Scope
This policy prescribes the processes implemented to facilitate and manage the distribution of funds (grants, donations and/or scholarships) and/or in-kind (non-cash) support to the community through the Community Grants Program, across all sections of Council.

Purpose
- To outline Council’s position on the provision of funds via grants, donations and/or scholarships to individuals and organisations in the Bega Valley Shire; and
- To provide guidance to Councillors, managers and staff in the implementation, monitoring and review of an effective and efficient community grants program.

Definitions
Nil

Legislative requirements
The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (the Act) provides the legislative mechanism to allow Councils to provide funds to the community for the purposes of exercising its functions. Specifically the Act states in Section 356 that:

“(1) A council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions...”

Policy Statement
The Bega Valley Shire Council will demonstrate a commitment to supporting and enhancing community effort through the provision of a community grants program that:

- Are responsive and based on evidence of community need.
- Recognise and value the contribution of volunteers and community organisations to improve their communities.
- Assist those in the community whom on occasions need additional support.
- Allocate grants, donations and/or scholarships that meet Council’s strategic plans.
- Build the economic and social capital of the Bega Valley Shire.
- Celebrate the success of funded activities and Council’s contribution.
- Recognise the capacity within annual budget allocations to respond to and provide in-kind (non-cash) support requests.
- Allocate and account for grants, donations and/or scholarships in a transparent and equitable way.
- Do not duplicate funding or activities available through other levels of government; and
- Support other funding bodies and organisations to provide granting opportunities in the Bega Valley Shire.
Policy Version Control

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<th>Policy title</th>
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<td>Policy No.:</td>
<td>1.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directorate</td>
<td>Community, Relations and Leisure</td>
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<td>Outcome Area</td>
<td>Active and Healthy Communities</td>
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| Goal(s)      | 1. We are co-operative, caring and enjoy a culturally rich community life  
2. We are an active, healthy community with access to good quality recreation and sporting facilities, and medical health care |
| Responsible Officer | Director |
| Version      | 1 |
| Adopted      | 29 November 2017 |
| Next revision | May 2021 |

Related BVSC policies

6.06 Financial Management

Note: Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes. For the most up-to-date version please refer to Council’s website [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au)