

VicTrack Community Grants Program

Not-for-profit community groups that lease rail land, buildings and other assets from VicTrack for community purposes are being offered the chance to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 each through a Community Grants Program.

The funding is being offered to tenants that have community leases with VicTrack, including not-for profit community groups and Tourist and Heritage (T&H) railway organisations. Community groups who lease VicTrack assets from their local council are eligible to apply.

The grants are being made available to tenants to support them with managing their community assets, which include public open spaces, art galleries, museums, libraries, creative spaces, and community hubs.

Funding can be used for conserving and restoring buildings, land, or other assets leased from VicTrack, which could include painting, gardening, landscaping or other small projects the groups would like to undertake.

As many groups are subject to environmental and heritage regulations relating to the assets they lease, they can also use the grants to support them with these obligations.

Groups can apply for the grants through the VicTrack website and applications are open for six weeks.

Applications will be assessed by VicTrack and the Department of Transport and Planning, and it is expected that the grants will be released later this year.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, groups must:

- be a not-for-profit group who is incorporated and operated primarily by volunteers, or be a tourist and heritage rail group with control of state-owned assets; and
- have a current lease with VicTrack for land and/or buildings or a sub-lease/licence from a local council.

Selection criteria

Funding will be provided for:

- restoring, or refurbishing a building, land or other asset leased from VicTrack – works can include painting, small projects, beautification, and gardening etc.
- helping meet regulatory obligations, for example in relation to safety, accessibility, or environmental management.

Funding will not be provided for:

- paying staff or volunteers
- providing catering, hospitality or hosting events or functions

- paying any outstanding expenses or costs incurred by the group
- repayment of loans incurred by the group
- paying for on-going overheads or other operating costs.

To ensure heritage, environmental and other obligations are being met, VicTrack will review all project plans being delivered by groups and advise if further approvals are required.

Q&As

What is the Community Grants Program?

In conjunction with the Department of Transport and Planning, we are providing funding to support not-for-profit community groups and tourist and heritage rail groups leasing VicTrack assets for community purposes.

The program provides funding to help groups with small projects and general maintenance of the buildings, land, and other assets they lease from us.

How much funding is being allocated?

Groups can apply for up to \$10,000 each in support.

How can I apply?

Applications must be submitted using the online application form on the VicTrack website.

How many applications can I submit?

Each group can submit one application only.

Can I see the questions before I apply?

Yes. We have provided a preview of the application form so you can see the questions and the documents you will need to provide with your application.

How long will applications be open for?

Applications are open until 5pm on Wednesday 27 September.

Who is eligible for funding?

Not-for-profit groups that lease VicTrack land and assets are eligible to apply.

Community groups who sub-lease or licence VicTrack land or buildings from their local council are eligible to apply.

Why are local councils not eligible to apply?

Local councils have a range of other revenue streams they can access that is not available to community groups, and this program is designed to support community groups that have limited funds.

What can the funding be used for?

Examples of eligible projects are:

- Restoring or refurbishing a building, land, or other asset you lease from VicTrack – this could include painting, gardening, landscaping or other general maintenance.
- Helping your group meet regulatory obligations under the lease – for example relating to safety or environmental management.

What restrictions are there on how the funding is used?

The funding cannot be used for:

- paying staff or volunteers
- providing catering, hospitality or hosting events or functions
- paying any outstanding expenses or costs incurred by the group
- repayment of loans incurred by the group
- paying for on-going overheads or other operating costs.

What if I require volunteer hours to complete my project?

If funding for volunteer hours is required, please indicate this in your application. We will fund up to \$990 for volunteer costs, or 45 volunteer hours.

You must include these volunteer costs in the total amount of grant funding you are requesting.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions, or you are unsure if your project meets the eligibility criteria, please email communitygrants@victrack.com.au or phone 03 9619 8889.

Can I submit a late application?

Any applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

How do I update or withdraw my application?

If you need to edit or cancel your application, please email communitygrants@victrack.com.au

Changes to applications will not be accepted after the closing date, but applications can be withdrawn up to the point funds are allocated.

How will my application be assessed?

VicTrack and the Department of Transport and Planning will assess each application against a set of criteria developed internally by our selection panel.

In the event that the grants funding is exhausted because of a high number of applicants, where possible applicants meeting the criteria to receive a grant will be allocated a reduced amount based on the funding available.

This amount will be determined by the selection panel, and will be on a pro-rata basis proportionate to the amount of funding requested by each group.

How will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

VicTrack will contact you using the email address you provided in your application with the outcome of

your application.

Please ensure you check all spam or junk mail folders.

If my project is approved, how do I receive the funding?

If your application is successful, you will be required to complete a vendor form to enable VicTrack to pay funds to your nominated bank account.

Will there be additional funding allocated?

At this stage, VicTrack does not plan to provide any further funding once the current round of community grants closes.