

Social Inclusion Action Group

FRANKSTON

Community Connection and Accessibility Grant Guidelines 2026

Targeted Inclusion Action Grants

Supported by



Department
of Health

The Social Inclusion Action Group

The **Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)** is a community-led initiative supported by Frankston City Council and funded by the Victorian State Government. The SIAG brings our community together - residents, groups, and local organisations - helping ideas grow and supporting community projects that build inclusion, connection, and belonging across our city.

The work of the SIAG includes:

- Connecting people, ideas, and organisations across Frankston.
- Supporting local groups and individuals to develop inclusive project ideas.
- Exploring partnerships to expand reach and positive impact.
- Making funding recommendations for projects that strengthen social connection, inclusion, and wellbeing in our community.

Flexible funding opportunities are also available alongside this grant round for community-led projects that may not meet current eligibility criteria or funding goals. Projects must still support SIAG's broader goals around connection, inclusion and wellbeing across Frankston City.

To get in touch or learn more, **visit the SIAG webpage** or contact us via the information below.

<https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/SIAG>

Key Dates

Grant Round Open:

Mon 23 March 2026 – Sun 26 April 2026

Outcome Notification & Funding Agreements:

By Friday 29 May 2026

Invoice Deadline for Payment: 15 June 2026

Where to apply

Submit your application online through Frankston City Council Smarty Grants portal on <https://frankston.smartygrants.com.au/SIAGtargeted2526> (you will need to create an account if you don't already have one).

Contact us

The SIAG are available to help you complete this application. We can also discuss with you any part of this grant or other work we do.

Please get in touch with the team:

Email:

SIAG.team@frankston.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0427 249 033

(Social Inclusion Project Manager)



Need help in another language?

Call **131 450** and state 'Frankston City Council as the organisation and quote our number 1300 322 322.

Hearing or speech impaired?

Visit: www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

Introduction

One-off, flexible funding to support community-led projects that strengthen social connection, inclusion, and wellbeing in Frankston City.

Key Information

- **Time-limited grant round** offering one-off, flexible project funding. Applications open from Monday 23 March until Sunday 26 April 2026.
- **Projects must be commenced within 6 months of receiving funding.**
- **Minimum funding amount:** Applications must be for \$3,000 and over.
- **Supports practical, community-led projects** responding to isolation, disconnection and wellbeing challenges.
- Encourages **innovation**, including new ideas, trials and inclusive approaches that strengthen community connection, wellbeing and inclusion.
- **Recipients are required to share project learnings** to support broader understanding of community needs and effective approaches.
- Funding is **competitive and limited by available funds**, meaning not all applications will be successful, and applicants may not receive the full amount requested.
- The SIAG is a preventative health initiative, and therefore this grant does **not** fund crisis services, treatment programs or direct material relief such as food, water or shelter.

Funding streams

The SIAG Framework has five areas it operates under. This grant round specifically supports projects that align with either the Opportunity or Accessibility streams of the SIAG Framework.

If you are unsure about which stream your project aligns to, please reach out to the SIAG team to discuss before submitting your application.

Opportunity: *Increasing opportunities for people to come together and connect.*

The Opportunity stream supports projects that create meaningful ways for people to come together, connect and build a sense of belonging. This could include community events, ongoing social groups, youth-focused activities or place-based initiatives that bring residents into shared spaces. These projects strengthen inclusion by encouraging participation, reducing isolation and fostering positive community relationships across Frankston.

For example: Neighbourhood celebrations, intergenerational activity days, peer-led wellbeing groups, community garden open days, welcome sessions for new residents.

Accessibility: *Creating a safe, welcoming, and accessible community.*

The Accessibility stream supports initiatives that make community life easier, safer and more welcoming for everyone. Projects may involve improving physical access, trialling more inclusive program formats, supporting transport or mobility needs, enhancing digital accessibility or creating sensory-friendly environments. These initiatives help remove barriers to participation, ensuring people of all abilities and backgrounds can fully engage in community activities and spaces.

For example: Portable ramps or hearing loops, sensory-friendly event sessions, multilingual workshops with interpreters, transport or mobility support trials, digital literacy programs, or accessibility upgrades to community facilities and websites.

Eligibility requirements

- Applicants must be a **not-for-profit** organisation and either:
 - Incorporated,**
 - A legislated charity, or**
 - Supported (auspiced)** by another incorporated not-for-profit organisation that will assume legal and financial responsibility for the grant.
- **Funding is for time-limited projects, not ongoing operational costs, or business-as-usual activities** that an organisation could reasonably fund or deliver on their own.
- **The proposed project** must clearly demonstrate community benefit and not be profit driven.
- **Projects must take place within the Frankston region** and align with the grant's focus on strengthening social connection, inclusion, and community wellbeing.
- **Applicants must not be receiving other Council or external funding for the same activity,** unless clear additional benefit is demonstrated.
- **Applicants must not be in financial debt to Council.**
- **Applicants must not have active breaches** under Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, or ASIC.

Note: Canvassing or lobbying of SIAG members, councillors, employees of Frankston City Council in relation to any application is prohibited.

If you do not meet the current eligibility criteria for these grants – we encourage you to reach out to us and explore other flexible funding and support options.

Supporting documentation

With your application, you will be asked to supply a copy of:

1. **Public Liability Insurance (Current Certificate of Currency)**
Insurance must cover all parts of the project for its entire duration.
2. **Annual Report and Financial Statement**
(Most recent statement that includes income, expenditure, balance sheet and cash flow).
Not your bank statement.
3. **Evidence of cost for items and services**
This can include quotes or screenshots.
4. **Evidence of incorporation, charitable status, or Auspice arrangement**
5. **Letters of support** from other community organisations are not required, but may strengthen applications.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on how the project addresses the criteria below.

Criteria	Weighting
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If in Opportunity stream: clearly increases opportunities for people to meaningfully connect and build sense of belonging • If in Accessibility stream: clearly shows how project contributes to creating a safe, welcoming and accessible community. • Engages communities or demographics that experience isolation, disconnection, or low mental wellbeing • Demonstrates a clear community need and outlines tangible benefits 	40%
<p>Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project methodology is inclusive and respectful of community members with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. • Project is designed to be accessible (e.g. Timing, location, format, and cost) to enable participation and remains open to feedback for improvements. • Project fosters community engagement, collaboration, and shared ownership through inclusive design and delivery. 	30%
<p>Feasibility and sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget demonstrates value for money with clear, justified use of funds • Project plan is realistic and achievable, with consideration of sustained impact beyond the funding period • Applicant has the capacity, experience, and resources to deliver the project and manage potential risks 	30%

Projects that are innovative, collaborative, grounded in evidence, and/or have the potential for broader impact through scalability or replication will be viewed favourably.

The SIAG aims to ensure that people who benefit the most from funded projects include those who are likely to experience social exclusion, are based in priority regions and/or consider intersectionality. These groups are outlined in the 'Who' section of the SIAG Framework – available on webpage: <https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/SIAG>

Your project does not need to address every priority place or person – it can just target one!

Who

The people who should most benefit from SIAG's work

People likely to experience social exclusion

Groups of people who are more vulnerable to social isolation, disconnection and exclusion

- Older (65+)
- Younger (0 to 24)
- First Nations people
- LGBTIQ+ community
- Persons with disability
- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- People seeking asylum and recently arrived migrants
- People with long-term mental health conditions
- Single parents

Priority regions

Frankston has areas with high rates of both socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage

Areas with more disadvantage

- Frankston North
- Frankston
- Carrum Downs
- Seaford
- Stye
- Langwarrin

Areas with more advantage

- Sandhurst
- Langwarrin South
- Frankston South

Intersectionality

How different aspects of a person's identity and experiences combine to shape their sense of self and engagement with the community

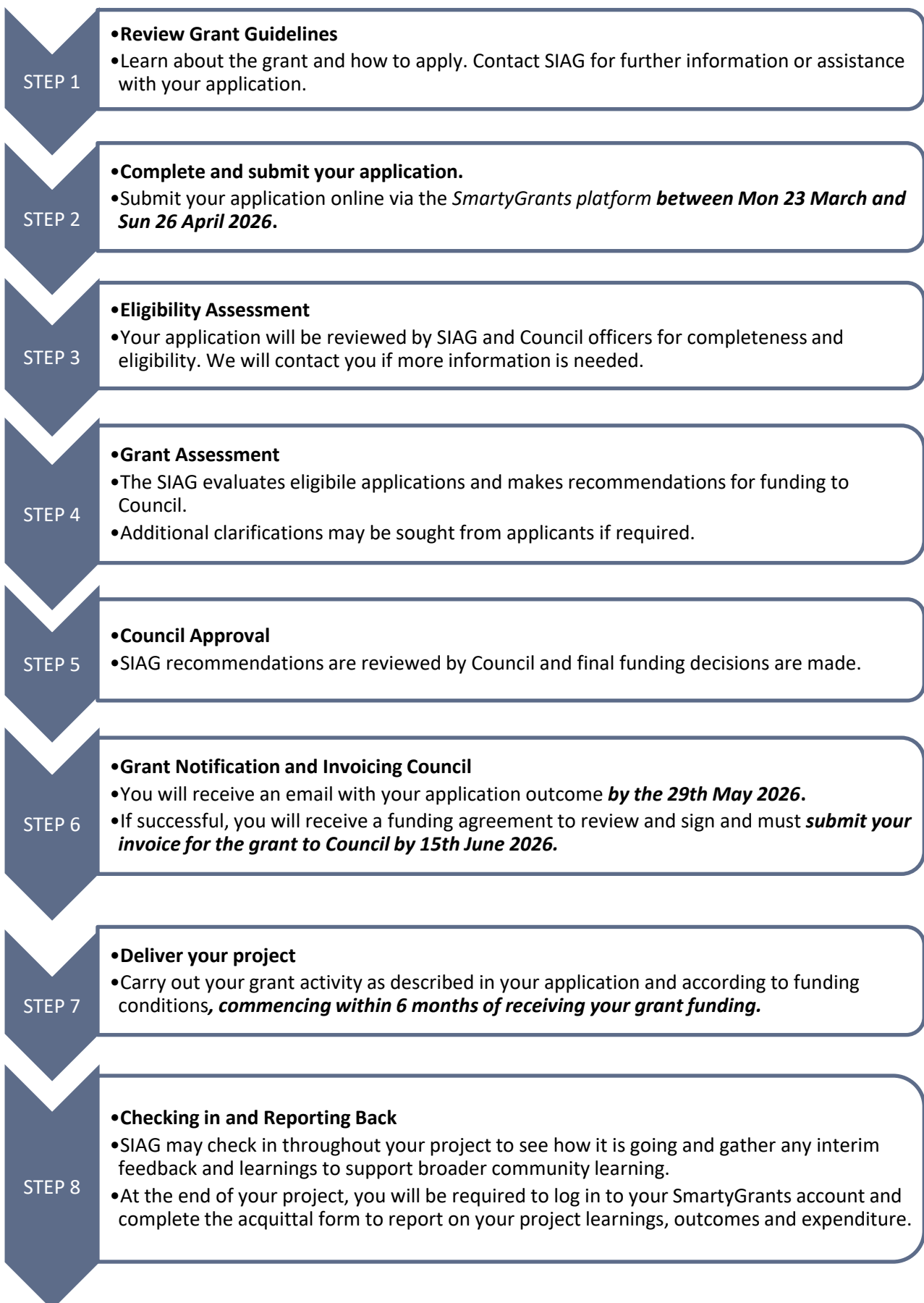
Intersecting challenges in Frankston:

- Poverty and low income
- Lack of access to job market
- Limited social support
- Excluded from services
- Experiencing homelessness
- Victims of family violence

Other important intersections:

- Gender
- Sexuality
- Citizenship
- Education level
- Neurodiversity
- Ability and mobility
- Physical health
- Mental wellbeing
- Culture
- Language spoken

Grant Round Process



Funding Conditions

Successful applicants (and auspice organisations, if applicable) must:

- **Accept the terms and conditions:** By redeeming the grant, you accept all terms and conditions outlined in this grant guidelines.
- **Invoice Council and commence project within 6 months of funding allocation.** Late invoices will not be paid.
- **Deliver the funded activity.** Undertake the activity to Council's reasonable satisfaction, within approved budget and timelines.
- **Use funds for approved purposes.** Grant funds must only be used for the approved activity unless written approval is obtained.
- **Notify Council of contact detail changes.** Inform Council of any changes to contact details or circumstances during the funding period.
- **Request approval for any significant and substantial changes** such as:
 - Changes to activity details.
 - Reallocation of funds to new, unrelated activities.
 - Request for deadline extensions (acquittal submission or activity completion).
- To request changes (excluding funding amounts), request and submit a **Grant Variation Request** form through SmartyGrants. Do not proceed with revised activities until Council provides written approval.
- **Acknowledge the SIAG's support.** Publicly recognise the SIAG's support in promotional materials or events (announced at your event or AGM, newsletter, or other comms), using:
 - SIAG's approved logo
 - The phrase: "Supported by the Social Inclusion Action Group Frankston".
- **Maintain public liability insurance.** for the duration of the funded project.
- **Comply with Federal, State and local laws and regulations** while delivering the project.
- **Submit an acquittal report.** Complete an acquittal form via SmartyGrants within one month of the completion date of your project or agreed acquittal date.
- **Maintain financial records.** Retain receipts and invoices related to the grant. Council *may* request evidence of compliance at any time.
- **Return unspent funds.** Unspent or uncommitted funds totalling 5% or more of the grant (and at least \$50) must be returned by the end of the financial year.
- **Meet Child Safety requirements.** Comply with all relevant child safety legislation which may include, but is not limited to:
 - The Victorian Child Safe Standards (2022)
 - The Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005).

Council *may* request evidence of compliance. For more information, visit <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/> or email childsafe@frankston.vic.gov.au

Cancellation of Grant

- SIAG and Council reserve the right to cancel and request payment of grant funds if:
 - The application contains false or misleading information.
 - The applicant withdraws from the activity.
 - The applicant is not delivering the activity as proposed.
 - The activity is cancelled.

What can't be funded (exclusions):

- Applications that **do not meet the eligibility requirements.**
- **Large capital expenses** including purchase or lease of real estate or purchase of major equipment or vehicles such as air conditioning units and machinery.
- **Prohibited items**, including alcohol licenses, tobacco and gambling related activities.
- **Insurance** costs such as, but not limited to, public liability; and costs that would otherwise be covered by insurance.
- **Retrospective funding** for activities, programs and projects that have already started or have been completed.
- **Projects that do not support diversity, tolerance, and inclusivity** within the community.
- **General fundraising** and fundraising events, competitions, trophies, prizes or awards.
- **Projects that create or may present hazards to the community.**
- **A political party or political events.**
- **Activities that involve proselytisation.**
- Projects that **contravene Legislation, Local Laws, or Frankston Planning Scheme.**
- Organisations or individuals who are **in financial debt with Council.**
- **Council staff, Councillors, or contractors.** Exceptions in unique circumstances requires full disclosure of interest and approval from Director Communities.
- **Council related fees** such as planning or building applications, or similar charges.