



CARINITY COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Collaborative Community Projects

Carinity and the Queensland Baptist Movement

Partnering together in effective mission

Funding Guidelines 2026



carinity



AN OUTREACH OF
**QUEENSLAND
BAPTISTS**

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FUNDING GUIDELINES

1. Background

Carinity as an outreach of Queensland Baptists, exists to reflect God's love to the most vulnerable people in our community. Within the QB Movement, Carinity works with people to empower and enable them to reach their full potential. We achieve this by working with people rather than doing things to them or for them. Carinity's focus is on enablement, building deep relationships, maintaining social connectedness, and developing a person's sense of belonging.

Carinity, alongside the QB Board have been looking for opportunities for Carinity to extend its outreach and ministry through local Baptist churches and services. As a result of this visioning, Carinity has generously committed to fund up to \$550,000 worth of local church and QB Services public benevolent projects per year. As of 2024, this total fund is now apportioned across two separate rounds – a Main Grants Round in June, and a Small Grants Round in September.

Local QB congregations represent unique opportunities to encourage the flourishing of local communities that are resilient and engaged. When we work together around our shared faith in Jesus Christ, QB Churches and Carinity can strengthen our local communities by relieving suffering and reducing disadvantage; by demonstrating God's love and justice, by building relationships with God's people, by giving disadvantaged individuals opportunities to become leaders of transformation in their communities and by giving people the opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

2. Objective

This project funding exists to facilitate partnerships between Carinity and QB Churches and Services. It assists churches by providing access to Carinity staff with expertise in working with vulnerable people, and by funding creative, community-informed, collaborative and sustainable community projects.

As a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI), Carinity funding allocations must be in line with the main purpose of a PBI as defined by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) being: relieving poverty, sickness, suffering or disability. Carinity is regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). As such, all funding must meet the requirements of the ACNC, which states that a PBI is a charitable institution with a main purpose of providing benevolent relief to people in need.

To comply with these requirements, funding made under the Collaborative Community Projects program will only be allocated for local, community-engaged projects which:

- Relieve and mitigate disadvantage
- Promote connectivity and the participation of vulnerable people and
- Increase the strength of local neighbourhoods against disadvantage.

For the purpose of the Collaborative Community Projects, vulnerable people are considered to include people who are:

- At risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Recovering from addiction
- Affected by family violence
- Suffering financial hardship
- Experiencing unemployment/under employment
- Experiencing physical or mental illness
- Living with a disability
- Experiencing disadvantage because of social isolation
- First Nations peoples
- Refugees and asylum seekers

Existing or future projects may be one-off or ongoing with funding available for up to three years.

The number of projects funded in each Funding Round will be at Carinity's and the QB Board's discretion.

3. Collaboration

To align with our QB Movement commitment to mission and collaboration, funding is for projects that are collaborative in nature. If possible, Carinity would like to partner with QB churches and services in ongoing and significant ways that utilise the gifts, experiences and expertise of all involved.

Applications must clearly identify how the projects are collaborations between:

- The local Baptist church leaders and their congregations
- Carinity
- Members of the local community
- Local community partner organisations.

Examples of collaborations with Carinity that could be explored, include finding ways to:

- Work directly with a Carinity site or service, to offer an enablement pathway for Carinity clients to reach their full potential.
- Build connections with your community to facilitate access to Carinity

services such as in home aged care services.

- Engage the specific expertise of Carinity staff to support your project volunteers i.e. invite their input on how to best support clients who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

4. Biblical Mandate

As followers of Jesus, our primary call is to faith and discipleship¹ from which we are called to grow and know Jesus and bear fruit². The type of fruit that pleases God is when disciples seek justice³, meaning to restore what was lost,⁴ and to seek God's restoration through the power of His Kingdom through social action⁵. This mission is more than just a merciful activity of the church, it is the very essence of Jesus' mission to bring reconciliation, shalom, restoration and healing to the world⁶.

Throughout the Bible, and through Jesus' ministry, we see a clear mandate to love our neighbour as ourselves⁷. While Christians are called to love all people, there is special attention given to the poor and the most disadvantaged members of society where shalom – peace with wholeness - is absent⁸.

Relieving and mitigating disadvantage in the context of the above grant objectives is therefore about seeking to begin the journey of restoring these relationships, to outwork love and restoration in our neighbourhoods through meaningful connection, and hence prioritise Christ's mission of reconciliation as we build trusting relationships. Our biblical mandate therefore compels us as disciples to respond meaningfully to poverty, not simply through acts of charity, but to tackle root causes of issues and to strive for people to experience shalom and relational reconciliation, recognising that all people have equal worth and value in the sight of God.

5. Funding

Each year, the \$550k grant funding available is primarily to support applications made under the Main Grant Round, as these are often for multi-year grants that support longer-term, sustainable impact in line with the CCP funding objectives.

¹ Mt 16:24.

² Jn 15:5-8.

³ Is 58:1-12

⁴ Is 1:17-19.

⁵ Darrell L. Guder, "Incarnation and the Church's Evangelistic Mission" in *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*, eds Paul W. Chilcote and Lacey C. Warner, (Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing, 2008), 182.

⁶ Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch, *The Shaping of Things to Come* (Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003), 34.

⁷ Mk 12:30-31, Mt 22:39, Gal 5:14, Lk 10:27, Lev 19:18,

⁸ Is 11:4, Is 58:1-12, Zec 7:9-10; Mi 6:8, Heb 13:3

After funding has been allocated to approved projects under the Main Grant Round, if there are any remaining grant funds available for the year, then - after taking into consideration existing, multi-year grant fund allocations - this will be allocated towards the Small Grants Round later in the year.

Main Grant Round

Churches and Service Groups may apply for project funding of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per year for up to three years. It is anticipated that most successful projects will be funded for approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Requests for larger amounts of funding may be considered but are less likely to be funded as Carinity's intent is for funding partnerships to be established across as many QB churches and services as possible.

Projects granted funding will involve evidence of a significant contribution on the part of the QB church or service group. The church or service group must show that it is invested into the project and that it is committed to sustaining the project. Usually this will be evidenced by dollar-for-dollar matching contributions by the church. Discretion will be used in considering in-kind volunteer work or community funding as matched funding.

A committee consisting of Carinity and QB personnel will make the final decisions on funding and all project ideas must be discussed with Carinity before applying for funding.

Regional Grant Funding – 2026 launch

In 2026, a regional CCP grant funding allocation is being earmarked within the 2026/27 Main Grant Round worth \$150,000 over 3 years.

This is to support a more collaborative, regional approach to addressing key issues which involve more than one QB church.

Some caveats to note:

- If the project consists of more than one QB church, a 'head' QB church will need to be considered as the Main Grant Applicant within the application. The other QB church(es) will also need to complete and submit a signed letter of approval with the submitted online application from their senior pastor and Chair of the Board on their church letterhead. This will need to include details outlining their support and approval, including details of their role in the project and other churches/ organisations involved in the outworking of the project.
- If a QB church applying for regional CCP Grant funding as the 'head' QB church is already in receipt of a Main Grant under the CCP, then they will not be eligible. However, they can still be included as part of an application with an alternative QB church as the 'head' church who is

currently not in receipt of Main Grant funding.

- A QB church who is in receipt of a CCP Small Grant, or has been in previous years, is still eligible to apply as the Head QB church.
- If the QB church applicant has been in receipt of Main Grant funding previously, this does not exclude them from applying as the Head QB church or as a contributing QB church in the application.
- Collaboration with other church-based organisations across denominations is encouraged. However, a QB church will need to be the main applicant on the application.

Small Grant Round

Churches and Service Groups may apply for project funding of up to \$5,000 for one year only.

Projects granted funding will also involve evidence of a significant contribution on the part of the QB church or service group. The church or service group must show that it is invested into the project and that it is committed to sustaining the project. Usually this will be evidenced by dollar-for-dollar matching contributions by the church. Discretion will be used in considering in-kind volunteer work or community funding as matched funding.

The Mission Engagement Team at Carinity will make the final decisions on funding under this round, and all project ideas must be discussed with Carinity before applying for funding.

6. Eligibility

Funding is available to any member church or service group with a demonstrated commitment to the Baptist Union of Queensland.

7. Pre-application

Church leaders who are interested in applying for this funding are strongly encouraged to attend the *2026 Collaborative Community Projects Gathering* that will be held on **Tuesday 26th May 2026** at Bridgeman Baptist Church (379 Albany Creek Rd, Brisbane Queensland 4035). Registration for this event can be made via email to philip.hamilton@carinity.org.au during the month of April 2026.

This event will help churches in their application process by outlining:

- The purpose and aim of the Collaborative Community Project Funding and to learn how we can all have a greater, collaborative impact for the Kingdom of God.
- How Carinity wants to partner with local QB churches to support vulnerable people to reach their full potential via enablement pathways which build trusted relationships and social connectedness.

- How to apply for grant funding (with transferable tips for general funding/grant applications)
- Answers to any queries that individual churches might have about applying that are not clear from the Funding Guidelines.
- The day will include a number of guest speakers from the COACH mentoring network, Empowered Faith Communities, Seedbeds Australia as well as from QB churches that are undertaking transformational work in their local neighbourhoods in partnership with Carinity through the CCP grant program.
- You will also have an opportunity to network with other QB church leaders from your region, with specific workshop sessions planned that will focus on exploring ways that QB could have a more collaborative, missional impact in your local communities.

For anyone considering applying for grant funding, it is recommended to watch the three short webinars available on the Carinity website for further clarity, particularly the one associated with project design:

- **Webinar #1:** *Articulating Organisational Strategy and Church Community Engagement priorities* can also be found [here](#).
- **Webinar #2:** *Designing Transformational Projects with meaningful measures of success* can be found [here](#).
- **Webinar #3:** *How to apply to the Collaborative Community Projects (CCP) Grant (2025 Information session)* can be found [here](#).

8. Application Process

a. Collaborative Community Project Workshop 2026

We strongly recommend you attend the 2026 Collaborative Community Project Gathering event on **Tuesday 26th May 2026, at Bridgeman Baptist Church** (379 Albany Creek Rd, Brisbane Queensland 4035) to consolidate your understanding of the Funding Guidelines and to learn from other CCP grant recipients. One of the breakout sessions planned will be specifically on how to apply for CCP funding.

b. Discuss your ideas with Carinity

Before beginning an application process, make a time to speak with the Missional Engagement Team (either Philip Hamilton or Tara Pease), in person or by phone. This will ensure you can confirm that your proposed project idea fits the scope of the funding, before continuing.

Carinity's Missional Engagement team will continue to be available to discuss your

project ideas and to offer support with the application process throughout each funding round. Appointments may be booked by phoning 0492 803 170 or by emailing philip.hamilton@carinity.org.au or tara.pease@carinity.org.au

c. Main Grant Application Submissions

Timeline for applications

Grant application guidelines available	14 April 2026
CCP Gathering event	26 th May 2026
Applications open	1 June 2026
Applications close	30 June 2026
Successful applications announced	W/C 3 August 2026
Funding agreements signed	By 11 September 2026
Funding payments commence	From 1 January 2027 - according to Funding Agreement

d. Small Grant Application Submissions

Timeline for applications

Grant application guidelines available	14 April 2026
Applications open	1 September 2026
Applications close	30 September 2026
Successful applications announced	W/C 2 November 2026
Funding agreements signed	By 14 December 2026
Funding payments commence	From 1 January 2027 - according to Funding Agreement

9. What to include in your Project Proposal

Your proposal must demonstrate the following:

- I. Evidence of your commitment to collaborate with and support the QB Movement.
- II. A strong project alignment with Carinity's Guiding Purpose to reflect Gods love to people in need and Carinity's Vision for communities where people are loved, accepted, and supported to reach their full potential.
- III. Commitment from both your church leadership and congregation to ensure the proposed initiative succeeds and achieves long term sustainability.

- IV. For Main Grant Round applications, a clear and comprehensive project plan that outlines:
 - a. 1-3 (maximum) Outcomes (Intended goals, with measures of behaviour change) that are considered SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound)
 - b. Outputs & Activities (Specific groups of activities that demonstrate how you will achieve each Outcomes).
 - c. when you will undertake Activities.
 - d. who will be involved.
 - e. how they will be involved.
 - f. what resources will be required (including financial resources as outlined in your budget and any non-financial resources such as volunteer hours) and
 - g. your timeline for key project deliverables.
- V. A local, community-engaged approach that complies with Carinity's PBI responsibilities i.e. relieving poverty, sickness, suffering or disability or other disadvantage.
- VI. Strong collaboration between your church congregation and your local community which demonstrates that:
 - a. The project has been initiated by genuine conversations and relationships with members of the wider community and/or partner organisations and does not rely on assumptions about what the community wants or needs. It is important to demonstrate that the community want you to partner with them on the project and that your proposal was developed through consultation with the community.
 - b. There is a current and ongoing partnership with local community leaders and groups.
 - c. There is a commitment to operate from a **participant-led approach** that is done 'with and by' the community, not 'to and for' the community. (Please note that proposals that seek to apply participatory, strength-based or asset-based community development (ABCD) principles in collaboration with the people they are seeking to serve will be considered favourably).
 - d. Your demonstrated ability and plan to financially sustain the program after external funding concludes or to sustain the outcome of the project in other ways.
 - e. Your means for measuring and evaluating the project in two ways
 - a. What you have done and what impact it has had.
 - b. Please provide details for how you will measure this impact in numbers and in stories.
 - f. Your ability to match the funding requested. Preference will be given to dollar-for-dollar matching contributions to create greater congregational buy-in and project sustainability. Discretion will be used in considering in-kind volunteer work or community funding as matched funding.

Note: If the demands of such a proposal seem overwhelming, please remember that Carinity staff are available to assist you in the application process.

Favourable Proposal Features include:

- Initiatives that are creative and innovative for QB churches and services that are capable of working in other QB settings with a limited resource allocation
- Projects that work to directly link existing Carinity clients with clear pathways to reach their full potential
OR
- Initiatives that have been robustly evaluated and proven to have a demonstrated impact to move vulnerable people along an enablement pathway towards reaching their full potential and have been identified as something your community cares about.

Please note that **at least one of the above** favourable proposal features needs to be evident in the application process for both the Main Grant round and the Small Grant round.

Proposals less likely to be funded would be:

- Capital items (unless the capital item is a part of a wider community collaboration project and the only hurdle to a significant community development activity)
- Churches already or recently in receipt of Collaborative Community Project Funding
- Funding proposals for projects over \$50,000 per year for three years. **If you intend to apply for a larger project, please speak with the Mission Engagement Manager before you apply**
- Applications which don't have a significant contribution from the local church.

10. Closing Date

Completed application forms must be received by 5.00 p.m. 30 June 2026 for the Main Grant round and 5.00 p.m. 30 September 2026 for the Small Grant round.

11. Funding Allocation Announcement and Agreement

You will be advised of the outcome of your 2026 application for funding by email or telephone as per the Tables shown above in Section 8. (*Application Process*).

Successful applicants will need to complete a Funding Agreement in collaboration with Carinity. This may take up to four weeks, depending on the availability of the project application lead from your church and the number of successful applicants from the QB Movement. Once an agreement is signed we anticipate the first instalment will be paid by 1 January.*

** Please be advised that this timeline is approximate only and is subject to change.*

If your application is not successful, Carinity will be available to work with you

to refine your proposal for a future round or suggest alternative funding sources that you can try. We want you to succeed!

12. Reporting

A Financial Acquittal Statement and Project Report must be completed every six months for the period of the grant and is due by 31 July and 31 January each year. Failure to provide the report or information required in it will result in a delay to your grant payments.

The Acquittal Statement, to be signed by the pastor and church secretary, verifies that the funding has been utilised in accordance with the Project Budget provided in your Application Form.

Failure to allocate funds as outlined in the signed Funding Agreement may result in a discontinuation of project funds and may result in a request to refund the project funds.

For projects that are allocating funds accurately in accordance with the signed Funding Agreement, but have for whatever reason underspent grant funding in a given year, a maximum up to **10%** of unallocated funds may be rolled over to the subsequent year. However, the remaining, unallocated project funds for that given year are required to be returned to Carinity.

The end of year, 12 month Project Report/ Annual Review Report verifies that your activities have been conducted as outlined in your Funding Agreement and details the evaluated impact of your project activities.

The Final 12 month/ Annual Review Report provides feedback to the QB Movement about your project and details how people experiencing disadvantage in your community have benefited from your church's efforts using Carinity Collaborative Community Funding. Carinity staff can support you in this process, so it is not onerous but a valuable component of your project.

Each Project Report is to be lodged every six months. This is to update Carinity on the latest activities of the project and may be lodged by email. Good news stories/ stories of transformation should be included in each Project Report, and are important as they can be published in our quarterly magazine *Belong* or used by Carinity to gain publicity for our partnership in local media.

Please contact the Mission Engagement team if you require further information:

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