

Community Funding Program Review

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Community Consultation Report

Council is reviewing its Community Funding Program and is invited the community to participate.

This review will help Council ensure that the program is relevant and meets community needs. We also want to ensure it is efficient and accessible, as well as equitable, sustainable, and transparent.

The community was invited to have their say in the following ways:

- Direct email to Place and Community Development databases
- Direct email to community funding recipients
- Direct email to 3,208 Collaborate database members
- Social media promotions via Council's pages

Council provided a number of ways to participate:

- Online survey on Collaborate Canada Bay
- An online workshop on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 18 October at 5:30-6:30pm.
- Contact details to call/email the team - contact details can be found on this page

Feedback summary

- 18 survey submissions (organisations on page 18)
- 14 workshop participants from 26 registrations
- 493 visits to Collaborate website
- 48 organisations supported in 2023/24

About the respondents

- 15 of 18 survey participants have applied for community grant or sponsorship in the past. Those that did not are not eligible to apply. All workshop participants have applied for a community grant or sponsorship in the past.
- 13 of 18 survey participants are run solely by volunteers, while 4 are run by volunteers and staff, and 1 run only by staff.
- Half of participants receive funding from other areas also (q.9)

Key feedback themes

(Noting that feedback is from a small group)

Impact

- Most participants use their funding to run community events, programs and purchase equipment and resources (q.8)
- Most believe the funding programs is available to the appropriate user groups (q.10)
- Suggestions for how to improve the impact of the overall program include (q.36)
 - Collaborative grants where cooperation and resources could be shared
 - Proactively targeting groups who provide services in the community and for the community
 - Broaden the scope of eligible activity
 - Promote the programs to community more to achieve greater impact
 - Opportunities to develop networks amongst these organisations to improve collaboration and potential to combine grant applications and programs
 - Volunteer capacity building was a topic discussed during the workshop, with some mentions in the survey too.
 - Collaboration / networking opportunities for community groups and associations was enthusiastically supported by the workshop group, and requested as something Council could facilitate.
- When asked what groups/organisations do you think are currently missing out on the Community Funding Program? (q.18):
 - Neighbourhood Watch
 - Smaller groups
 - Sporting groups
 - Community Associations
- When asked what types of projects should be funded by the community funding program:
 - Events that reach a broad cross section of the community, or improve quality of life for community
 - Multi-year programs – it is time and resource intensive to apply each year
 - More funding for capacity building projects and cross sharing of activities and equipment
 - Pedestrian and road safety to manage density
 - Local Chambers of Commerce - because they encourage business development
 - Local sporting institutions particularly kids clubs excluding large entities
 - Small, specialised groups - Garden Clubs, Sewing, Art Clubs etc. that provide the community with opportunities to engage in their community
 - Not organisations that do their own fundraising unless it is to support a community event.

Application process

- Broad support for the timing of the program (q.22)
- Broad awareness of the Community Development Grant and Community Sponsorship Grants, but lower awareness for Community Support Equipment Grant and Small Environment Grants for Schools (q.24)
- Broad understanding of SmartyGrants form (q.25), most participants read the guidelines and information and find them useful (q.26, q.27)

- Most respondents believe the application process to be simple and straightforward, however some find the questions ambiguous, duplicated and “tricky” to answer (q.12). Similarly, most respondents believe the categories make it easy to understand which category to apply for (q.23)
- Most participants believe Council provides an adequate amount of information and resources to guide the process. Feedback highlighted opportunity to provide more information on selection/evaluation process (q.14)
- Half believe the assessment criteria is clear and they understand how applications will be assessed, however some highlight a lack of clarity on how funds are allocated and limited direct feedback given to applicants about their applications (q.16)
- Participants support information sessions, skill building workshops and tip sheets for the application process (q.20)
- Acquittal process is simple to complete (q.32)

Funding

- There is support for an increase in the funding pool while understanding that there are finite resources. Some groups showed strong support for additional funding.
- 11 of 18 participants have not applied for fee waivers. Several participants stated they weren’t aware these are available, or the waivers they are seeking aren’t eligible e.g. tree works applications fees.
- When asked whether Council should be supporting more projects with smaller funding or fewer projects with larger funding, there isn’t a clear trend.

Final feedback on the program

“We the community of Canada Bay really need an increase in funding. At the same time I wish to thank the council and its staff for the incredible work it puts in and how much support the community actually receives is fantastic. All up extremely well done and thank you very much”

“We really appreciate the funding. It helps with our planning, for important purchases that help us to operate successfully”

“A little bit of support can go a very long way when levered by keen and committed volunteers. It is an excellent enabling program of local relevance and significance - particularly during and post COVID.”

“It is a great initiative and gives support to organisations working with youth, aged, disadvantaged.”

“It should be fair and inclusive to all that is working towards the good of the community not just Council directives.”

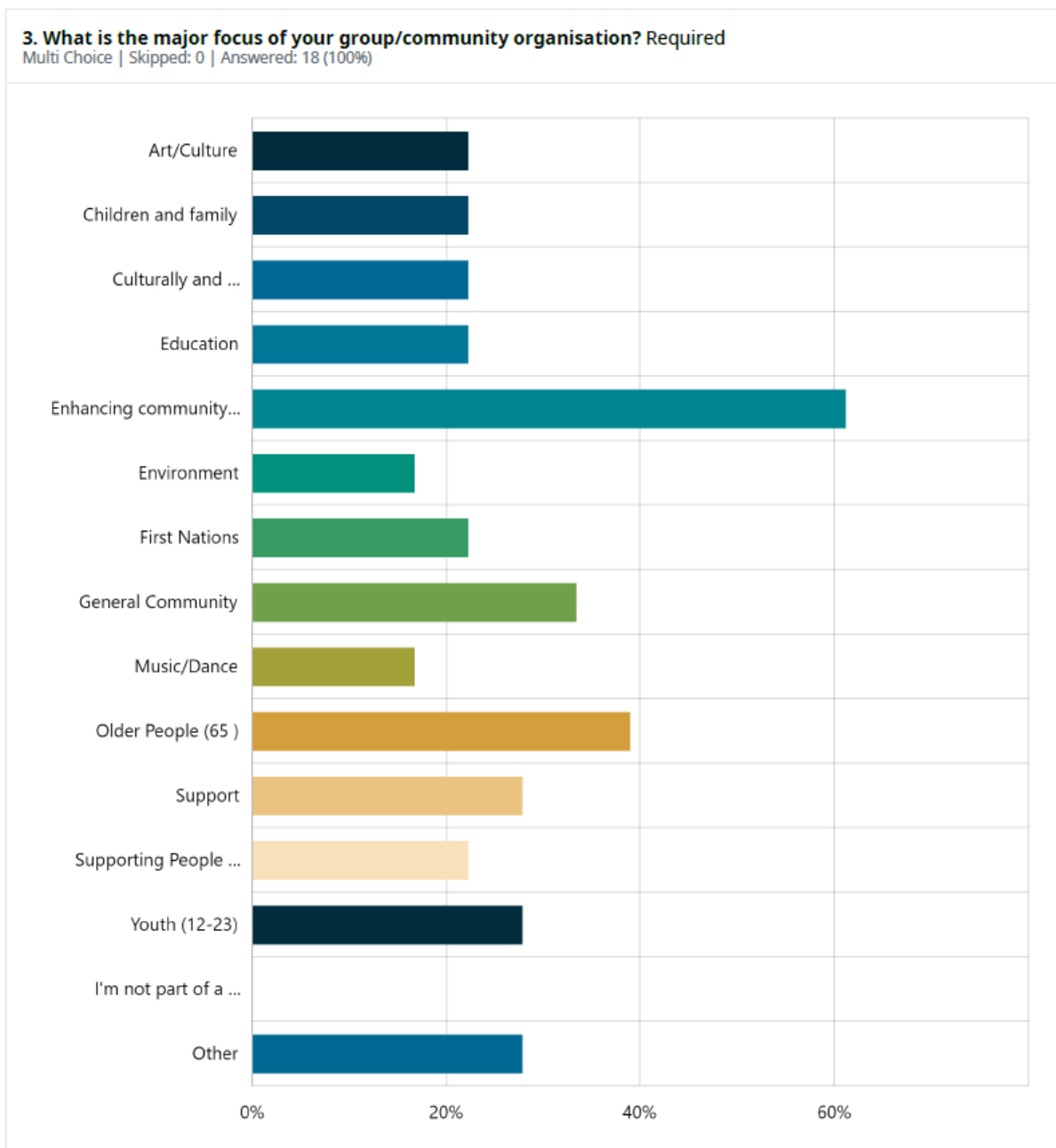
“I feel that the Council has been most generous in making funds available to community groups, which adds to the overall "spirit" of our LGA”

“I think it's excellent, and has been a huge help to our group over the years”

Describe the program in one word

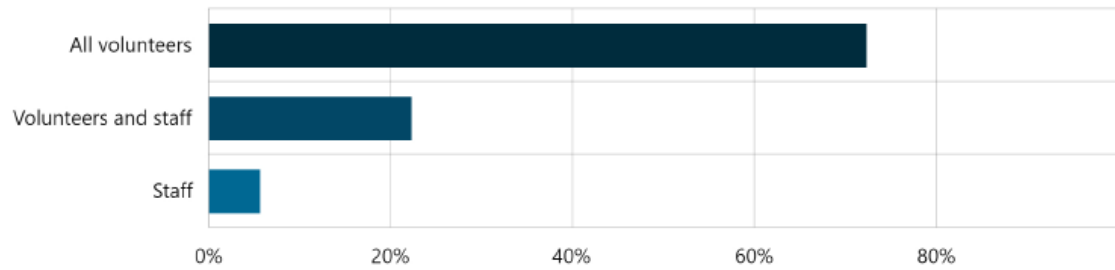
Good Generous Supportive Unclear
 Inclusive Great Appreciated Empowering
 Life-altering Essential Helpful

Appendix 1: Survey graphs



4. Is your organisation run by volunteers or staff?

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)

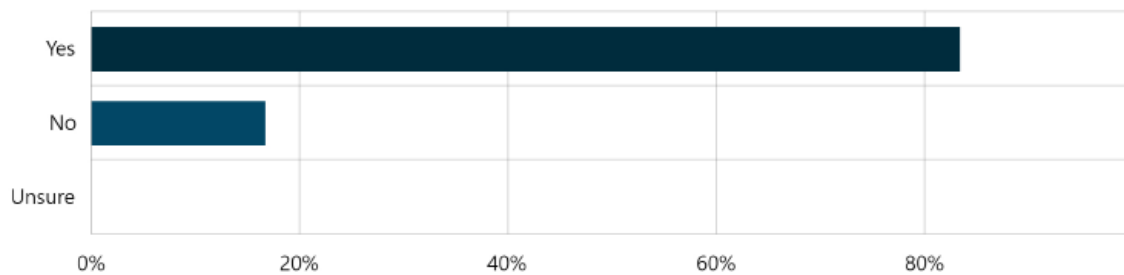


Answer choices	Percent	Count
All volunteers	72.22%	13
Volunteers and staff	22.22%	4
Staff	5.56%	1
Total	100.00%	18

5. Have you applied for a City of Canada Bay Community Grant or Community Sponsorship in the past?

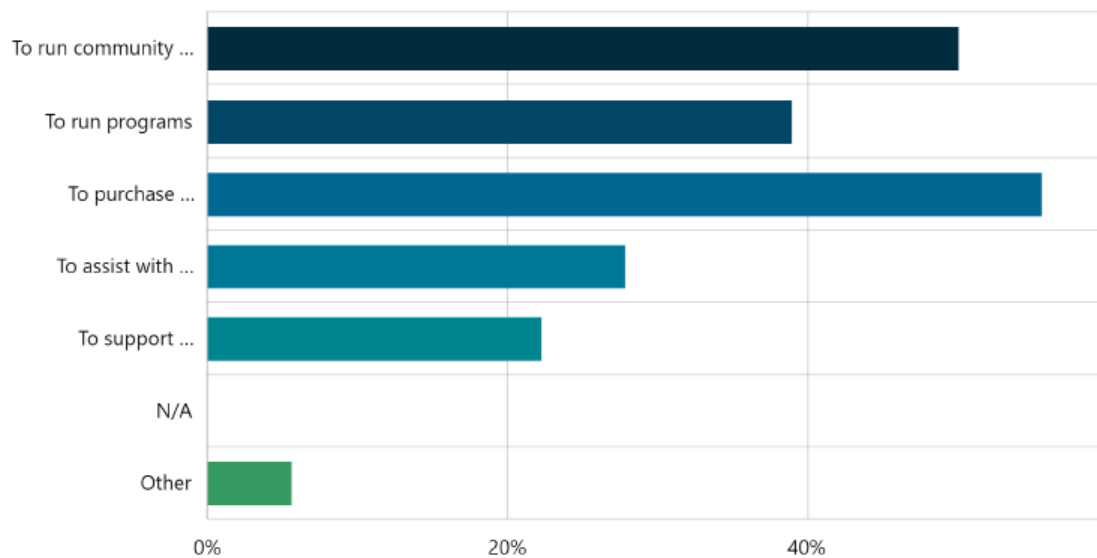
Required

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	83.33%	15
No	16.67%	3
Unsure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	18

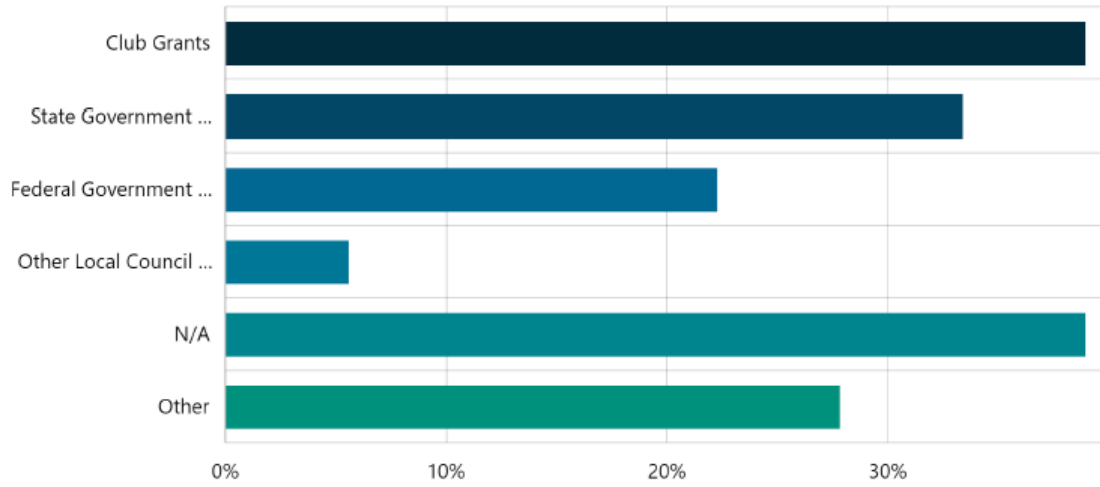
8. What are the priority areas for your group/organisation to receive funding? Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
To run community events	50.00%	9
To run programs	38.89%	7
To purchase equipment and resources	55.56%	10
To assist with ingoing operational costs	27.78%	5
To support members to participate in training/professional development activities	22.22%	4
N/A	0%	0
Other	5.56%	1

9. Does your organisation receive other funding such as: Required

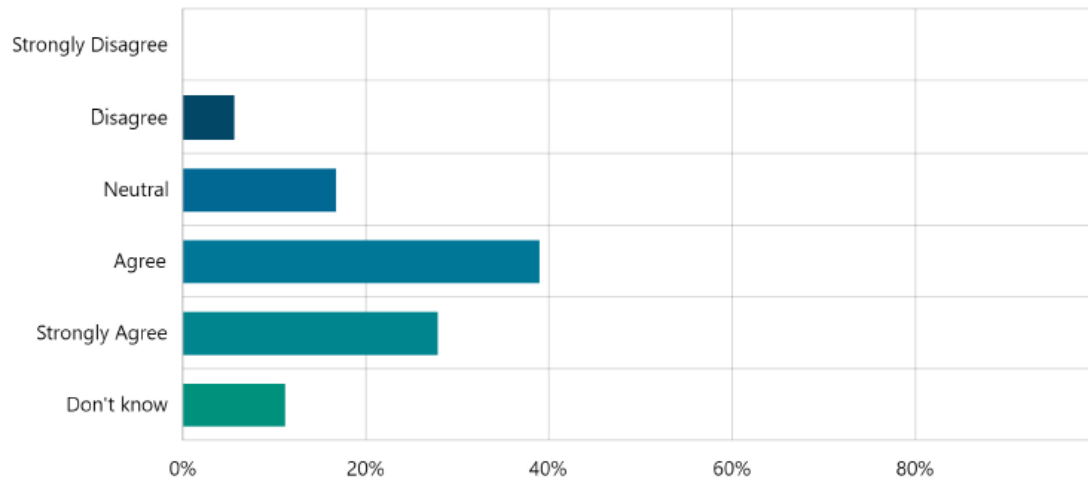
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Club Grants	38.89%	7
State Government grants	33.33%	6
Federal Government grants	22.22%	4
Other Local Council grants	5.56%	1
N/A	38.89%	7
Other	27.78%	5

10. The Community Funding Program is available to the appropriate user groups. Required

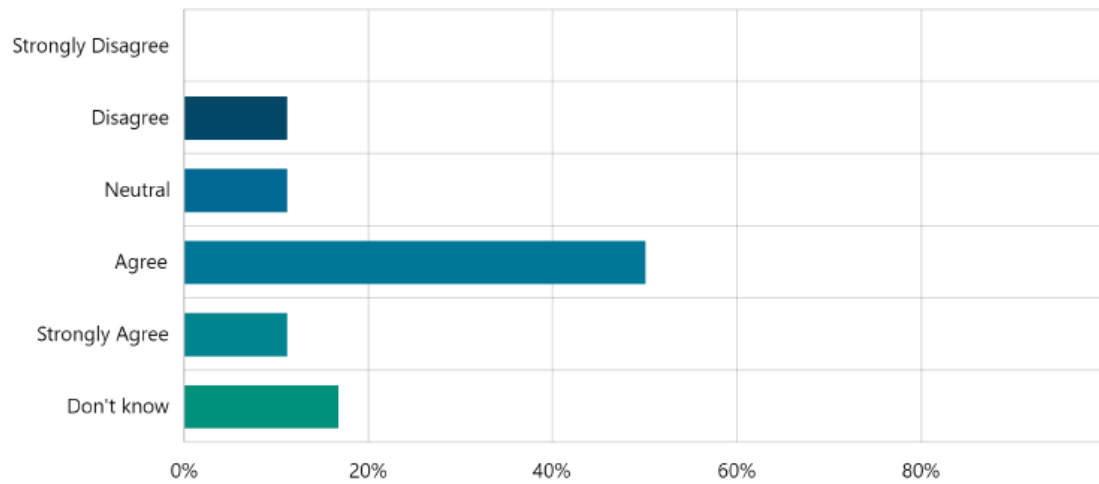
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	0%	0
Disagree	5.56%	1
Neutral	16.67%	3
Agree	38.89%	7
Strongly Agree	27.78%	5
Don't know	11.11%	2
Total	100.00%	18

12. The application process for the Community Funding Program is straightforward and easy to understand.
Required

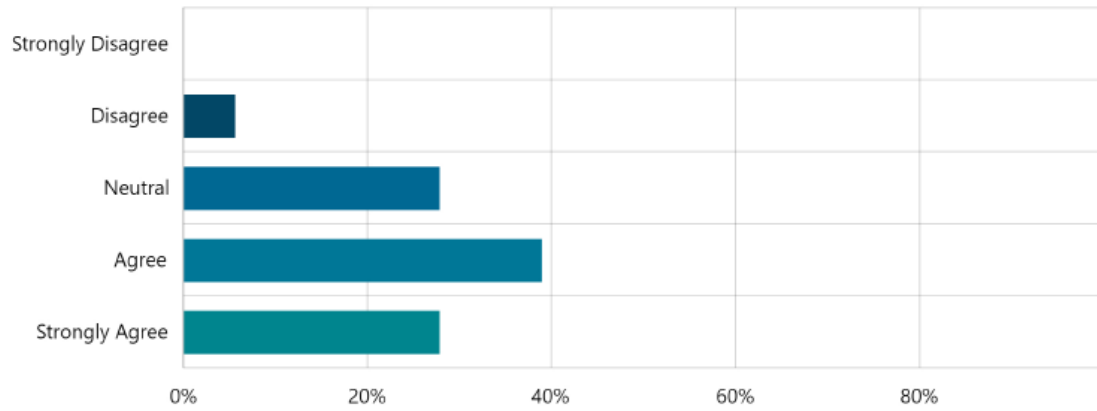
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	0%	0
Disagree	11.11%	2
Neutral	11.11%	2
Agree	50.00%	9
Strongly Agree	11.11%	2
Don't know	16.67%	3
Total	100.00%	18

14. City of Canada Bay provides an adequate amount of information and resources to help guide the funding application process. Required

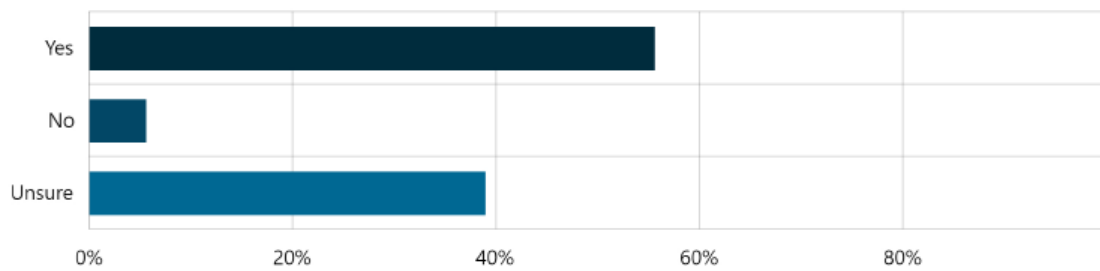
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly Disagree	0%	0
Disagree	5.56%	1
Neutral	27.78%	5
Agree	38.89%	7
Strongly Agree	27.78%	5
Total	100.00%	18

16. The assessment criteria are clear, and I understand how applications will be assessed. Required

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)

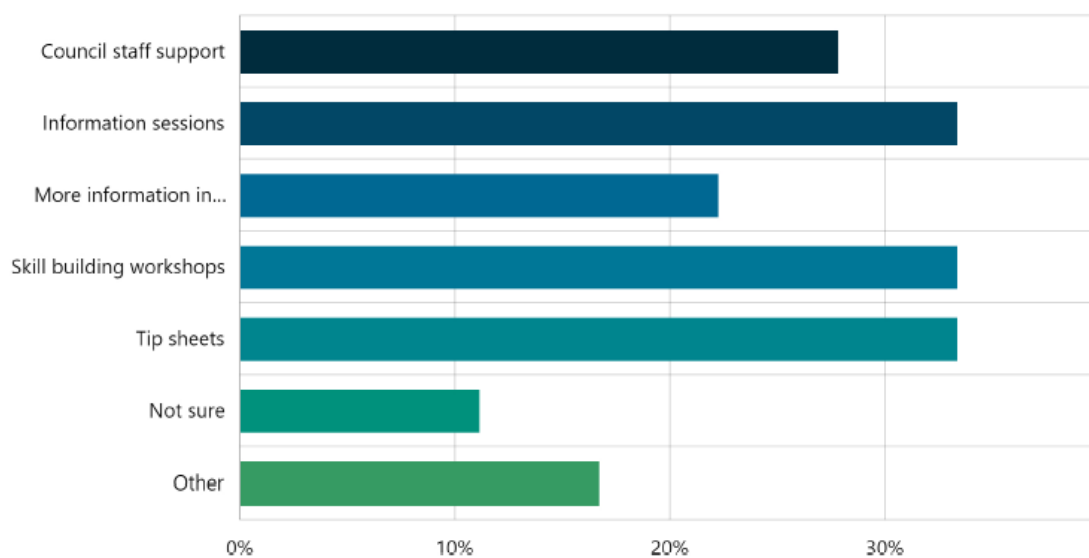


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	55.56%	10
No	5.56%	1
Unsure	38.89%	7
Total	100.00%	18

20. What assistance do you think would benefit your group/organisation in applying for community grants?

Required

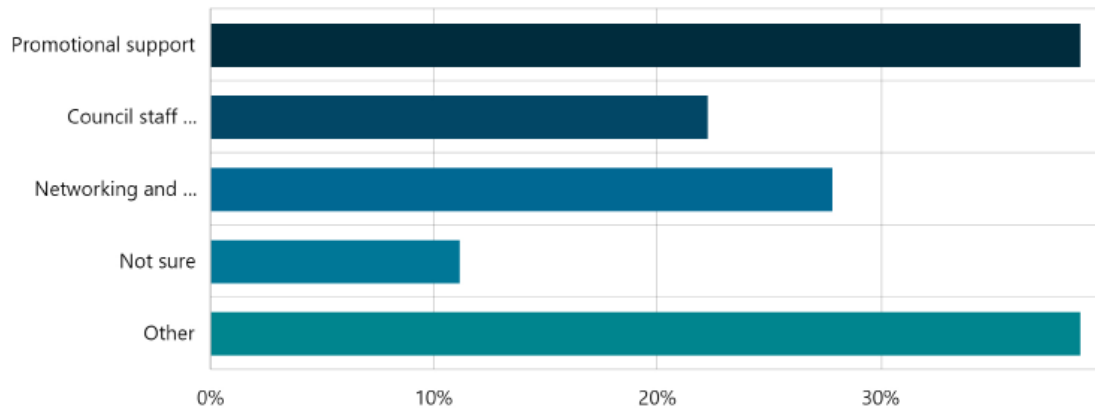
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Council staff support	27.78%	5
Information sessions	33.33%	6
More information in the webpage	22.22%	4
Skill building workshops	33.33%	6
Tip sheets	33.33%	6
Not sure	11.11%	2
Other	16.67%	3

21. What additional resources does your organisation need to deliver projects? Required

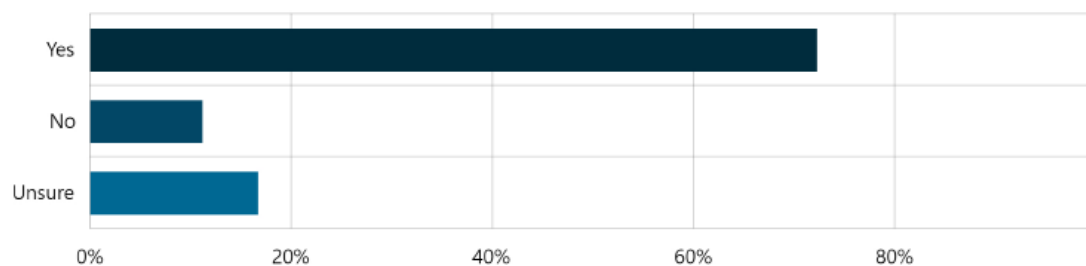
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Promotional support	38.89%	7
Council staff attendance at program / event	22.22%	4
Networking and professional development opportunities	27.78%	5
Not sure	11.11%	2
Other	38.89%	7

22. Currently, Council runs one funding in March each year, with funding available to successful applicants in July/August. Do these timeframes suit your organisations needs for project delivery? Required

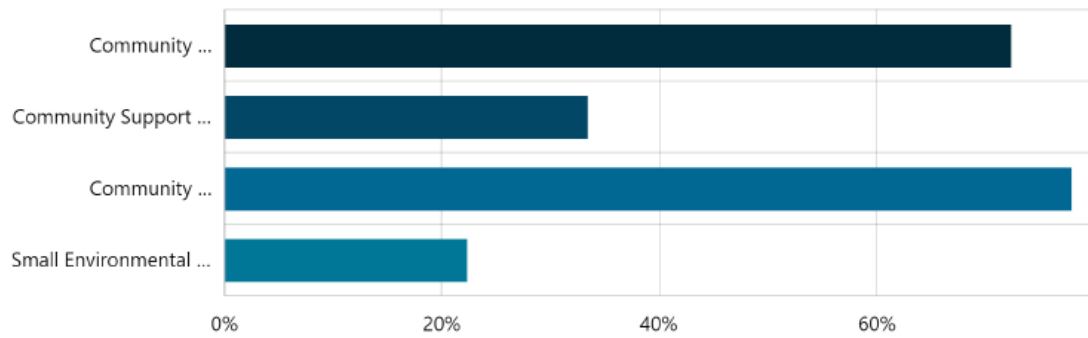
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	72.22%	13
No	11.11%	2
Unsure	16.67%	3
Total	100.00%	18

24. Council currently offers a range of community funding opportunities. Please select which category you are currently aware of. Required

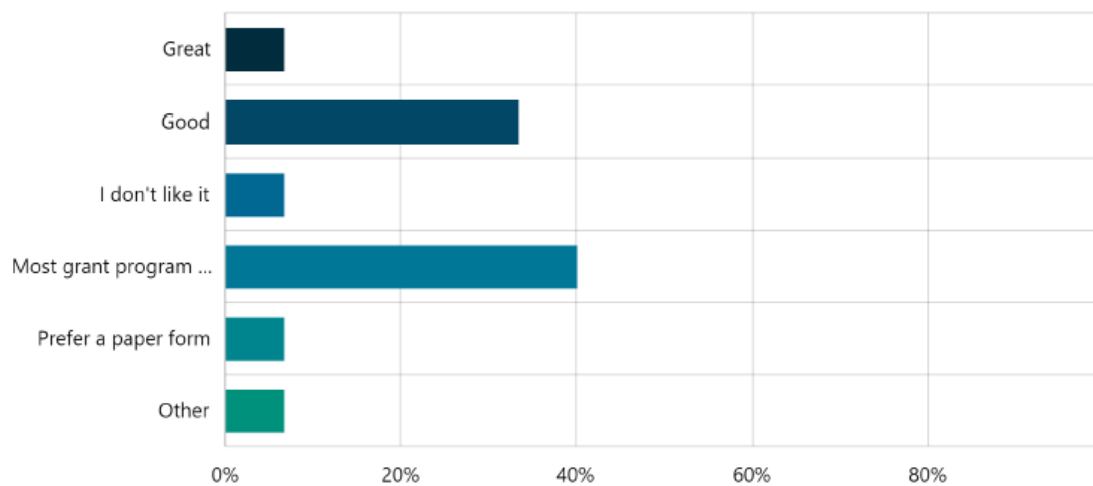
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Community Development Grant	72.22%	13
Community Support Equipment Grant	33.33%	6
Community Sponsorship	77.78%	14
Small Environmental Grants for Schools	22.22%	4

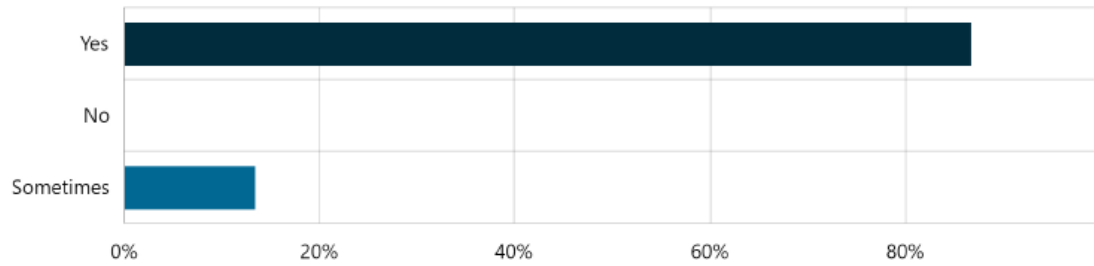
25. What do you think of using the online application form? Required

Select Box | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)



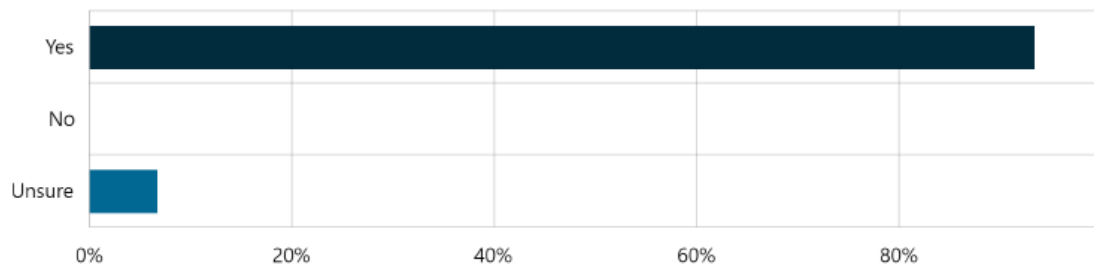
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Great	6.67%	1
Good	33.33%	5
I don't like it	6.67%	1
Most grant program use this form now, so I am used to it	40.00%	6
Prefer a paper form	6.67%	1
Other	6.67%	1
Total	100.00%	15

26. Did you read the guidelines and information on Council's website prior to applying for the grant? Required
 Select Box | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	86.67%	13
No	0%	0
Sometimes	13.33%	2
Total	100.00%	15

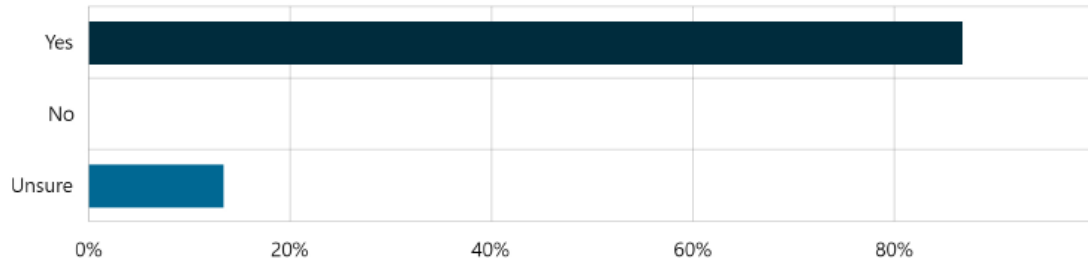
27. Did you find them helpful? Required
 Select Box | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	93.33%	14
No	0%	0
Unsure	6.67%	1
Total	100.00%	15

29. The current funding categories make it easy to understand which category to apply for. Required

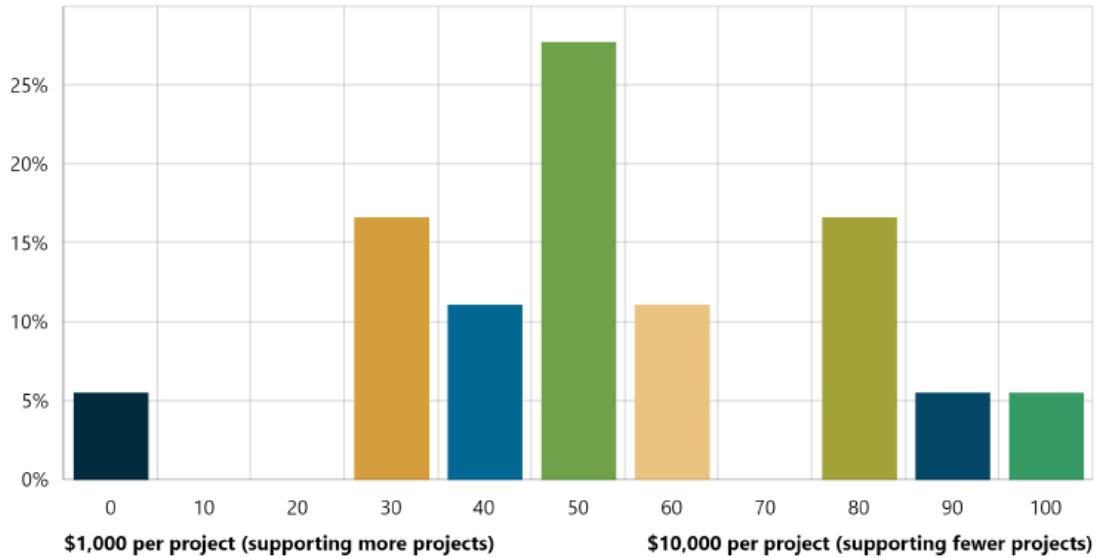
Select Box | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	86.67%	13
No	0%	0
Unsure	13.33%	2
Total	100.00%	15

31. Should Council be supporting more projects with smaller funding or fewer projects with larger funding? Required

Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)

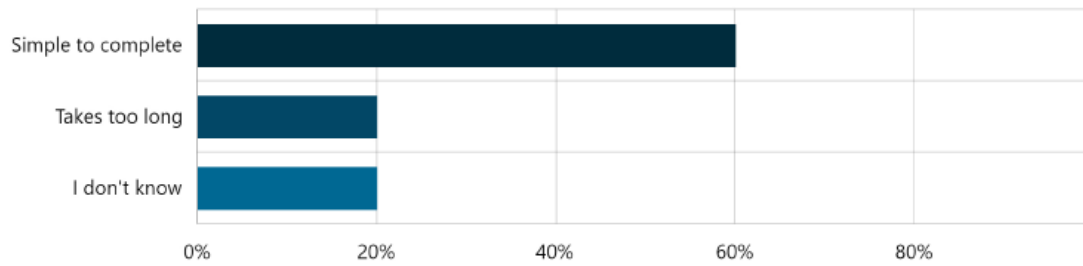


Count	Average		Median		Min		Max	
18	53.89		50.00		0		100	

0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
5.56%	0%	0%	16.67%	11.11%	27.78%	11.11%	0%	16.67%	5.56%	5.56%
1	0	0	3	2	5	2	0	3	1	1

32. Is the acquittal process easy to use? Required

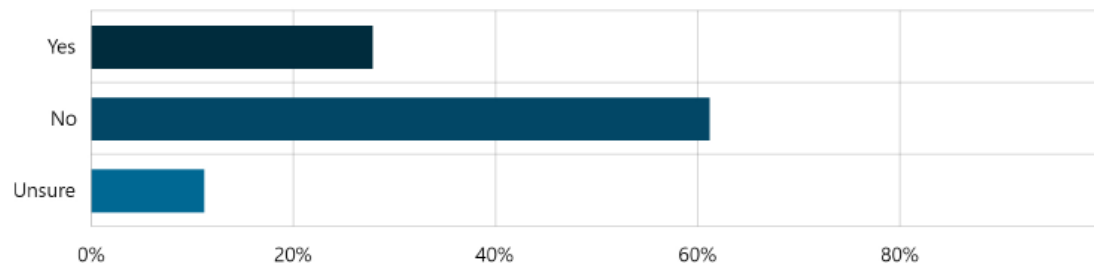
Select Box | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Simple to complete	60.00%	9
Takes too long	20.00%	3
I don't know	20.00%	3
Total	100.00%	15

33. Does your organisation apply for fee waivers from City of Canada Bay? Required

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	27.78%	5
No	61.11%	11
Unsure	11.11%	2
Total	100.00%	18

Participant organisations

- 18 participants

Appendix 2: Workshop report

Participants

- 14 participants from local community groups and organisations.

Introductory points

- Event running costs are increasing but Council funds are going down. Request a new structure for the major events.
- NDIS mean that lots of people aren't covered anymore for developmental delays/disabilities, emerging needs coming to the forefront, background of services provided.
- The application seems to be very long with duplication of information in multiple questions. The acquittal is required in April for a project which runs until June. Maybe there could be a requirement for a progress report with a final acquittal in July.

Process feedback

- 1 participant is happy
- 2 participants find process easy
- Communications up front is really good, we get plenty of information on the process
- 2 participants aren't as savvy around the process, but the questions can be repetitive or asking different questions in a different way. Have used the workshops ahead of the process and have called officers for guidance when filling in applications. Could we do some 1 on 1 sessions for filling in application.

Funding pool feedback

- Figure is too low – same figure as 10 years ago. CPI growth request. (NB – the amount for Community Grants has been increased by CPI for many years.)
- Comparison from other Councils?
- What does the broader community think of how we're allocating our funds?

Q&A

- Grant applications should include how your program links to our CSP.
- Does Council support organisations that are outside of the LGA? Yes – organisations just need to be clear that the program will be run within the Canada Bay area. Fee waivers also available for venue hire for organisations to apply for use of those facilities.
- Does Council offer different types of support? Maybe an organisation already has funding and wants to work WITH Council for staff training on services/relationships.
- Is utilising Council's networks possible? Want to run some training or programs for mental health? Connections development. Community Development team is expanding over the next few months to build relationships with community organisations.
- Sharing and consulting.
- Resourcing and support for driving connection for volunteers networking.
- If Council can promote and let people know about the local groups, help promote what we can do.

- Connectivity/accessing for volunteers – e.g. Website for the volunteers to participate – to sign up and participate. Volunteering call outs when Council is promoting programs (as we do this). Volunteers / community programs page?
- Is there a list of recipients of Council grants? Post on the website and share the website link in their letters of success (or decline).
- Volunteering to assist applications process.
- Face to face would be great to collaborate and network – hybrid of both options.
- Sharing information for grant finder application – Council will share the link as a follow up to the meeting.
- “I will complete the survey but my feedback on the application process is the form was straight forward but as an online tool it was not user friendly, and I couldn't save a copy”
- How do we collaborate on a combined pooling of funds for programs. More meetings to identify opportunities and network together.