

## AO COMMUNITY GRANTS

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

#### OVERVIEW

The **AO Community Grants** program supports projects that demonstrate how tennis can have a positive impact in local communities across Australia. Administered by Tennis Australia in conjunction with Member Associations, applications will be considered for projects aimed at supporting local community programs that are working to improve the health and wellbeing of our diverse communities.

There are two categories in which applicants can apply for a Community Grant:

1. Small Grants (\$500 - \$5,000)
2. Expansion Grants (\$5,001 - \$10,000)

A total funding pool of \$100,000 is available for distribution. Recipients will have up to one year to complete their project and will be required to submit a project evaluation report.

#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications are open to the following:

- **Member Association (MA) Affiliated Clubs** (i.e. Clubs affiliated with Tennis Victoria, Tennis NSW, Tennis West, Tennis QLD, Tennis SA, Tennis ACT, Tennis NT or Tennis Tasmania);
- **Not-for-Profit (NFP) Organisations** (must provide evidence of a partnership with either an affiliated club or TA Coach member); and
- **Tennis Australia (TA) Coach Members**

Type	Who can Apply?	Grant Size
Small Grants	MA Affiliated Clubs, NFPs, TA Coach Members	\$500 - \$5,000
Expansion Grants	MA Affiliated Clubs, NFPs	\$5,001 - \$10,000

**\*NFPs should liaise with Member Associations when developing partnerships with affiliated clubs or TA coach members.**

#### FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Community Grants that have a strong emphasis on enhancing a sense of community belonging for underserved communities or marginalised groups, including;
  - socioeconomic disadvantaged communities;
  - Indigenous Australians;
  - culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities;
  - LGBTIQ people and communities;
  - geographically isolated communities; and
  - persons with disabilities.
2. Community need for the project can be clearly illustrated.
3. Projects have tangible measures to show community impact.
4. Projects/programs show a level of sustainability.
5. Applicant body and partnering organisations have the capacity to successfully undertake the project.

## **SMALL GRANTS**

### **Objectives**

Small Community Grants will be provided to deliver practical projects that engage the local community by either:

- a) Delivering tennis opportunities to diverse communities in inclusive and engaging ways, or
- b) Using tennis as a vehicle to connect and engage community members who face barriers to participation

**Minimum Amount:      \$500                      Maximum Amount:      \$5,000**

Small grants are aimed at organisations wanting to deliver focused programs at a local level or clubs/coaches seeking to create financial subsidies for targeted participants. Funds may be used to improve existing programs or initiate new ideas. Projects which provide new opportunities for clearly identified community groups will be prioritised.

**Example projects** may include:

- Coaching bursaries or subsidies for individuals or groups who would otherwise face obstacles to participation (see funding priority 1). Funds may be used for coaching, membership fees and participation in tournaments or travel. Max \$500 per individual.
- Participation programs aimed at underserved communities listed in funding priority 1.
- Projects using tennis as a vehicle to impact community engagement or participation eg. After school homework club held before tennis activities, tennis lessons for identified cultural groups to help assimilate to Australian culture, tennis program for families where a member has a disability etc.
- LGBTIQ engagement festival with an ongoing participation program.
- Infrastructure to directly impact inclusion and diversity participation.
- Equipment to support program delivery will be considered in context of an overall project. Equipment alone is not eligible for funding.

## **EXPANSION GRANTS**

### **Objectives**

In addition to the focus of small grants outlined above, the following criteria must be met to be eligible for an expansion grant:

- Organisations must have a strong track record in successfully delivering inclusive programs to one of the target community groups outlined in funding priority 1.
- Projects must demonstrate the ability to increase the reach of the organisation's existing programs and community impact.
- Projects must show a level of sustainability to continue once the funding period has ended.
- Not for Profit community groups must provide evidence of strong connections with an affiliated club or TA coach member for program delivery.

**Minimum Amount:      \$5,001                      Maximum Amount:      \$10,000**

Expansion Grants are aimed at established organisations with proven programs who can maximise value of investment by expanding existing services to reach additional clientele. Projects that can demonstrate expanded reach and high return on investment will be prioritised.

**Example projects** may include:

- Exercise program aimed at improving mental wellbeing of participants using tennis programs or products.
- Social inclusion program for people from the LGBTIQA community or a defined cultural group using tennis as a vehicle for connecting to the local community.
- Delivering tennis activities to groups of people with disabilities to provide social and physical activity and/or inclusion.

### **PAYMENT OF GRANTS**

Successful projects to the value of \$2,000 will receive a lump sum payment to complete their project. Grants valued over \$2,000 will receive a 50% initial payment and the remaining 50% upon submission of their project report.

### **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA/WEIGHTING**

**Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:**

1. Evidence of strong project alignment with AO Community Grants objectives - (20%)
2. Evidence that there is a strong need for the project in the community - (20%)
3. Evidence that the project provides a strong benefit and/or expanded reach to the community - (20%)
4. Evidence that clear impact measures have been defined for reporting – (15%)
5. Evidence of a thoroughly thought through budget - (15%)
6. Evidence that the community supports the project - (5%)
7. Evidence that the applicant has the capacity to successfully undertake the project - (5%)

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications must be lodged online via the SmartyGrants application system.

<https://tennis.smartygrants.com.au/>

For assistance with the online application process via SmartyGrants, please contact:

Jay Schuback – [jschuback@tennis.com.au](mailto:jschuback@tennis.com.au) – (03) 9914 4163

**For assistance or advice about your project, please contact your state Member Association.**

### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

- Tennis Australia will shortlist applications based on assessment criteria above and the shortlisted applications will then be reviewed by the relevant Member Associations.
- The Member Association will provide feedback on the merit of the projects as well as applicant capacity to implement the projects.
- Tennis Australia and the Member Association will jointly decide on which applicants will be successful in obtaining grants.
- Applicants will be informed of assessment results.
- All funded projects must provide a post project evaluation report to Tennis Australia and the Member Association at the end of the project.

**TIMELINE – KEY DATES**

**Round 3 – 2017/18**

<i>Applications Open</i>	<i>10:00am - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017</i>
<i>Applications Close</i>	<i>4:00pm - Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017</i>
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>
<i>Grants Awarded</i>	<i>Early October 2017</i>
<i>Begin Project</i>	<i>October 2017</i>
<i>Post Project Evaluation</i>	<i>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 <b>OR BEFORE</b></i>

A full set of Terms and Conditions for **AO Community Grants** is set out in the application form and at [www.tennis.com.au/tenniscares](http://www.tennis.com.au/tenniscares). Applicants are encouraged to read the Terms and Conditions carefully before submitting their application.

If you have any further enquiries please don't hesitate to email [tenniscares@tennis.com.au](mailto:tenniscares@tennis.com.au).