Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program (EVGP) Frequently Asked Questions



THE IMPORTANT STUFF.....

ROUND 2

- Grant applications open 1200hrs Friday, 01 June 2018
- Grant applications close 2300hrs Saturday, 30 June 2018

THE REAL NITTY GRITTY GUIDE

How do I apply?

All applications must be lodged on CFA SmartyGrants portal found here https://cfa.smartygrants.com.au/EVGP2

Should access to the internet be a problem, please contact your DBASO/RBASO in your area for assistance.

How much money can I apply for?

Grant applications will be available for individual Brigades – No minimum or maximum amount.

Grant applications up to a maximum of \$250,000 for collective applications from groups of at least 10 Brigades.

What types of things can I apply for?

Be creative in your applications – look beyond the usual things that are applied for under grant schemes.

Here are some areas that you might like to consider:

- Managing rural community decline and the impact on our volunteer based emergency services – conduct local workshops with a trained facilitator and invite the community to attend
- Implement a program to attract and recruit women and a diversity of membership that is more reflective of the local community.
- Promote a healthy brigade culture which may involve team building days, inclusion programs and leadership support just to name a few.
- Collectively apply for a grant to buy flag poles and Australian and Aboriginal flags for your brigades – flags are important symbols representing respect and dignity within a community.
- Get together and organise a traditional Smoking Ceremony in your local area A smoking ceremony is all about building partnerships based on cultural exchange and knowledge sharing
- Apply for a collective grant to cover the basics outdoor marquee, tables, chairs, fridge etc...
- Why not apply for a grant to construct a fire retardant garden at your brigade, or at a central community hub to engage and educate others. Hold an opening event to

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- celebrate and involve the greater community kindergartens, scouts, community groups.
- Found a great volunteer or emergency services conference you want to attend? Why
 not apply for a grant to help cover costs to get a bunch of your members there together.
- Social media & blogging: Have an active presence online and put out quality content.
 Interacting with your community will continuously grow your audience, and applying for a grant can help you resource it.
- Build volunteer capacity and capability in brigade functional areas e.g., community safety administrative roles by holding an information day/evening and publicise to your local area.

Think outside the square......

How do we submit an application that falls under infrastructure?

If your application relates to CFA INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES (includes, but not limited to such items as building modifications/additions, renovations, generators, security systems, water tanks, LED messaging signs etc.) it is a program requirement that you obtain pre-approval from Project Manager - Phillip Hand, (Tel: 03 54302200, Mobile: 0408 303 935) Email-p.hand@cfa.vic.gov.au prior to commencing your application.

Applications that are not pre-approved by CFA Infrastructure Services will not be considered under EVGP.

What happens if my quote changes after I have submitted my application?

We understand that quotes from suppliers can change. Should this be the situation, please ensure that you contact us at grantsprogram@cfa.vic.gov.au as soon as you are aware of any changes to your submitted costs.

Can more than one application be made under this grants program?

Yes, you are able to submit more than once, however please be aware that applications will be prioritised, and that we will endeavour to ensure an equitable distribution of grant money across the State. You must also keep in mind the maximum amount of money you are able to apply for

Do I need to complete a CFA Fundraising Application? No.

Who do I contact at CFA regarding this grants program?

Please direct all enquiries to <u>grantsprogram@cfa.vic.gov.au</u> and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Will there be an additional round?

No, this round will be the last round under Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program.

Can we just submit a quote from any supplier?

Please obtain quotes from reputable suppliers, and it is strongly advised that you consult the CFA State Logistics Centre catalogue as many items that you may wish to apply for can be found there – and they are already deemed as being CFA approved.

I have submitted my application, what happens next?

A robust process has been established and we are endeavouring to keep you in the loop as much as possible once you hit 'submit' on your application.

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The process timeline below should help you understand what happens to your application at every point, and will hopefully give you some understanding around the time it takes from submission to approval and beyond.....

Application Process

- Applications developed by a Brigade or Groups of Brigades independently or with assistance from DBASO's/RBASO's/OO's/OM's (as required)
- Applications submitted online via SmartyGrants to Volunteer Sustainability State Team (VST)

Assessment Process

- •Applications checked against agreed criteria by VST State Team and sent to Operations Managers (OM) and Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) for appraisal. DPC's will also be consulted at this stage.
- Further assessment of applications will be considered by CFA 'subject matter experts' relative to what is being applied for, to ensure compliance with regulations and policy.
- Applications meeting agreed criteria, and on recommendation of internal departments (as indicated above) are assessed by CFA Assessment Panel with recommendations submitted to CFA CEO & Chief Officer
- •Unsuccessful applicants will be advised, together with reason why they have been unsuccessful

Endorsement Process

- •Formal announcement of successful applications are made and letter of offer extended to those concerned.
- Asssistant Chief Officers (ACO) and Operations Managers (OM) will be advised collectively of successful applications

Implementation Phase

- Procurement arrangements are coordinated by the appropriate CFA program area to ensure compliance with procurement requirements.
- Successful applicants liaise with relevent CFA program areas or CFA Finance regarding allocation of funds and begin initiative.

Acquittal Phase

• All applicants will be required to acquit their grant funds online via SmartyGrants by the advised date.

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How do I receive the funds?

This will be determined by CFA Finance and will be advised to you on confirmation of your successful application.

Can I apply for items already purchased?

No, if your project has already commenced, or you have already purchased something then you are ineligible to apply for a grant retroactively.

Will I be notified if I am unsuccessful?

Yes indeed – you will be notified if your application is unsuccessful and why it was unsuccessful.

How do I acquit the grant money?

Acquittal of grant funds will be done online via SmartyGrants and you will be able to upload supporting information/receipts etc.

What if I don't use all the money we have been granted?

You will be required to return unexpended money if your project comes in under the specified amount.

What if our project comes in over our allocated amount?

We understand that at times projects cost more than what you have been granted; however there will be no onus that any shortfall will be covered by this Grants Program. It will be up to the applicant to negotiate alternative funds, whether this is through further fundraising or other approved alternative funding sources.

What types of things are we EXCLUDED from applying for?

- Projects commenced prior to final approval are not eligible.
- o Applications that duplicate existing CFA programs will not be funded.
- o Equipment that does not meet CFA Safety Standards will not be approved.
- Tankers, Big Fills, Specialist Appliances and additions to the fleet will not be considered under this program.

What else do I need to know?

- Give thought to ongoing costs and expenses with the items that you have applied for under this scheme, as these ongoing costs will not be supported by this program.
- Do the items requested comply with CFA operational/legislative and HSE&W regulations?

These Frequently Asked Questions will be updated routinely.