COVID-19 Connect Grants Guidelines

2021
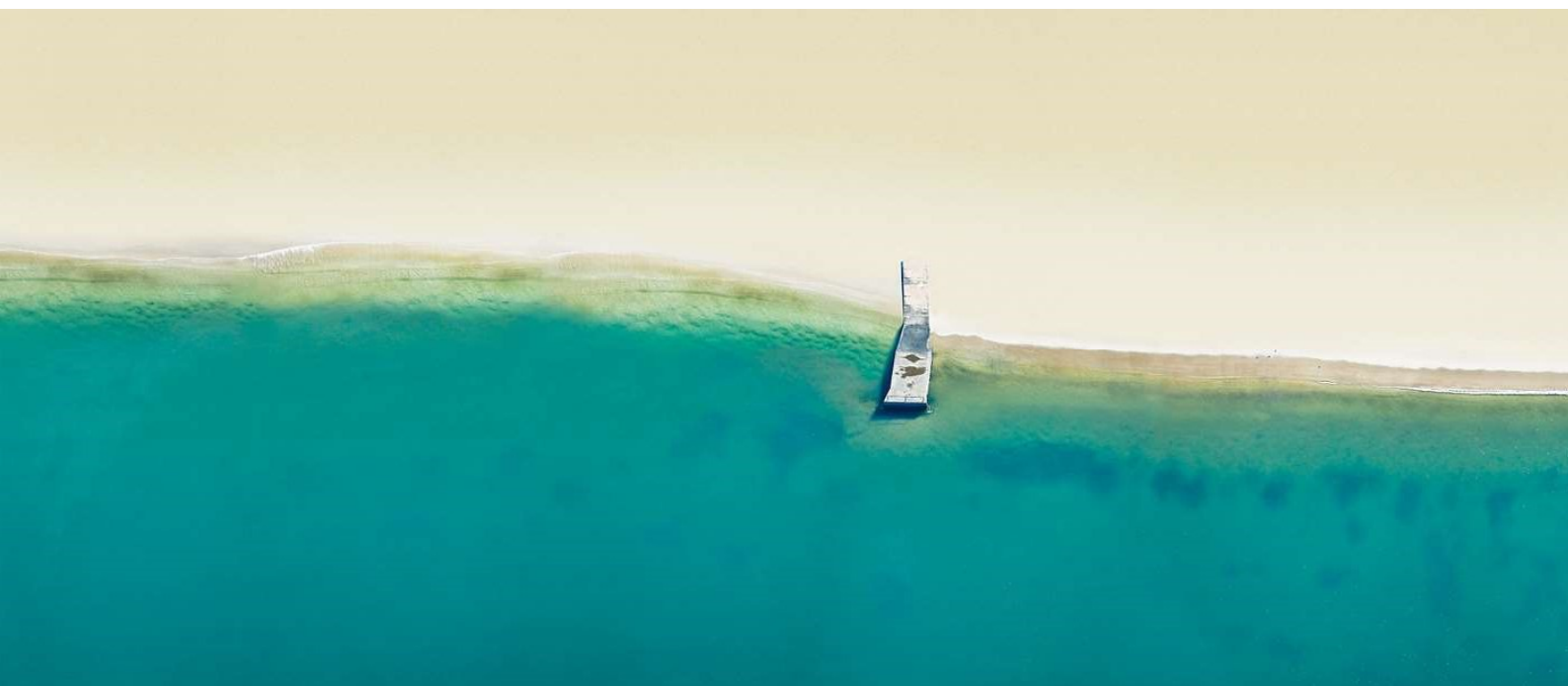
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COVID-19 Connect Grants

COVID-19 Connect Grants are intended to support incorporated, not for profit organisations that can demonstrate a need for emergency funding due to an unexpected cost or safety risk due to COVID-19, while delivering services to Bayside.

The COVID-19 Connect funding targets service providers, to support them in transitioning their service delivery to COVID safe online services. The grants support the need to address gaps in technology devices and other provisions for people who are either First Nation people, people aged 65+ years, people from culturally linguistically and diverse backgrounds, young people and people with a disability.

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1:   Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for funding the organisation must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- Incorporated, not-for-profit organisations located in and providing the support, service or program within Bayside.
- Incorporated, not-for-profit organisations located elsewhere, but providing support, services or programs to people living in Bayside.
- Have an Australian Business Number.
- Applications must align with Council's Community Strategic Plan.

2:   Essential Criteria

Applications must demonstrate:

- How the current COVID-19 outbreak and current Public Health Orders has substantively changed service delivery of existing services, programs or activities
- How client services have transitioned to online due to the current COVID-19 outbreak and how access to these essential online services is vital.
- The need to address the gap in technology devices and or the necessity for additional staff, personal protective equipment, consumables and perishables to support First Nation people, people aged 65+ years, people from culturally linguistically and diverse backgrounds, young people, and people with a disability.
- How the grant will benefit residents of Bayside

3:   Grant Categories

Five (5) Grant categories for application

Grant	Grant Category	Examples
COVID Connect Grants *Up to $5 000 per application*	1. Technology Devices	- Ipads, laptops, monitors, keyboards, mobile phones and internet dongles
	2. Telco carriage service providers	- Mobile data, sim cards and plans

Grant	Grant Category	Examples
COVID Connect Grants *Up to $5 000 per application*	3. Personal Protective Equipment	• Surgical masks, gloves, face shields, gowns and aprons
	4. Essential foods and Consumable Items	• Essential food items, portable or detachable sanitisers and opal cards ***** Note tobacco products and alcohol are strictly excluded.
	5. Salaries	• Evidence must be provided to demonstrate these costs are above normal and are related to COVID-19 support services.

4: Grant Application Process

Organisations intending to apply are strongly advised to contact Community Capacity Building Team on 9366 3680 or 95621597 to discuss proposed application.

The opening of COVID Connect Grants round will be advertised using Council's website, and any other formats identified as appropriate at the time.

To be considered for funding all applications MUST be lodged online using the link provided on Council's website.

5: Assessment of Grant Applications

Applications will be assessed on submission. Applications received will be checked for eligibility, then reviewed internally by Council Officers and assessed against the Essential Criteria. Recommendations will then be submitted to the General Manager for consideration and final approval.

6: Successful Applications

All applicants will be notified in writing regarding the decision. Funds will be transferred to the successful applicants via electronic funds transfer to the nominated bank account provided on the application form.

7: Funding and Acquittal Requirements

• Once the allocated funds are exhausted, no additional funding will be available.
• Spend the grant funds as detailed in the application.
• All projects funded by the COVID Connect Grants must be acquitted within 6 weeks of project completion.
• Successful applicants will be required to complete the grants acquittal process by providing receipts and submitting them online via the SmartyGrants acquittal link or using the link provided on Council's website.

- Acknowledge the support of Bayside Council on any promotional material or publicity features
- Refund unspent funds exceeding $100.00

8:   Exclusions to Funding

Funding will NOT be provided where:

- Where projects do not meet the Eligibility and Essential Criteria
- Projects that are conducted outside the Bayside LGA or have no direct benefit to Bayside residents
- Where funds will be used to offset normal operating costs or staff salaries
- Where an applicant is assessed as having substantial unallocated resources of their own that could be used to fund the project
- A more appropriate funding source is available
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups or auspiced groups by a not-for-profit.
- For profit and fund raising organisations, political parties or government agencies.