



Key Dates



Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between July 2021 and July 2022.

All applications close 5pm Victorian time (AEDT).

Program Information

Program Purpose

Investing in dairy communities is critical to the sustainability of dairy farming in Victoria. In 2021, Gardiner Dairy Foundation has again partnered with FRRR to deliver the 19th round of its small grants program to fund worthwhile projects in Victorian dairy communities. The Gardiner Dairy Foundation Community Grants Program will make available \$120,000 in grant funds for innovative, community-driven projects.

Funds Available & Priorities

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations in a recognised Victorian dairy region – Gippsland, South-West, or Northern Victoria – to support projects that focus on one of the following activity areas:

- **Building Community Resilience** - for example, projects that facilitate community connectedness, develop leadership capacity within the community, improve local community infrastructure and meeting places, or support and develop volunteer community groups.
- **Developing Organisational Resilience and Capacity** - for example, projects that strengthen local not-for-profit organisations' operational infrastructure, upgrading of equipment to improve service delivery, skill development of committees of management, and support for planning and sustainability.
- **Enhancing Environmental Sustainability** - for example, projects that increase awareness of local environmental issues, provide opportunities for local residents to care for the local environment, and projects that work to restore, protect, and promote the local natural environment, enhance community connections with farming and food production.
- **Fostering Cultural Vibrancy** - for example, projects that celebrate, preserve, and promote local culture and identity, creative projects that foster the arts, and support for local artists and the arts community.
- **Economic Strength** - for example, projects that create local employment and training with an employment outcome, stimulate new spending within a community or region, events that attract visitors and which can demonstrate an economic benefit as a result, and projects that attract new residents to a community or region and improve economic prosperity.



- **Lifelong Education & Training** - for example, projects that provide local residents with access to opportunities that enrich their learning and skills development, from cradle to grave.
- **Improving Community Health & Social Wellbeing** - for example, projects which address physical health, improved nutrition and access to fresh food and sustainable local food systems, projects that enhance mental health, and those which assist vulnerable members in communities to improve their health and wellbeing.

**What
grant
funds
can't be
used for**

There are several areas that we **cannot fund** through this program. If in doubt, please contact us.

- Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments.
- The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law.

Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club.

- Overseas travel and overseas projects;
- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards;
- Political lobbying;
- Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader, or private interests;
- Projects solely focused on animal welfare.

Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation **with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate**;
- Projects must benefit Victorian Dairy Communities in Gippsland, South-West or Northern Victoria;
- Project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Organisations with or without DGR endorsement are eligible;
- Organisations can submit one application per grant round.

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if the:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
- Application is submitted without required financial documentation (see below);



- Final report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
- Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;
- Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

How to
Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.



We recommend you download this [printable copy of the application form](#).

[Click here to apply](#).



IMPORTANT NOTES RE: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you **MUST** include for your project to be considered. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible legal entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation does not have that, FRRR could still fund the project (with your organisation as the **delivery organisation**) but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the '**legal organisation**'.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it is the overarching organisation's legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role.

This situation often occurs when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch.

Why is this important?

The Strengthening Rural Communities program is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect information on financials is currently the most frequent reason why applications are not considered.

- For organisations that have **audited financials**: Attach the most recent annual audited statements;
- For organisations that **do not have audited financials**: Attach the most recent 12 months Income and Expenditure Statement. If you have a Balance Sheet, please submit this also;
- For organisations **less than one year old**: Provide Bank Statements for the period you have been operating.

Please note:

- If financial documents are more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents;
- Bank Statements are **only** acceptable as financial documentation if your organisation has been operating for less than one year;
- Explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially;
- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required;
- Income and Expenditure statements must cover a full 12-month period.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financials or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's ability to manage the grant funds and its financial viability.



Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funds will be used for and shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e. total expenditure must match total income.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Quotes or detailed explanations for items over \$1,000 are required, where possible. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$41.00 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: <https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/help/valuing-volunteer-labour>.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR strongly recommends that you provide supporting materials such as letters of support, community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show the wider community support and partnerships involved in the project.

Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally led and delivered, show good partnerships, and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit, and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description of exactly **what** the grant funds will be used for, **when** and **where** the project will happen, **who** will benefit and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** funds will be spent and **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated, and shared.

Where possible, also indicate that your community is ready to deliver the project and if required, can support the initiative ongoing – i.e., awareness of need is widespread, appropriate leadership, resources, skills, and knowledge exist in the community.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing the what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best formula to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills, and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.