

Responding to what matters across Greater Melbourne

Communities across greater Melbourne are experiencing a time of rapid and complex change, as well as facing persistent challenges across multiple areas.

The Greater Melbourne Foundation Annual Funding Round supports work that addresses current and emerging challenges to nurture and build a just and equitable Greater Melbourne. It seeks to support communities across Greater Melbourne – particularly those experiencing inequity most acutely.

This funding round forms part of our commitment to respond to immediate community need, test and explore new ideas, and bring people and funding together to drive collective action.

Please read [Strategy 2030](#) to learn more about our vision and aspirations for Greater Melbourne.

Impact Areas

Social justice and equity is at the heart of everything we do. We work at the intersection of three Impact Areas – Climate Justice, Economic Justice, Housing Justice – to create a fairer future for Greater Melbourne.

Expressions of Interest must directly link and contribute to one or more of the following Impact Area outcomes:

- [Climate Justice](#) – support and promote community-driven adaptation strategies that strengthen social connections, ecological health, and food justice.
- [Economic Justice](#) – support local economic development innovations through new business practices (including cooperatives) and community wealth building.
- [Housing Justice](#) – increase support to end homelessness for youth, women, First Nations people, and other priority cohorts.

2026 focus

Expressions of Interest for this round must respond to one or more of the following focus areas and will be considered through a social justice and equity lens. We are particularly interested in work that demonstrates how these areas connect or reinforce each other.

- Work that supports First Nations self-determination and community-led leadership
- Work at the intersection of our Impact Areas (Climate Justice, Economic Justice, Housing Justice)
- Work that is informed by community-identified priorities, responding to changing or compounding challenges
- Work that strengthens the capacity of community organisations, collaborations or networks to respond more effectively and equitably to community needs. This may include strengthening skills, leadership, relationships, resourcing, or coordination needed to sustain work and adapt over time.
- Work that directly addresses social justice and equity

Funding

There is approximately \$1.5 million available in the Greater Melbourne Foundation 2026 Funding Round. A breakdown of funding is below.

Up to \$20,000:

For small projects testing new ideas, early or exploratory work, or smaller charitable organisations, responding to one or more Impact Areas.

Between \$20,000 - \$100,000:

For larger, more complex work, including initiatives that intersect across two or more Impact Areas.

Funding may vary in size and duration depending on the nature of the work. Funding through this round is once-off funding and non-recurrent, and recipients will need to share an expected end date for reporting purposes.

We aim to apply proportionate, trust-based processes, funding the true cost of the work. Expressions of Interest can include a proportionate amount for costs such as administration, overheads and staffing.

Collaborations are welcome, so long as one organisation acts as the lead applicant. Organisations that have not previously received funding from us are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

To be considered for a grant your organisation needs to:

- Be endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR Item 1)
- Be an Australian charity registered or operating in Victoria
- Deliver work in Greater Melbourne that directly benefits communities of Greater Melbourne
- Have no overdue acquittals with Greater Melbourne Foundation

Note: Expressions of Interest must address social justice and equity, and only one Expression of Interest per organisation will be considered.

Exclusions

The following will not be funded:

- One-off events
- Stand-alone academic or university-led research
- Political organisations or activities that have a party-political purpose
- Capital works, unless clearly integral to community-led outcomes and access
- Works that denigrate, exclude or offend parts of the community, or that breach Commonwealth and State anti-vilification laws

Social enterprise, policy influence, broader systems and landscape level change will not be funded through this open round. This work is important to Strategy 2030 and will be supported through other grant programs and future funding rounds.

Timeline

This funding round is a two-stage process.

Stage 1:

**Expressions of Interest – open to all eligible organisations:
Tuesday 3 March to Tuesday 17 March 2026 (4:00pm AEDT).**

We will notify all applicants of the outcome of their Expression of Interest via email prior to Stage 2.

Stage 2:

**Full proposal (invitation only):
Thursday 2 April to Monday 27 April 2026.**

Funding notification:
Late June 2026.

Expression of Interest – requested information

- Project Location (multiple choice)
- Short Project Summary - Please provide a brief description of the work. (Character Limit: 500)
- Priority Communities (multiple choice)
- Impact Area (multiple choice)
- What will the funding allow you to do? What do you plan to do, how will you approach this work, and who will be involved? (Character Limit: 1500)
- How does the work address the focus of this grant round? (Character Limit: 1500)

Questions?

Please contact Bronwyn Roper, Grants Operations Lead, via grants@greatermelbournefoundation.org.au if you have further questions in relation to the Greater Melbourne Foundation Annual Funding Round.