

Sponsorship program guidelines

For eligible organisations in our community

Version 4.0

Prepared: 10 Dec 2025

This assessment process has been designed to help organisations in our communities to apply for sponsorship funding.

Introduction

Being part of Bendigo Bank is about being part of something bigger. While we provide excellent banking and financial services, we aim to give back to our community. By banking with us, our customers are also helping to support their communities through our sponsorship program.

Our community sponsorship program facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships with eligible organisations in our community.

What is a sponsorship?

We sponsor events and organisations by providing funds, goods, or services — in exchange for visibility and support spreading our core message:

“When you bank with us, your money stays here, helping your community thrive.”

Support may include but is not limited to:

- Signage at your events or clubrooms
- Social media promotion
- Speaking opportunities for staff and board members
- Encouraging your members to bank with us

Note:

- Charitable donations are not sponsorships. Please talk to us about whether these may qualify via our grants program.
- Direct advertising is not considered a sponsorship.

Key dates

Community Sponsorships are offered as follows:

Applications \$500 and under

Applications \$501 and over

Round 1 - Opens 1 January 2026 - Closes 5pm, 13th February 2026.

Round 2 - Opens 1 April 2026 - Closes 5pm, 8 May 2026

Round 3 - Opens 1 July 2026 - Closes 5pm 7, August 2026

Round 4 - Opens 1 October 2026 - Closes 5pm on 6 November 2026.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application with 5 weeks of the closing date

Eligibility

You must meet the eligibility criteria for our sponsorship program:

- Be an Australian organisation/Australian citizen with a valid Australian bank account.

- Be a current customer of Community Bank Coleraine & District, or be willing to open an account with us.
- Not have any other sponsors who are financial institutions. This includes banks, brokers, insurance providers etc.
- Sponsored initiatives must be located in Coleraine and Districts
- Sponsored initiatives must deliver clear business acquisition outcomes for Coleraine

Ineligible entities

The following entities are ineligible for funding:

- Applicant organisations which have an unsatisfactory result to an 'Anti Money Laundering/Know Your Customer' search.

Ineligible projects

We will not sponsor any initiatives which:

- do not deliver clear business acquisition outcomes for our Community Bank.
- take place outside of or is managed outside our area
- are illegal, attempt to change the law or direct political donations
- claim retrospective funding – paying for costs already incurred
- involve gambling
- exclude or offend any part of the community
- encourage violence or involve the use of weapons
- mistreat, exploit, or harm animals
- create environmental hazards
- present a danger to public health or safety
- contribute to modern slavery
- take place solely outside of Australia.

Assessment

We will assess your application against our sponsorship criteria.

Objectives

- The extent to which the proposed initiative aligns with the Community Bank's vision, values and objectives.
- The potential for community benefit.

Feasibility

- There is adequate lead time for the sponsorship to be effectively activated/leveraged.
- The initiative is realistic and achievable (eg timeframes).
- The required permits/insurances are in place.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated clear, realistic and measurable project goals and objectives for the defined audience.
- The extent that the applicant has demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposed initiative (e.g. track record delivering similar projects, adequate resources and staff).

Program activation potential (40%)

- Potential for the sponsorship to deliver business acquisition outcomes.
- Potential for the sponsorship to deliver increased brand awareness/recognition.

- The extent to which the proposed initiative aligns with our marketing objectives.
- Opportunities for our involvement in project/event.
- A clear demonstration of who the proposed initiative will reach.

Value for money (15%)

- Sponsorship support requested versus benefits offered by applicant.

How to apply

You should read and understand these guidelines before beginning your application.

You must use our application hub to complete and submit your online application.

Access our application hub here: <https://communitybankcoleraine.smartygrants.com.au/>

You must submit your sponsorship application at least eight weeks prior to any proposed events.

We will confirm receipt of your application submission via an email to your registered email address.

We may contact you during the assessment process to request more information, evidence or to clarify information provided in your grant application.

Supporting documentation

You may be asked to provide the following supporting documentation in your application:

- A current bank statement for your organisation.
- Information/demographics about the proposed target audience and number of expected attendees/participants, including the results of any research undertaken to date (if applicable).
- Confirmation of all necessary licences, permits and insurances which will enable you to run your project/event (e.g. public liability insurance, local council permits).
- For projects involving children, confirmation that relevant personnel have Working With Children Checks.
- Project budget details which clearly show how you will spend the funds.
- Financial details about your organisation eg. recent annual report, audited financials, bank statements.

Decisions on applications

Timing of notifications will vary; however, applicants are usually notified of the outcome of their application by email within 5 weeks of the program closing date.

Managing your sponsorship

Keeping us informed

You must notify us about anything which is likely to impact your organisation or its ability to deliver your project. This may include, but is not limited to, changes to your organisation's name, address, financial situation, senior staffing arrangements, or significant changes to the project initiative.

You must also notify us if:

- any other parties become sponsors of the event
- you are planning any other initiatives in addition to the sponsored event

- if you become aware of any incident that has the potential to damage the reputation or image of the Sponsored Party, the Sponsored Events, the Sponsor, any Related Company of the Sponsor or Sponsored Party (Notifiable Conduct). More information is provided in our funding agreements.

Sponsorship agreement variations

We understand that circumstances change, and things don't always go to according to plan. If there has been a change that will impact your project, you can request a variation to your sponsorship agreement by contacting us.

We will consider your request, and if we decide to accept your proposed changes, we will issue a deed of variation for your signature.

Reporting requirements

You will be required to complete a sponsorship acquittal form within eight weeks of your nominated project end date. The acquittal report must be submitted electronically through the application hub.

If it is a multi-year agreement you may be required to satisfactorily complete an interim acquittal report before each payment is made.

The report includes information about how the funds were spent, the benefits delivered, participant/recipient information, achievements of the project, and any lessons learned.

You should identify key internal stakeholders who will be responsible for collecting and reporting data from before, during and after your initiative.

Privacy information

[View our privacy policy.](#)

Enquiries

Application queries

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For technical support with application hub

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