

VicHealth Leading Healthy Communities Grants

Grant guidelines

About this grant

The VicHealth Leading Healthy Communities Funding is a new offering for VLGP fast-track councils in 2024 to support municipal public health and wellbeing planning. [Aligned to VicHealth's new 10-year strategy 2023-33](#), these grants provide VLGP fast-track councils with an opportunity to explore new and emerging areas related to public health planning.

These grants can be used to undertake consultation and scoping for your public health planning or to implement actions from your existing plan in the following areas:

- tackling climate change and its impact on health, and
- addressing commercial determinants of health in your community.

To support this funding round, VicHealth has released two new supplement modules to provide councils with a deeper understanding of these topics and provide guidance on actions councils can undertake:

- [Supporting healthy and climate resilient communities](#)
- [Influencing Commercial Determinants of Health](#)

In addition to supporting VLGP councils with public health planning, VicHealth is also seeking to strengthen capacity, build awareness and understanding, and enable councils to influence and respond to these topics and the ways in which they impact health and wellbeing.

Successful councils will contribute to the emerging evidence base in these topic areas through providing feedback and engaging with monitoring work as part of the VLGP.

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

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Priority populations

As part of [VicHealth's new 10-year strategy 2023-2033](#), we have a commitment to addressing health inequities. Proposed projects under this funding round should demonstrate an equity focus, prioritising children, young people, and their families facing structural barriers to good health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on First Nations Victorians, and Victorians who are culturally and racially diverse.

What's on offer

Up to \$50,000 is available over 12 months for VLGP fast-track councils to identify and implement projects focused on Climate and Health or Commercial Determinants of Health. You can only apply for funding in one topic area.

Key information

- This is a **competitive** funding round
- Applications open: Tuesday 12 March 2024
- Applications close: Monday 15 April 2024

Who is eligible?

- All VLGP fast-track councils
- Councils must demonstrate progress in meeting all established milestones outlined in their current agreements with VicHealth

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Delivery and participation requirements

A [workplan and budget](#) outlining the project plan and high-level timelines will need to be submitted as part of this funding application. Regular check ins with VicHealth and a final report will be required for successfully funded applications. Successful councils will also be required to share their learnings and participate in data monitoring.

What can be funded?

Funding is available for essential goods or services directly relating to your action/s. This may include:

- short-term project staffing or sub-contracting, which may include temporary increase of existing staff hours for the period outlined in the project implementation plan only
- participant or volunteer support expenses, including costs to reduce barriers to participation
- upskilling staff in short courses related to the actions
- minor capital works, infrastructure (including IT), building works or assets, less than 10% of total funds. The purchase must directly facilitate the outcomes of the idea/project/activity
- equipment and materials, must not exceed 10% of the total budget
- modification of existing environment or infrastructure to support delivery of COVID-safe project activity.

Funding is **NOT** available for:

- actions or activities that have previously received VLGP funding
- actions that are not aligned to the Climate and Health or Commercial Determinants of Health modules
- actions that expose children or young people to harmful industry products and marketing such as junk food, sugary drink, alcohol, tobacco, or gambling industry etc. for example gaming, alcohol or fast-food venues
- actions that are unlikely to be sustained by the council after the funding is complete

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- equipment, materials, staffing costs or overheads not directly related to implementation of the project
- health service delivery, early intervention, treatment or rehabilitation
- reimbursement for expenses already incurred, or funded by another source
- one-off events, fundraising or activities with no sustained benefit to participants or community or delivered without connection to health or
- tertiary education qualifications
- projects that support activities where the head is a deliberate target or where activity involves striking or kicking another individual with intent to injure
- applications with 10% or more of the total budget allocated to capital works, infrastructure (including IT infrastructure), building works, or assets.

How do councils apply?

1. Read the guidelines and make use of the links provided.
2. Use the [Application Drafting Tool](#) to understand and prepare the information you will need for your application.
3. Register and log in to the [VicHealth Stakeholder Portal](#).
4. Complete the online application form.
5. Upload completed [Workplan and Budget templates](#).
6. Submit your completed application form on the VicHealth Stakeholder Portal **before 5pm, Monday 15 April 2024**. You will receive an email to confirm your application has been received. Once submitted your application cannot be changed.

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Assessment process

A team of VicHealth staff will perform an initial assessment and shortlist applications based on how they meet the assessment criteria. A group of external panellists and VicHealth staff will review shortlisted applications and make a recommendation to the VicHealth CEO for final approval.

Assessment criteria

The following principles will be used to assess applications:

Equity: Applications will be considered through an equity lens, where additional information about the council capacity (for example, number of staff), geography (for example rural, regional, outer and inner metropolitan categorisation), community demography (for example, SEIFA ranking) may be considered by scorers and panelists in forming recommendations. This will enable a fairer process that considers the context that applications were completed as well as potential benefits for the community.

Value for money: Applications should demonstrate value for money through addressing the impact and benefit to community health and wellbeing, especially for VicHealth's priority population groups: children, young people, and their families facing structural barriers to good health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on First Nations Victorians, and Victorians who are culturally and racially diverse.

Quality delivery: Applications should outline a clear plan for implementation that can be easily understood by partners, council leaders and participants. Applications should demonstrate that the council understands the goals and potential benefit of the project in the local context. The application should also demonstrate a strong methodology that considers existing knowledge, partnerships and intended impact and strategies for systems change, ensuring a comprehensive and effective approach.

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Sustainability: Applications should demonstrate consideration of how the action (or benefits of the action) can be sustained beyond the life of the funding, for example:

- the action/s leads to an enduring policy, practice or infrastructure change that is likely to lead to the outcome being sustained
- the action/s can be sustained by core council funding or partner funding in the future
- the action/s is likely to increase the health promotion skills and knowledge of a substantial cohort of people/local workforce who can continue to sustain the lessons in their roles going forward
- any requests for funding of events should have a comprehensive sustainability plan to ensure increased and continued impact.

For successful councils

- Funds for councils in the VLGP will be executed by a [Participation Agreement](#) which will link to their VLGP Memorandum of Understanding.

Questions?

If you've read the Grant Guidelines and still have questions, please submit an enquiry via lgp@vichealth.vic.gov.au

Please note: We are unable to provide advice or feedback on your ideas, however, we can clarify the intention of the grant round and the outcomes it is trying to achieve.

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