Call for Applications: Grant funding for Community Partnerships

The **Economic Development Partnership** (EDP) and the **City of Cape Town's Water and Sanitation Directorate** invite organisations working in Cape Town's communities to apply for grant funding. We want to support organisations that are rooted in the places where they work, and that bring people together to improve their neighbourhoods, livelihoods and local environment, and to build stronger, more connected communities.

This funding aims to strengthen partnerships between the City and its communities, enabling collaborative action that improves water and sanitation outcomes. Supported interventions should advance the City's Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Economic Growth Strategy, and New Water Strategy by contributing to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable water future.

Important Dates

- [Optional] Application briefing sessions (hybrid): 13 and 16 November 2026
- **Closing date for applications:** 1 December 2026 17:00.
- **Validation and site visits:** December 2026.
- **Induction workshop** for successful applicants (compulsory): 13 January 2027 (TBC).
- **Implementation period:** 5 January – 30 June 2027 (you can start any time from 5 January).

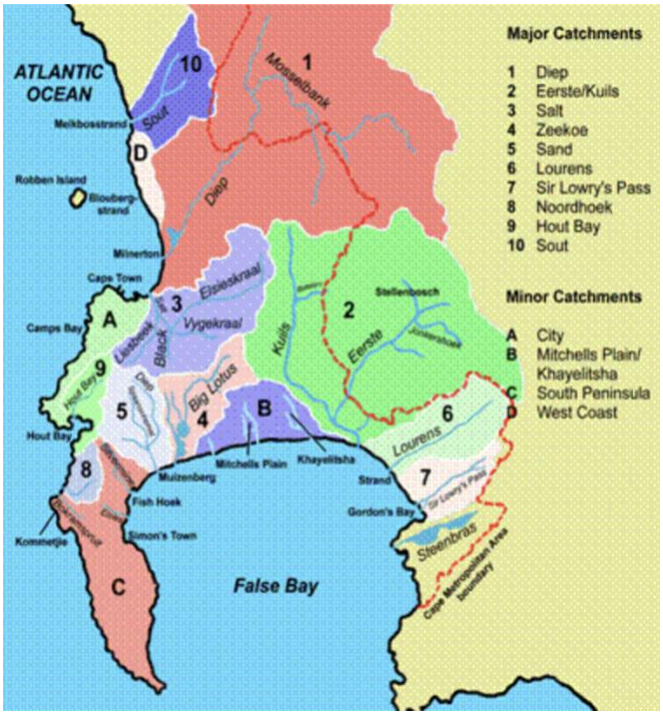
1 Priority Focus Areas for 2026/27

Applications must propose practical, short-term interventions that can be implemented between **January** and June 2027.

The City seeks practical interventions to **(i) address water** pollution in priority catchments, **(ii) improve existing community services**, such as taps and toilets in informal settlements**,** (**iii) promote active citizenry** through, for example, clean-ups, recycling initiatives, school competitions and community events that improve local environmental conditions.

You are welcome to partner with businesses that want to support community work, for example through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.

1.1 Priority catchments:



- The Lower Diep River sub catchment (upstream of Milnerton Lagoon)
- The Sir Lowry's Pass and Soet River sub catchments
- The Lower Salt River sub catchment
- The Vygerkraal sub catchment
- The Kuils and Eerste River sub catchments
- The Big and Little Lotus Rivers (within the Zeekoe sub catchment)
- The Sand catchment (upstream of Zandvlei)
- The Hout Bay River sub catchment including Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu

Interventions in other catchments will also be considered.

Note: Research studies that require research or ethics approval will not be eligible for this call due to the limited implementation period.

2 Publicity and social media opportunities

As part of this grant, successful applicants are required to work with the City to identify opportunities to showcase their intervention through various communication channels. This includes highlighting key milestones throughout the contract period to elevate the intervention's impact and the partnership.

3 Available Funding

The budget per intervention ranges from R100 000 to R300 000. The City may fund only a portion of the intervention; applicants must submit realistic budgets.

Interventions must be completed by 30 June 2027 but all expenses must be paid by 30 May 2027. The financial report will be due in the first weeks of June 2027.

Grants are paid in stages. Each payment is made once you show that you have reached the agreed milestone and provide proof of what you have spent. We cannot pay for costs without proof, or for money that has not been spent, so please budget realistically.

Reporting

Successful applicants will report on their activities and spending during the grant and at the end. You will need to keep proof of every expense (for example receipts, invoices with proof of payment, signed attendance registers for stipends, and timesheets for staff or consultant time) and evidence of what you achieved, such as photos and attendance registers. When planning your budget, include the time needed for reporting, record keeping and attending EDP workshops and reflection sessions. Most of your budget should go to the activities of your intervention, rather than to wages, stipends or administration.

Grantees must disclose any subcontracts that will be used during implementation.

4 Applicant eligibility

To be considered for funding, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be one of the following:
    - A **registered non-profit organisation (NPO)** with the Department of Social Development (DSD), including a valid NPO number, **or**
    - A **registered non-profit company (NPC)** with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), including a valid registration number, **or**
    - A **public university or university of technology**, or a **registered private higher education institution,** with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), or

- A **recognised City Catchment Management Forum (CMF)**, endorsed by the City's Water and Sanitation Directorate.

- Submit all **compulsory supporting documents** listed below in this advert.

5 How to apply and what happens next:

1. [Optional] Attend an application briefing session (see details below).
2. Applications must be submitted using the online application form. The applicant must complete all sections.
3. Closing date for applications: 1 December 2026, 17:00. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
4. The EDP and the City will check that each application is eligible, complete and fits this call.
5. Shortlisted applicants will host a site visit with the EDP or the City, and may be asked to make small changes to strengthen their proposal.
6. Successful applicants will be notified by 15 December 2026 and must attend the induction workshop on 13 January 2027 (see below).

5.1 Application Briefing Sessions (November)

Two optional hybrid briefing sessions will be held on 13 and 16 November 2026. The EDP and the City will explain the grant, how to apply and the documents you need, and answer your questions. The slides will be posted on the EDP website for anyone who cannot attend.

Details for joining these sessions can be found at https://wcedp.co.za/city-of-cape-town-water-grants-26-27/

5.2 Induction Workshop for Successful Applicants (January)

Successful applicants must attend a compulsory in-person induction workshop on 13 January 2027. We will go through the grant handbook with you, including reporting, media and publicity, the support the EDP offers and how to use the budgeting tool.

6 Reflection and Learning Session (May)

Towards the end of May 2027, all grantees will be invited to a reflection and learning session with the EDP and the City. This is a chance to look back on what worked and what was difficult, share experiences with other grantees, and learn from each other to strengthen how communities and the City work together. Please plan for at least one person from your organisation to attend.

7 Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against:

- Relevance to the City's strategic aims and partnering framework.
- Alignment with priority areas (listed above) and water and sanitation priorities.
- Feasibility within the implementation period.
- Demonstrated community involvement and partnership.
    - Applicants will need to describe their local experience and relationship with the community that the intervention will benefit.
- Organisational capacity and ability to deliver.
- The intervention's benefits and impact in the community
- The intervention's sustainability after the grant ends.

Compulsory Supporting Documents:

You will upload the following documents in the online application form. Unless otherwise stated, documents must be recent (issued within the last 3 months):

- **NPOs and NPCs:** proof of registration (DSD certificate with NPO number, or CIPC registration with company number).
- **Higher education institutions:** a signed letter on university letterhead from your Head of Department (or the head of your school, centre, unit or institute), confirming that you are applying as part of a public university. Private institutions: a DHET registration certificate.
- **CMFs:** a signed nomination letter from a Water and Sanitation Directorate Representative.
- **Bank letter or statement** confirming the account is active.
- Your **budget**, using the budget template on the EDP website (https://wcedp.co.za/).
- Your **activity timeline** (each activity with its start and end date).
- **List of references** for similar work (independent, not family or friends).
- **Certified copies of ID documents** for the head of the organisation or institution and the Project Manager.

For enquiries please contact the EDP and City of Cape Town at watergrants@wcedp.co.za and communications.waterandsanitation@capetown.gov.za