The VicHealth Active Club Grants (ACG) program provides community sports organisations (CSOs) with funds to purchase equipment which directly leads to creating physical activity opportunities through sport.

These opportunities could be to either increase or maintain participation, or both. The Centre for Sport and Social Impact (CSSI) was contracted to evaluate the ACG, with the aim of assessing whether the funded organisations have created opportunities to increase or maintain physical activity participation within community sport.

To meet this aim, a four stage research design was developed, which included the following stages:

Stage 1: Obtaining and then analysing application forms from all funded ACG recipients (over 6 rounds, 2016-2018);
Stage 2: Surveying ACG recipients (approximately 250 CSOs per round);
Stage 3: Semi-structured telephone interviews with a sample of ACG recipients (30 interviews conducted in round 1); and
Stage 4: Site visits and case studies of a sample of the ACG large grant recipients.

The evaluation identified that ACG funded CSOs were distributed across regions, socio-economic groups and sports. The evaluation calculated the number of opportunities created for participants to use the equipment purchased with ACG funding throughout a twelve month period and the number of participants who would engage with the equipment throughout a twelve month period. The evaluation found that ACG grants are crucial to the ongoing sustainability of community sports organisations and that CSOs were able to add value to the ACG through the CSO volunteer capacity and networks.