



Sisters of Charity
Foundation

Guidelines for Community Grant Applicants

Background

In 1815, moved by the experiences of people facing poverty in Ireland, Mary Aikenhead founded the Sisters of Charity to offer compassion and practical support to those in need. The Sisters of Charity Foundation was established in 2000 to ensure that the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Australia lives on.

The Sisters recognised that while many government-funded initiatives and established charities had reliable funding, countless others often struggled to secure the support they needed.

The Foundation's Community Grants Program is designed to empower organisations improving the lives of disadvantaged communities, enabling them to have a greater impact. Each year we provide grants of up to \$20,000 for community projects and programs within Australia.

The Foundation particularly favours programs/projects that:

- Provide compassion, hope and immediate, practical assistance
- Are strongly aligned with one or more Foundation goals:
 - To improve financial wellbeing
 - To promote social inclusion
 - To strengthen wellbeing and stability during times of crisis
 - To foster awareness and understanding
 - To empower marginalised communities
- Do not receive significant government and philanthropic support
- Are not associated with well-established organisations with significant reserves.

Eligibility Criteria

- The organisation and proposed project are based in Australia.
- The organisation is not-for-profit and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 status.
- The organisation is registered under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
- The organisation is incorporated or auspiced by an incorporated organisation for the purposes of this grant.
- The organisation's annual income is less than \$1 million.

- The organisation is financially viable and has the expertise necessary to implement the proposed project.
- The proposed project, program or initiative benefits disadvantaged, marginalised and/or socially isolated people in our community.
- The proposed project will be delivered within the required 12-month timeframe.
- The organisation has the appropriate type and level of insurance for the activities proposed within the grant request.
- If you have been previously funded, all Sisters of Charity Foundation funding has been acquitted and reporting is up to date.

Funding Exclusions

- Any project, program or initiative that doesn't align with the mission and goals of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.
- Retrospective funding.
- Fundraising or general appeals.
- Marketing costs not directly related to the project.
- Organisations that have not adequately acquitted previous Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grants.

If you meet the above requirements, please continue reading the guidelines. If you're unsure whether your organisation or project is eligible for funding from the Foundation, please contact us to discuss your eligibility.

Additional Information for Applicants

- Each organisation can submit one EOI only.
- Your application should present a clearly defined project, program or initiative, including a specific aim, identified beneficiaries, measurable outcomes, and a timeline for implementation.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- The Sisters of Charity Foundation Board reserves the right to exercise its discretion in granting funds to support programs related to the mission of the Sisters of Charity and its ministries.

Application Process

The Foundation adopts a two-stage application process for Community Grants. Stage 1 requires submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI). If selected, EOI applicants will then be required to submit a Full Application (Stage 2).

EOI submissions must be made online. The EOI form can be found [here](#) while a grant round is open.

Key Dates

EOI Submissions Open	1 July 2026
EOI Submissions Close	31 July 2026, 5:00pm AEST
Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their EOI, with successful applicants invited to submit a full application via SmartyGrants	14 September 2026
Stage 2 Applications Due	5 October 2026, 5:00pm AEDT
Successful Applicants Notified	9 November 2026
Funds Dispersed	9 December 2026
Acquittal Reports Due	No later than 3 months post the project finish date stated in your application.

Contact Us

Should you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact the Sisters of Charity Foundation team on (02) 9367 1211 or email info@sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au.