

## GRANT GUIDELINES

### Universal Charitable Fund



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Established in 2010, Universal Charitable Fund (UCF) makes grants to small and medium sized Australian charities making a big difference in the lives of people in need both in Australia and overseas. Our focus has been, and continues to be, on community projects that positively contribute to the alleviation of poverty, disadvantage, marginalisation and distress while building both individual and community capacity. We want our contribution to inspire others to share in making a difference by supporting people in need and building a better future for all.

UCF focuses its grant making on supporting the work of small and medium sized charities (e.g. income up to \$1m pa) which are registered with the ACNC and endorsed by the ATO with Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR1). Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

How to Apply:

All Applications must be submitted through the online application form process on the Foundation Grants portal hosted by Australian Communities Foundation.

To apply, please follow the steps below:

- Read these Grant Guidelines to make sure your project or activity meets the objectives.
- Register for the Foundation Grants portal  
<https://www.grantinterface.com.au/Home/Logon?urlkey=australiacf>
- You only need to do this once for all our grants. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password.
- Preview the questions and budget template before you get started.
- Once logged into the portal, click the Apply button in the top left of the dashboard and enter the access code: **UCF2026**
- Complete and submit the application form.
- Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.

What this means to you:

- We cannot make grants to individuals (even if you are raising money for a good cause).
- Applications must be from the organisation to which the grant will be awarded.
- The applying organisation must have Deductible Gift Recipient status, commonly known as DGR1 and tax deductibility



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- Typically, the organisations we award grants have an income of less than \$1 million per annum.
  - Australian charity applicants only – grants in support of overseas projects are allowable if your organisation has an Australian registered office, or already has an auspice arrangement (project account) with an Australian organisation (e.g. RAWCS, GDG, World Relief Australia).

#### What we fund

Our priority is to fund small and medium sized Australian charities (less than \$1 million income pa) that fit into one (or more) of the following areas and with a focus on alleviation of poverty, distress, disadvantage or marginalisation.

- o Education
- o Health
- o Building self-sufficient communities (sustainable)
- o Children and youth

Any programme you ask us to fund must be able to be completed within 12 months and have a clear charitable purpose consistent with its tax-deductible gift status.

#### What we do not fund

- We do not make grants to general funds or for printing, marketing or advocacy.
- If you are applying for funds for a programme which has an expected cost larger than the amount you are applying for, you must demonstrate how the remainder of the cost will be covered. (e.g. If you are applying for \$3,000 for something that will cost \$25,000 then you will need to show how the remaining costs will be met.)
- In general, we do not fund social welfare (eg food relief, school uniforms & equipment, comfort packs for hospitalised children etc)
- Publications, audio or video productions - although we may make an exception if they serve as supporting materials to a project within our focus.
- Requests to support travel for groups or individuals, notwithstanding the travel may be connected to a worthy cause.
- UCF does not make grants for start-ups or for religious, political or research activity.
- We do not fund staffing costs or capital works. Requests for equipment will be judged on a case-by-case basis where the equipment sought is integral to the program delivery.
- Training costs may be considered but must have a measurable outcome directly connected to the alleviation of poverty, disadvantage, marginalisation or the building of individual or community capacity.