

A young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt, is swinging happily on a swing set. She has a wide, joyful smile. Next to her, a young boy with short brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is also swinging and smiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing a park-like setting with green grass and trees. In the top left corner, there is a white circular logo containing the text 'Central Coast Council'. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark green banner with the text 'Stronger Communities Fund' in white.

Central  
Coast  
Council

**Stronger Communities Fund**

# About the Program

- The Stronger Communities Fund has been established by the NSW Government to provide Councils with funding to kick start the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services.
- The fund includes a Community Grant Program, allocating \$1 million in grants of up to \$50,000 to incorporated not-for-profit community groups, for projects that build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive local communities.

# NSW Government Program Criteria

Councils are to provide grants to incorporated not-for-profit community groups for projects identified and assessed using an open call for applications.

To be successful for funding, community projects must meet the following criteria:

- Deliver social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to local communities.
- Address an identified community priority.
- Be well defined with a clear budget.
- Demonstrate that any ongoing or recurrent costs of the project can be met by the community group once grant funding has been expensed.
- The organisation must demonstrate the capacity to manage funds and deliver the project.

# Assessment Panel

Councils must establish a Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel with responsibility to assess projects and make recommendations to Council for funding.

The Panel will use the defined criteria for each program to assess and recommend projects for funding. The panel is to include:

- Mayor or other nominated Councillor
- Group Leader Connected Communities
- State Member(s) of Parliament or representative.
- Regional Coordinator of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, or delegate.
- Other members, appointed as required.
- An independent probity adviser, appointed by the Council Administrator to advise the Panel on their deliberations and assessment process.

# Available Funding

Total funding available (all rounds) - \$1,000,000.00

Minimum funding available per application - \$10,000

Maximum funding available per application - \$50,000

# Rounds

## **Rounds 1 and 2**

Awarded a total of \$490,990 to 28 projects

## **Round 3**

Opens: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Closes: 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## **Round 4**

Opens: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Closes: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

# Eligibility

- Applicants must be a legally constituted not-for-profit organisation.
- Applicants must operate within the Central Coast area or be able to demonstrate that the project will benefit residents of the Central Coast community.
- All applicants must meet the grant program eligibility criteria and address one or more of the identified priorities.
- Only one application per project, per financial year, may be successful in obtaining funding across any of Council's grant funding programs.

# Ineligible

- Late or incomplete applications.
- Applicants who have overdue acquittals from previous funding from Council.
- Projects with a religious, political or sectarian purpose, where that purpose may exclude or offend members of the broader community.
- Retrospective funding.
- General fundraising appeals.
- Projects more applicable to be better funded by State or Federal Government, or by corporate sponsorship or a philanthropic trust.
- Applicants that have the ability to self-fund the project.
- A project which primarily benefits a single individual or business.
- Funding for a project already allocated funds in Council's annual budget.
- Operational and administration expenses that do not relate specifically to the funded project, or are considered 'core business' of the organisation.
- Purchase of land or buildings.
- Applicants who have an outstanding debt to Council.



# Priorities

- Vibrant, caring and connected communities
- Safer communities
- Valuing the communities local history, culture and diversity
- Ensuring fair access and opportunity to participate in Community Life
- Opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles
- The advance of community expertise, capacity, networks, resources and innovation
- Stronger more resilient community
- Enhances the sense of local identity

# Assessment Weighting

Applications will be weighted and assessed against the following criteria:

- Addresses an identified community priority - 30%
- The extent to which the project delivers social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to local communities – 30%
- The extent to which the budget is comprehensive, realistic and provides value for money – 20%
- The extent to which the application demonstrates that any ongoing or recurrent costs of the project can be met by the community group once grant funding has been expended – 10%
- Capacity of the organisation to undertake all aspects of the proposed project – 10%

# Key Tips for your application

- **PLAN AHEAD** – successful grant applications take time and care
- **ONE APPLICATION** per financial year per project
- **DO YOUR RESEARCH** – are others already doing a similar thing, do you have community support for your project, can you partner with other organisations to enhance the project idea/concept
- **WRITE A DRAFT** and ask someone who doesn't know about your project or idea to read and critique it
- **DON'T PRESUME** grant assessors know what your project is about. Be clear about the key aspects of your project – **WHO, WHAT, WHY, HOW, WHEN**
- **READ** the guidelines and eligibility criteria **VERY CAREFULLY**
- **ASK QUESTIONS** – if you are not sure about any aspect of the application criteria, make a call to the Community Grants Assistant and discuss your concerns before you submit an application

# Information

Funding guidelines, application forms and eligibility details – as well as other information – can be found by visiting

[www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

For support with your application or if you have any additional questions, contact:

Mikell Borg – Community Grants Assistant

4325 8850

[mikell.borg@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mikell.borg@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



# More Opportunities Coming in August!

- Council has reviewed and improved its grants and sponsorship programs to meet the community's changing demand.
- Programs will be dynamic, responsive and targeted to support and grow local community development, sporting, environmental, tourism and economic development initiatives.
- Round 1 applications plan to open on Monday 14 August and close Friday 15 September.
- Free information and drop-in sessions at various locations across the Central Coast will be held to offer support and information about new funding programs for prospective applicants.

# Information Sessions

- Full details of information and drop in sessions available at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

## **Tuesday 8 August**

5.30 – 7.30pm

ACL Taylor Function Room  
Central Coast Council –  
Wyong Building

## **Thursday 10 August**

1.30 – 3.30 pm

Smart Work Hub Gosford

## **Thursday 17 August**

1.30 – 3.30pm

ACL Taylor Function Room  
Central Coast Council –  
Wyong Building

## **Thursday 17 August**

5.30 – 7.30pm

Erina Meeting Room Space 3