

2025 Impact100 Melbourne Grant Guidelines



Impact100
MELBOURNE

By Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Impact100 Melbourne supports Melburnians to contribute to the city they call home through the power of collective giving.

Impact100 Melbourne disrupts traditional notions of philanthropy providing an opportunity for corporates and individuals to step into the role of changemakers in a city full of clever and transformative ideas.

As a fund of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the goal is to bring together 100 diverse and community-minded members to combine their donations for impactful grants to local organisations, to contribute to a brighter future for Greater Melbourne. Join us in investing in our local community.

With thousands of active giving circles globally, they represent a growing movement in collective philanthropy. This model unites individuals with shared values to create positive change in their communities. By pooling each member's \$1,000 contribution, giving circles have the power to amplify individual impact. Beyond financial support, giving circles offer members the unique opportunity to engage with organisations and projects, providing a hands-on approach to philanthropy.

The successful applicant for the 2025 Impact100 Melbourne grant will receive a minimum of \$80,000.

WHY APPLY FOR AN IMPACT100 MELBOURNE GRANT?

Introduced to Australia 15 years ago, the giving circle model offers a unique way to make philanthropy more accessible to those outside the traditional sector, it allows small contributions to make large and transformative difference for community organisations.

One of Impact100 Melbourne's previous grant recipients, SisterWorks, is an excellent example of what a \$81,000 grant can do to transform an organisation and give it a future. SisterWorks, a social enterprise in Melbourne has continued to grow since receiving this grant, opening three empowerment hubs, a new hospitality hub, manufacturing hub and have supported more than 3000 women from 105 nationalities into meaningful employment. You can read more about SisterWorks and the re-launch of Impact100 Melbourne [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Impact100 Melbourne is governed by a volunteer advisory committee who are responsible for short-listing applicants and selecting finalists. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provides grant administration, management support and will be responsible for contracting the financial distribution of the grant.

1. Organisations will be asked to submit a grant enquiry online. Please [follow the instructions](#) on how to create an account within [Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Grants Portal](#).
2. Impact100 Melbourne Advisory Committee members will review, and a short-listed number of applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application.
3. Four finalists will be selected to engage with the Advisory Committee to help build a greater awareness of the work being done.
4. The final Showcase and Selection Evening event will be held in mid-November to announce the successful application.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Enquiries open:**
14 July – 1 August 2025
- **Invited applications open:**
26 August – 15 September 2025
- **Finalist presentations and site visits:**
13 – 31 October 2025
- **Showcase and Selection Evening:**
mid-November

EXPECTATION OF FINALISTS

The four finalist organisations will be required to participate in a site visit or presentation during the month of October with the Impact100 Melbourne Advisory Committee. This will provide an opportunity for Impact100 Melbourne members to learn more about your organisation.

Site visits will only occur if considered relevant to the project and organisation, and only if there is a mutual agreement with the finalist organisation. Site visits can be arranged either in-person or virtually, subject to availability.

Finalists will be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice for the site visits / presentations, which are expected to take no more than three hours of your time.

If your organisation is one of the selected four finalists, you will be required to attend the Showcase and Selection Evening in mid-November.

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SUPPORT FOR FINALISTS

In recognition of the time needed to participate in the Impact100 Melbourne grant round, all four finalists will be awarded support from Benefolk Foundation.

Benefolk will work with the four organisations providing access to pre-paid professional services and expertise through the Benefolk Network of experts.

Benefolk expertise covers 300 capability areas from governance to fundraising, impact measurement to government relations, and more. The Benefolk team will help map out your priority needs and match you up with highly vetted specialists to support your organisation's growth and development.

Impact100 Melbourne is thrilled to partner with Benefolk to provide their capacity building program to the four finalists who will have committed a great deal of time and effort within this grant round.

FOCUS AREAS

Impact100 Melbourne is seeking to support **small to medium-sized organisations** as per the [ACNC definition](#) and/or **emerging projects and initiatives** that make a tangible difference for **Melburnians**.

Through a strong justice and equity lens, Impact100 Melbourne will focus on members of the community who experience disproportionate impacts from social and economic challenges, and whose voices are too often underrepresented in decision-making, public conversations, and policy responses — including, but not limited to, youth, women, and First Nations people.

To be eligible for an Impact100 Melbourne grant your application enquiry must align with the Community Outcome for either of these Impact Areas:

Housing Justice

Ending homelessness, and increasing affordable, adequate housing.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME:

Increase support to end homelessness for youth, women, First Nations people and other priority cohorts.

This may include community-based models of support, housing stability initiatives or wraparound services that are led by or deeply embedded in the communities they serve.

Economic Justice

Local economies build community ownership and power supported by institutions safeguarding an equitable and sustainable future.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME:

Support local economic development innovations through new business practices and community wealth building.

This grant round focuses on supporting small-scale, community-based initiatives and programs that create opportunities for economic participation and inclusion for people facing systemic barriers. This could include new or evolving ideas or grassroots organisations that build skills, generate income, or foster shared community benefit as well as strengthen local connection, belonging, and resilience.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applying organisations must be endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC)
- Applicants must be operating in Greater Melbourne, and directly benefit the Greater Melbourne Community
- Funding will be prioritised towards small to medium sized organisations, as per [ACNC charity size](#) definition and/or;
- Emerging projects / initiatives that make a tangible difference for Melburnians

EXPENDITURE COMPLIANCE

Expenditure that will not be considered for funding:

- Debt reduction or operational deficits
- Individuals (this includes scholarship programs)
- Attendance at conference or fundraising events
- Political or funding events
- Religious organisations where the grant is intended for the principal benefit of the organisation's own members or adherents, or where the grant is intended for inherently religious activities
- Clinical or medical research
- Programs that discriminate or create community conflicts
- Legal expenses
- General campaigns

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I submit more than one enquiry?

Only one enquiry will be accepted from each organisation.

2. Who is the Impact100 Melbourne Advisory Committee?

The Impact100 Melbourne Advisory Committee is driven by volunteers who help to ensure the effective governance and that all members are provided with opportunities to participate, and decisions are made collaboratively. You will find out more information about each member [here](#).

3. Can I apply if my proposal is less than the grant total?

No, your application must be for the Impact100 Melbourne grant or more if you obtain additional funding from other organisations.

4. Can I apply with auspice?

No, the organisation applying for the grant must be the one undertaking the project or program.

5. If successful, is there a time frame of when the grant must be spent?

The Impact100 Melbourne grant is a 12-month grant and is required to be spent by the end date of your project.

6. What are the reporting requirements?

The successful organisation will be asked to share their story and the impact of the grant at the completion of their project with the Impact100 Melbourne members, discussing what was achieved and how your project assisted your community. In addition, a brief final acquittal report will also be required.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any further questions regarding the Impact100 Melbourne Grant round, please feel free to contact the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation Grants Team via

@ grants@lmcf.org.au