

# **Attachment C**

**Grants Guidelines – Key Changes**

## Grants guidelines – summary of key changes

Recommended change	Details	Change driver
<b>Guidelines simplified</b>	The content has been simplified.	Reduce duplication.  More information, tools and resources to support applicants will be available on the City of Sydney website.
<b>New grants structure</b>	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.
<b>Social and community grants:</b> includes previous Community services grants, Food Support, Innovation and ideas and Festival and events grants	Support available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social and community projects</li> <li>- Food support program (Tier 1 and 2)</li> </ul> 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
<b>Creative grants:</b> 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><b>Economic grants:</b> 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><b>Environmental grants:</b> 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"> <li>- Green buildings</li> <li>- Climate resilience</li> <li>- Circular materials</li> </ul> <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><b>Haymarket Activation grant:</b> 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><b>One round a year</b></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>

<b>Recommended change</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Change driver</b>
<b>Timing of grants</b>	<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	<p>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.</p>	Eligibility for for-profit organisations
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund:</b> Funding available	<p>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.</p>	<p>Shorter funding periods allow flexibility to changing community needs while ensuring funds are distributed more widely and fairly within the community.</p>
<b>Affordable and diverse housing:</b> 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>	<p>Responds to increased costs (land, property, materials, labour).</p>
<b>Creative live and work space,</b> Short-term empty properties program and Accommodation grant: Eligibility	<p>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.</p>	<p>Opportunities are shared and create the greatest possible impact.</p>
<b>Venue hire support grants:</b> 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>