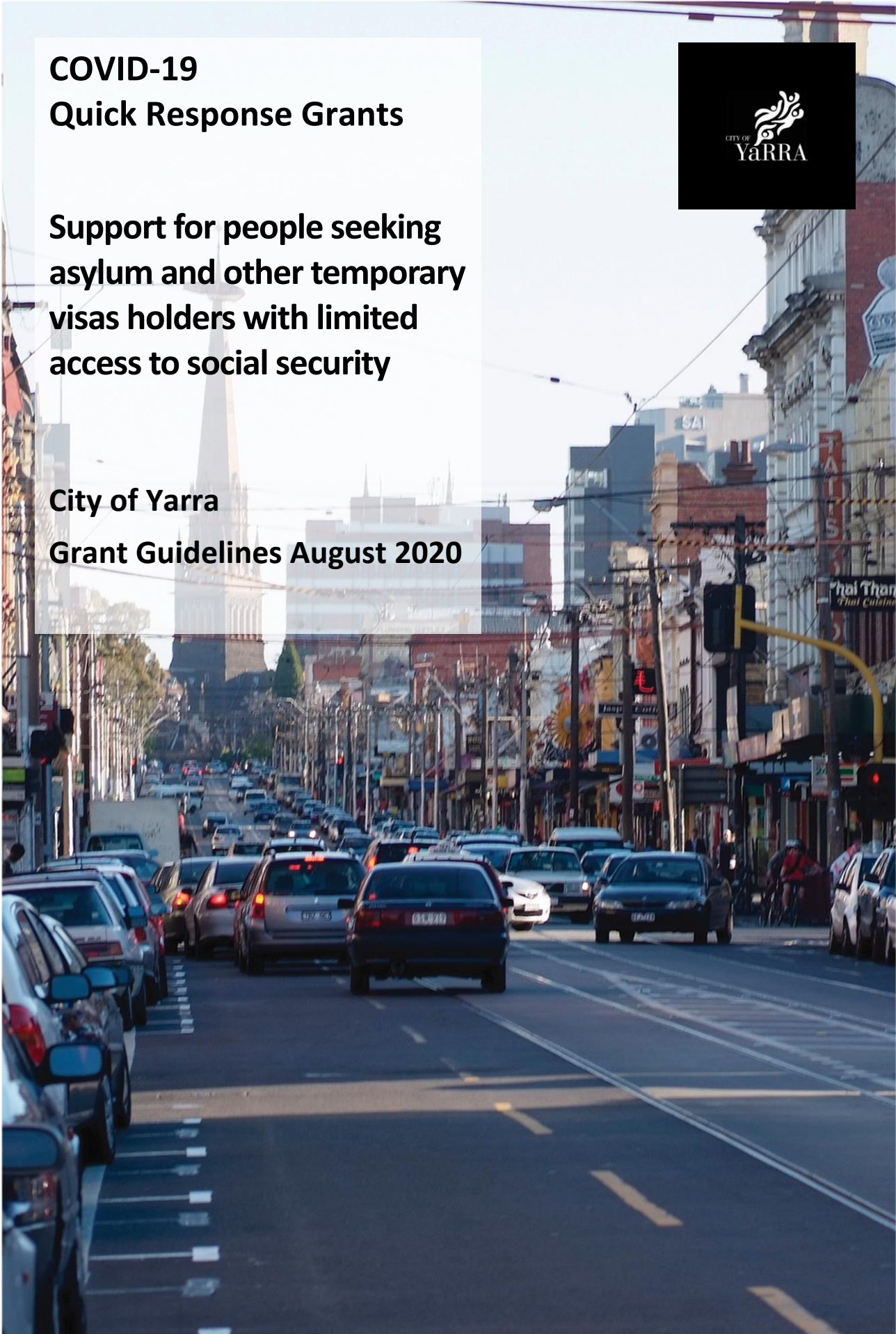


COVID-19 Quick Response Grants

**Support for people seeking
asylum and other temporary
visas holders with limited
access to social security**

**City of Yarra
Grant Guidelines August 2020**



City of Yarra COVID-19 Quick Response Grants Guidelines

Support for people seeking asylum and other temporary visas holders with limited access to social security

Background

Yarra City Council has been an official Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002, recognising and welcoming those who have arrived on humanitarian visas, people seeking asylum and those who come from refugee backgrounds.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Yarra City Council has announced a number of measures to help support vulnerable community members. People seeking asylum and other temporary visa holders have few rights and limited access to social security and are among the most in need of support during the current period.

Council is offering grant funding to not-for-profit community organisations operating in the City of Yarra to provide emergency relief to people seeking asylum and other eligible temporary visa holders who are experiencing financial hardship and who are based in or otherwise have a demonstrated connection to the City of Yarra.

Emergency relief is to help people meet their basic needs like clothing, food and groceries, medication, public transportation and meeting utility expenses. Emergency relief payments are not income support. They are limited and we know may not meet all needs that people will have.

The program pool is \$50,000 and is available to be distributed directly to eligible people in the form of direct material support (up to \$250 in value). As the maximum grant is equal to the total amount available, it is possible that just one grant will be awarded.

Several not-for-profit organisations working with eligible community members have been invited to apply for this grant.

Timelines

Applications are now open and remain open until 11:59pm Sunday 16 August 2020. Applicants should expect to be notified of the outcome within two weeks. If you are successful, you will be sent a funding agreement. Once you have returned this, along with any other required paperwork such as a bank statement, we aim to have the grant paid within two weeks of receipt of the necessary documents.

Projects must be completed by 1 March 2021.

Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Does the project have clearly defined aims?
- Does the applicant have the capacity to successfully complete the project?
- Is the budget for this project realistic, balanced and complete?

Eligibility Criteria

Any proposed activities will be required to be undertaken within COVID-19 protocols as identified by Federal and State Government directives.

Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must be based or be currently operating in the City of Yarra
- Applicants must have an active ABN*.
 - Not-for-profit community groups that meet all other eligibility criteria but do not have an ABN can have their applications auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation or Neighbourhood House.

- Applicants must be a not-for-profit, incorporated community group (that is a group with a voluntary membership who come together to pursue a common goal) **OR** meet one of the following specific exceptions:
 - Be a registered charity, public benevolent institution or have deductible gift recipient status;
 - Applicants must have acquitted previous Council grants and have no outstanding debts to Yarra City Council.

Eligible Projects

- Appropriate emergency relief includes the provision of clothing; food and groceries, either in parcels or suitable gift cards (such as the groceries cards provided by Coles, Woolworths, Aldi or IGA); chemist vouchers; part-payment of utility account/s; and myki credit for public transportation.
- Projects must exclusively support eligible temporary visa holders experiencing financial hardship, who are based in, or otherwise have a demonstrated connection to, the City of Yarra.
 - Eligible temporary visas are as follows: Bridging Visa (any), Temporary Protection Visa, Safe Haven Enterprise Visa and other temporary visas such as Student; Temporary Skilled and Working Holiday Maker.
 - People are considered to be experiencing financial hardship if they have: Negligible or no income, no personal savings and no access to other support.
- Evidence of current or most recent visa could either be passport number or immi card number. Evidence of financial hardship could be a bank statement (or screenshot) that is no more than 2 weeks old. Council will not be requesting or expecting any information regarding individual recipients of emergency relief.

Applicants that are not eligible

- Businesses or for-profit organisations.
- Previous grant recipients with overdue acquittals.

Projects that are not eligible

- Activities that do not demonstrate a strong connection with the City of Yarra or deliver benefits to the Yarra community.
- Building, capital works or facility maintenance works.
- Ongoing staff salaries or administration costs.
- Applications to fund projects retrospectively.

How to Apply

Applications can be made online through Council's website, at <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au>

Acquittal

Each grant recipient is required to submit an acquittal form within two months of completion of the project.

The required acquittal form will be linked to your application in the My Submissions area of SmartyGrants. When you are ready to submit the acquittal form please log onto <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au> and submit it in the same way you submitted your grant application.