during 2027 calendar year.

Can we get an extension of time to submit our application?

To ensure that applications are processed in time, complete applications must be received by the closing date. If you experience any unexpected circumstances while submitting your application, please contact us at communitygrants@powerlink.com.au

When will we be notified of the outcome of our application?

Powerlink aims to advise all applicants of the outcome of their application approximately 8 weeks after the closing date. Formal approval and payment of funding is dependent on the completion of the funding agreement.

Will Powerlink provide feedback on the application?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications due to the volume of applications usually received in the process. The Powerlink Community Grants Program is a discretionary funding program and there is no appeals process. We encourage applicants to reapply in future rounds.

Questions? Contact us at communitygrants@powerlink.com.au.

Contact us

Registered office	33 Harold St Virginia Queensland 4014 ABN 82 078 849 233
Postal address	PO Box 1193 Virginia Queensland 4014
Telephone	+61 7 3860 2111 (during business hours)
Email	communitygrants@powerlink.com.au
Website	powerlink.com.au
Social	    