



Community Partnership Program Policy 2025

Since 2006, **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** has invested **over \$4 million** into community projects, benefiting **more than 300 local groups**. Our mission is to support those working to improve our community and enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives, works, plays, and grows here.

Owned by locals and powered by volunteers, we're more than just a friendly and competitive bank—we're your neighbours, partners, and champions. Every transaction with us isn't just about banking; it's about investing in our community's future and supporting social initiatives.

Partnership Program Aims

- Develop reciprocal partnerships between the **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** and the broader community so that the bank grows and the community benefits
- Enhance social capital, cohesiveness and community capacity
- Establish strong community networks and a culture of mutual support within a healthy and vibrant local community
- Promote the Community Bank as the centre of a dynamic, progressive and prosperous community unique to the inner north of Melbourne.

Community Partnership Priorities for Autumn 2025

This **Autumn 2025 Community Partnership Program**, we will only accept applications **under \$10,000** and prioritise applications for projects that address at least one of the following:

- Support young people and children's health and well-being,
- Support disadvantaged people and families who are experiencing housing stress,
- Activities that provide community inclusion and cohesion.

Who we Partner

The **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** partners organisations that offer:

- Clear benefits to, and valuable impact on our community
- Community Partnership with reciprocal benefits. Our partnerships provide funding benefits to your organisation and access to our community network. In return, we expect funded partners to refer members and supporters to our Community Bank, where they will enjoy preferential banking service from our Branch Manager and staff.
- Opportunities to promote the positive impact of community partnership via your organisation's communications channels, such as social media, membership email newsletters, website, noticeboards, speaking opportunities at events
- Promotion and branding opportunities such as speaker spots for bank directors and staff at key events, attendance at events and acknowledgement of our Community Bank support, signage, logo placement, distribution of Community Bank promotional material, use of our gazebos and pull-up banners etc

Community Partner Mutual Benefits

A partnership with the **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** creates many opportunities for reciprocal benefits through our preferential banking services and access to our network of community partners and local businesses.

Following a successful application, we will meet with you to discuss how we can all benefit from our partnership particular to your project, event, activity and organisation.

As a minimum, support and promotion of our partnership is expected as follows:

- All partnered organisations must maintain a bank account with the **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** to receive the partnership funds
- Our bank manager and staff are pleased to offer your organisation, members and stakeholders personal and preferential service
- Display our logo and name physically and or digitally as appropriate
- Invite our branch manager or directors to speak at event where appropriate
- Social media / newsletter announcements and recommendations to consider banking with our Community Bank
- Display of bank promotional material at event or venue
- Keep in regular contact with our Community Liaison Officer regarding your project
- Meet with our Community Liaison Officer and Branch manager to discuss how we can both benefit from our partnership.

Our Community Bank staff and directors are delighted to welcome you to our **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** community. As part of our community, we offer:

- Your organisation, board, members and families preferential banking services
- Promotion of your event / activity, project etc on our social media channels, e-newsletters and to our wider Bendigo Bank network
- Invitations to attend our exclusive Community Bank events – such as business breakfasts, networking and capacity building opportunities and our AGM
- You and your community to join and access a network of like-minded community groups, local small businesses and a wealth of information and contacts within our community for your every need

The details of the mutual obligations of all successful applications will be negotiated and documented in a Partnership Agreement to be signed by the bank Branch Manager and partnering organisation.

Eligibility Criteria

- The partner activity, event or project must align and be consistent with Bendigo Bank's corporate image and identity as a community-based organisation.
- Partnerships are prioritised for organisations in our local geographical catchment: Clifton Hill, North Fitzroy, Northcote, Fairfield, Thornbury, Alphington, Fitzroy, Collingwood, Abbotsford, East Brunswick and North Carlton.
- Organisations must be in a sound financial position and must provide copies of annual reports which include financials, when requested.
- Activities that could involve our Community Bank or the Bendigo Bank in controversial issues or expose the parties to adverse criticism must be avoided.

The following are regarded as inappropriate to receive funding, subject as always to Board discretion:

- Political organisations
- Events or programs that denigrate, exclude or offend
- Events that encourage gambling or substance abuse
- Events that create environmental hazards or may present a hazard to the community
- Programs that do not reflect community standards
- Programs sponsored or partnered by our direct competitors

Assessment Process

1. A Partnership Review Committee comprising Board members, Shareholder, Branch Manager and our Community Liaison Officer will review and evaluate all partnership applications
2. A Director or Committee member who declares a conflict of interest will be excluded from the decision-making process for that particular application
3. All applicants will receive a formal letter within six weeks of the application deadline to advise their outcome
4. The Committee is delegated to approve partnership applications up to \$5,000. For applications above \$5,000 and under \$10,000, the Committee must make a recommendation to the Board
5. The Committee aims to support a diverse range of organisations to maximise community impact and benefit.

We will only accept applications under \$10,000.

Conditions of Partnerships

Partnership funds must be:

- Used for a project that will be completed within 12 months unless otherwise agreed
- Used for the purposes of the project / event detailed in the original application unless written approval is obtained from the Board prior to any variation
- Returned to **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** if the project / event does not proceed
- Paid into the organisation's **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** account (newly opened or existing)
- Acknowledged as a **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy** partnership on communications and promotional material associated with the funded project / event
- Approved solely at the discretion of the Board

Community Partners are accountable for the funds they receive in terms of the impact and benefit to the community, the banking business, and the shareholders of our Community Bank.

It is expected that partners will:

- Act as positive advocates for the **Community Bank Clifton Hill - North Fitzroy**
- Actively encourage members and supporters to consider banking with our Community Bank and refer them to the bank
- Complete our online Evaluation Form at the completion, or during key periods to assist in measuring the success of our partnership.

Note: Information provided by applicants and the Committee's assessment of each application will be maintained on a confidential database which may be made available to auditors, Bendigo Bank, or other authorised entity to ensure transparency and accountability to the shareholders of our Community Bank.

Supporting documentation

You must provide the following supporting documentation for all applications

- Current bank statement for your organisation.
- Project budget which clearly shows how you will spend the funds, and quotes for all budget applications greater than \$5,000.
- Letters of support to demonstrate community need and benefit (optional).
- Applications involving a project partner must include a letter of their support and a copy of their financials. Email us for a template.
- Proof of other approved funding or your own funds to put towards the project. (including in-kind support).
- Evidence of all necessary licences, permits and insurances which will enable you to run your project (e.g. public liability insurance, local council permits).
- For projects involving children, evidence that relevant personnel have Working With Children Checks.

Evaluation Process

All organisations who receive partnership funding will be required to complete an online Evaluation Form at the completion, or during the key periods, of the partnership. This is used to gauge feedback and assist the Community Bank in measuring the success of its Partnership Program.

When to Apply for a Partnership

We offer two Partnership Programs a year in Spring and Autumn.

Applications for this Partnership Program close at midnight on **Monday 31 March 2025**.

Manager's Discretion Partnerships

Our Branch Manager has the capacity to agree to a small number of partnerships up to \$1,000 each financial year. The number is set by the annual budget process.

The proposed project must also meet the partnership criteria and organisations can only apply once for this type of partnership per financial year. You will be asked to indicate in the Application Form if you are applying for this 'unexpected / out-of-time partnership'. Please contact our Community Liaison Officer for more information.

How to Apply for Partnership

Follow this link to our application form:

<https://communitybankcliftonhill-northfitzroy.smartygrants.com.au/>

We will send you a confirmation email to your registered email address once your application has been submitted.

To ensure a fair process, we will not accept late applications or provide extensions.

We may contact you during the assessment process to request more information, evidence or to clarify information provided in your grant application.

If we refer this application to the Community Enterprise Foundation to assess and administer, you will be notified and provided with relevant information.

Privacy information

[View our privacy policy here](#)

Further Information

To keep up to date regarding our two Partnership Programs and the great work that our partnerships are doing in our Community, follow us at:

www.facebook.com/communitybankcliftonhillnorthfitzroy

www.instagram.com/communitybankcliftonhill/

www.linkedin.com/company/community-bank-clifton-hill-north-fitzroy

Application queries

Lee Chia – Community Liaison Officer

E: partnerships@clifroy.com, T: 0403 232 003

For technical support with application hub

SmartyGrants–Our Community

E: service@smartygrants.com.au, T: 03 9320 6888