Introduction:
Through its Community Vision and aim to improve the quality of life of its residents, the City of Marion has a strong commitment to the provision of support to its community.

The purpose of the Community Grants Program is to assist local not for profit organisations, community groups and voluntary associations to establish and undertake projects or activities that are beneficial for the community and which support the City of Marion Strategic Plan.

The City of Marion is committed to a diverse and inclusive community. Applications should reflect and celebrate this by ensuring projects, programs and activities are inclusive and as accessible as possible for all groups, including people of various gender, age, sexuality, cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs and those living with disability.

Further information relating to City of Marion grants, including eligibility criteria, upcoming round dates, information sessions and the online application can be found at: https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/grants

Pre-eligibility Checklist:
Applications that do not pass the pre-eligibility criteria checklist will not progress to the assessment stage.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Demonstrates a strong benefit to City of Marion residents
- Applications are submitted by incorporated not for profit organisations, community groups or voluntary associations. **NOTE:** Groups that are not incorporated require an incorporated body that is willing to auspice the project (accept the funds on behalf of the non-incorporated body and responsibility for the funding).
- Applicants have provided completed financial information and supplied required quotes (if applicable)

Ineligible Projects:
The following will render an application ineligible:
- Schools are not eligible to apply.
- Individual, private, political or commercial enterprise or activities
- The project has commenced or retrospective funding (any money spent before a grant is approved).
- Ongoing operating costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to project delivery.
- Payment of salaries (facilitator/instructor fees will be accepted).
- Fundraising or sponsorship (may be eligible through our Donations and Sponsorship grant)
- Projects that duplicate an existing or similar project/service within the community.
- Interstate or overseas travel
- Academic research or conference costs
- The organisation has an outstanding debt owing to Council. **Please note that this does not apply to organisations that have a loan with council and are complying with the repayment terms.**

Funding
Each of the two funding rounds include one grant of up to $10,000, several grants up to $5,000 and the remainder of monies is for amounts up to $2,000.

Applications are accepted from groups that have received grant funding in previous financial years, but priority may be given to organisations that have not received funding within the previous two financial years.

Please note that meeting the eligibility criteria alone does not guarantee funding. There is a limited budget available for the Community Grants Program and assessment is highly competitive. The decision to award a grant is made by Council and the decision of Council is considered final.
Support with your application
Applicants are strongly encouraged to refer to the Grant Guidelines and City of Marion Strategic Plan prior to considering an application. Due to the competitive nature of the program, all potential applicants are invited to attend the Community Grants Information Sessions or to contact the Grants Officer to discuss their project and ensure it meets the requirements, prior to submitting an application. Please phone 08 8375 6600 or email council@marion.sa.gov.au (including subject title “Community Grants”).

How are applications assessed?
The City of Marion reserves the right to provide funding at its sole discretion, however in order to assess applications the following process will be undertaken:
- Applications will be assessed against eligibility.
- Applications will be assessed in accordance with grant guidelines and available funds.
- Applications will be assessed against the City of Marion Community Vision, Community Grants purpose, and the City of Marion’s Diversity and Inclusion commitment statement.

Eligible projects will be assessed by the following criteria:
- Benefit to the community
- Opportunities for social interaction
- Embracing and developing new ideas
- Creating a vibrant community with opportunities for all
- Increasing volunteering opportunities
- The listed criteria under the relevant focus area/category (i.e. Community Development, Arts & Culture, Environment, or Sport & Recreation)

The $10,000 category will be further assessed against the following criteria:
- Background information on why the project is important
- Innovation
- Strength of the budget submitted
- Relevant quotes submitted
- Risk management (regarding the delivery of the project), complete the supplier risk assessment template
- Identified key partners

Grant Focus Areas
We encourage grants in the following focus areas:
- Community Development
- Arts and Culture
- Valuing Nature and Sustainability
- Sport and Recreation

Although your project may encompass more than one area you may only select one category per application.

Grant Outcomes
Community Development
Through the Community Development category we seek to encourage applicants to apply for funding reflecting Community Wellbeing themes. Organisations with projects that address the following areas are encouraged to apply:
- Strong and engaged communities
- Safe and welcoming communities
- Build on local strengths to develop active, friendly and connected neighbourhoods
  - Encourage an inclusive community that values diversity and engagement
  - Connecting people and places
- Opportunity for skills development
- Activities that encourage social interaction
- Healthy lifestyles and healthy communities

https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/community-grants  Community Development Team 08 8375 6600 council@marion.sa.gov.au
Arts and Culture
Under the Arts and Culture category, we encourage applicants to apply for funding for projects, which support:
- Artistic community-led projects
- Collaborations with artists to support artistic and cultural expression in the community
- Creativity and innovation through arts, business, health, community and education sectors
- Celebration of our rich cultural diversity and identity
- Preservation of our heritage and valuing the past
- Development of vibrant public places that express local identity, meet local needs and encourage belonging
- Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians

Valuing Nature and Sustainability
Protecting our environment and finding ways to live more sustainably will bring us all closer to a healthier future. Through the Valuing Nature and Sustainability category, we invite applications for funding of services, activities or resources that align with the Strategic Plan commitments:
- Building community resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Minimising our energy and water consumption
- Minimising our waste and increasing our recycling
- Building community knowledge and skills relating to green behaviours
- Enhancing our local biodiversity
- Protecting our water resources e.g. watercourses, water sensitive urban design
- Encouraging community gardening in public spaces

Sport and Recreation
In the Sport and Recreation category, we encourage clubs and groups to apply for funding which supports:
- Innovative projects or activities
- Projects or activities that support the community as a one off event or that are sustainable without future Council funding
- Projects that encourage healthy lifestyles and communities
- Facility development that meets City of Marion Strategic Plan commitments, including increasing opportunities to improve the community’s physical health and wellbeing

Funding is not intended to supplement the day-to-day operations of a club, e.g. the purchase of sports uniforms, equipment, trophies, etc. Where clubs are pursuing a new initiative which it does not currently provide for, such as a Come ‘n Try program or starting a Special Needs program, then purchase of sporting equipment to run the program will be individually assessed by the panel with clubs being required to demonstrate the unavailability or unsuitability of existing club equipment.

Financial reporting and project evaluation
Applicants will be required to submit a report and acquittal form online. The acquittal is due one month after the completion of the project or 12 months from the receipt of funding, whichever is earlier. Evidence of expenditure must be provided – all receipts must be attached to the online acquittal.

The acquittal statement verifies that the grant funding has been spent in accordance with the project budget provided in the application form. Final acquittal of the grant requires a statement of income and expenditure for the project as well as some evaluation documentation.

The Evaluation Form provides valuable feedback to the City of Marion on how your project and community have benefited from the Community Grants Program.

Further terms and conditions are included within the application process