



HOW TO FIND FUNDING

1. Grants from government

There are many different government programs which support community initiatives.

Government grants can usually only be given to fully incorporated organisations, so if your project is not run by an organisation, you may need to find a partner organisation willing to auspice (manage) the grant for you.

Follow these simple steps to increase your chances of success when applying for government grants:

- Read the grant guidelines carefully. Look closely at the eligibility criteria and selection criteria. Does your project match them? If it doesn't match them, you shouldn't apply.
- Call the contact person listed on the guidelines to discuss your application.
- Follow the instructions in the guidelines when preparing your application. Include all the information requested. If they ask for multiple copies be sure to provide them.
- Answer all questions simply and carefully and avoid jargon and acronyms. Keep in mind what the objectives of the grant program are, and show how your project meets them.
- Check to see if there is a closing date for applications and make sure you meet it, or your application won't be considered.
- The approval process can seem slow. Ask the contact person when you are likely to hear about the outcome of your application.
- If you are successful, you will need to enter into an agreement with the funding body. This will include an arrangement for you to report back on the success of your project.

New government grant programs are announced quite often. You may wish to subscribe to a service such as [Our Community](#), which offers a monthly 'Easy grants' newsletter and an online database of available grants. They also have good tips and approaches about how to apply for grants.



2. Philanthropic funding

Trusts or foundations are usually set up to contribute to a particular aim or community benefit. Most trusts will have guidelines with details of the objectives and eligibility criteria. Applying for philanthropic funds is often the same as applying for a government grant through a funding round.

The same principles apply as when applying to government – read the guidelines closely, talk to the contact at the trust or foundation about your project, and make sure you write your application clearly and to the requirements of the guidelines.

[Philanthropy Australia](#) gives advice to those seeking funding and has a Directory of Philanthropy which lists more than 420 trusts, foundations and corporate giving programs.

3. Local fundraising

Active fundraising in your local community can achieve a number of outcomes including:

- Higher awareness of the walking issues you are pursuing.
- Getting an initial pool of funds together to help with your campaign.
- Involving new people in making your neighbourhood more walk-friendly.

Ideas for local fundraising include sausage sizzles, chocolate drives, garage sales, and trivia nights.

Raffles are effective fundraisers, and local businesses may be willing to contribute prizes for a raffle. However, conditions apply as raffles are considered a gaming activity. For more information visit the website of the [Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation](#).