

Attachment C

Grants Guidelines – Key Changes

Grants guidelines – summary of key changes

| Recommended change | Details | Change driver |
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| Guidelines simplified | The content has been simplified. | Reduce duplication. More information, tools and resources to support applicants will be available on the City of Sydney website. |
| New grants structure | Four grants categories: Creative, Social and community, Economic, and Environmental Previously Community services, Food support grants, Innovation and ideas, Green buildings, Business sector support and Festivals and events. | Simplified categories. Clearly aligns with the strategic priorities of Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 – Continuing the Vision. Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. |
| Social and community grants: includes previous Community services grants, Food Support, Innovation and ideas and Festival and events grants | Support available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social and community projects - Food support program (Tier 1 and 2) Tier 2 funding capped at \$500,000 each year. Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on social and community outcomes. | Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Funding levels capped to reflect need. Aligns with A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan |
| Creative grants: includes and expands upon previous Creative, Innovation and ideas, and Festival and events grants | New grants with support available for: Artist support, and Cultural infrastructure. Applicants will also be able to apply for creative projects, festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on creative outcomes. | Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Aligns with Cultural Strategy 2025-2035. |

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| <p>Economic grants: includes previous Business sector support, Innovation and ideas, and Festivals and events grants</p> | <p>New grants with support available for: Precinct and place activation and Innovation and business capacity building.</p> <p>Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on economic outcomes.</p> | <p>Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes.</p> <p>Program is aligned with the City of Sydney Economic development Strategy 2025-2035.</p> |
| <p>Environmental grants: includes and expands on Green building, Innovation and ideas, and Festivals and events grants.</p> | <p>New grants with support available for 3 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green buildings - Climate resilience - Circular materials <p>Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on environmental outcomes.</p> | <p>Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes.</p> <p>Aligns with Environmental strategy 2025-2030, Resilience strategy 2023-2028 and Waste reduction and circular materials strategy 2025-2035.</p> |
| <p>Haymarket Activation grant: Program has ended</p> | <p>As part of the Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy, this program was to be delivered over 3 years.</p> | <p>The last program round will open in February 2026 with delivery in the 2026/27 financial year. This will complete the three year availability of this program.</p> |
| <p>One round a year</p> | <p>There were only 4 grants that had two rounds a year: Food support grants, Innovation and Ideas, Green building grants and Festivals and events sponsorship.</p> <p>There is no change to grants that are offered all year round.</p> <p>Applications can be open for 6 weeks instead of 4 week.</p> | <p>Streamlined and simplified process for applicants.</p> <p>For applicants this provides a more consistent annual cycle, more time to prepare, less frequent deadlines, improved resources and support available.</p> <p>Increased pre-application support and resources and also feedback applicants.</p> |

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| Timing of grants | <p>Program will open in late July and be open for 6 weeks. Applicants will be notified of outcomes in November for projects and proposals that can start after 1 January.</p> <p>There is no change to grants offered all year.</p> | <p>An increase in application time being open.</p> <p>Funding certainty for the year ahead supporting improved planning.</p> |
| For-profit entities | The eligibility for for-profit entities in Economic and Environmental grants are now included to cover elements of Innovation and ideas and Festival and events grants which have always allowed for profits to apply. | Eligibility for for-profit organisations |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund: Funding available | Applicants can apply for one year of funding. Multi-year funding (up to 3 years) is no longer offered. This is the original offering for this fund when it started 4 years ago. | Shorter funding periods allow flexibility to changing community needs while ensuring funds are distributed more widely and fairly within the community. |
| Affordable and diverse housing: Funding available and eligibility | <p>Funding for each project will now be up to \$4 million or be no more than 30% of the total cost. This is an increase from \$3 million in 2025/26.</p> <p>All applications must be for a not-for-profit purpose.</p> | Responds to increased costs (land, property, materials, labour). |
| Creative live and work space, Short-term empty properties program and Accommodation grant: Eligibility | You can't receive a short-term empty properties program, Creative Live and work space opportunities or Accommodation grant for the same period within which you have an Artist support grant and vice versa. | Opportunities are shared and create the greatest possible impact. |
| Venue hire support grants: Landmark venue grants – Key dates | <p>Lead time for Landmark venues has been increased, and applicants should apply online at least 6 months before their event for landmark venues.</p> <p>The lead time for community venues remains at least 8 weeks.</p> | <p>Reflects processes.</p> <p>Realistic and more accurate information for applicants.</p> |