



Australian Government

Community  
Grants Hub  
Improving your grant experience



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# Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) Round 3

## General Feedback for Applicants

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### Overview

The CCCF Open Competitive Round 3 grant opportunity aims to support child care services to address barriers to child care participation, particularly targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable families and communities.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to support the longer-term sustainability of eligible early childhood education and care (ECEC) services operating in, or servicing, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, particularly those in regional, rural and remote areas.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- child care services operating in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities are able to address (or have increased capacity to address) community level barriers to child care participation
- increased number of children from vulnerable or disadvantaged families and communities accessing child care
- increased sustainability of child care services operating in disadvantaged communities experiencing viability issues, including in areas with fluctuating and/or low short-term demand
- increased availability of child care places in disadvantaged communities with high unmet demand through capital works projects.

This grant opportunity will provide funding under 3 categories, called program 'elements'. Each element intends to fund a specific type of activity. The elements are outlined below.

- Sustainability Support: helping eligible child care services operating in areas of limited supply improve the viability and sustainability of their service.
- Community Support: helping eligible child care services to work with other organisations and families to identify and address community level barriers to child care participation. The engagement must ultimately result in increased child care participation.
- Capital Support: helping eligible child care services by contributing towards the cost of modifying, renovating, extending or building child care facilities ('capital works'). These capital works must result in more child care places in areas where there is unmet demand.

The application period opened on 13 January 2021 and closed at 11:00 pm AEDT on 1 March 2021.

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Up to \$39.8 million (GST exclusive) is available in 2021–22, \$39.6 million in 2022–23 and \$42.9 million in 2023–24.

A total of 1,194 applications were received, of which 1,081 were eligible against the stated criteria, making the selection of successful grant recipients competitive. Following the delegate’s decision, 716 applications were selected for funding, totalling \$100,315,982 (GST exclusive). Successful applicants may have received less funding than requested.

There was a strong interest in the program. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the Selection Process below.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Future grant opportunities may be available for this program. You can find out about new grant opportunities on GrantConnect.

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## Selection Process

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment used an open competitive selection process to select 385 approved child care providers to deliver the Community Child Care Fund Round 3 grant.

Applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Community Grants Hub considered your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it met the criteria
- how it compared to other applications.

A Selection Advisory Panel considered whether it provided value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represented value with relevant money, the Selection Advisory Panel had regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the geographic location of the application matches identified priorities
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals
- how the services and/or projects will be delivered
- service provider mix
- consideration of provider profit status
- existing and/or potential market failure
- minimising possible duplication with other Commonwealth/state/territory government programs/service delivery.

The Selection Advisory Panel considered the profit status of applicants, giving preference to applicants that are not-for-profit over comparable for-profit applicants.

Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



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## General feedback

Generally, applicants could have strengthened their applications by:

- ensuring they thoroughly read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- ensuring all aspects of the criteria were addressed, including the additional element specific requirements
- demonstrating their consideration of the grant program's objectives
- only including relevant and unambiguous information
- supporting claims with relevant, reliable and current evidence
- linking claims back to the policy objectives and the project description/services to be delivered
- ensuring the content and the submitted application was for the correct funding element.

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## Element specific feedback

This section sets out the selection criteria for each funding element and provides feedback specific to each funding element by comparing strengths and weaknesses in selection criteria responses.

### ***Sustainability Support***

**Describe the particular barrier/s to child care viability or sustainability that your service is experiencing and describe how your proposal will address these.**

Your response should include:

- the particular barrier/s to child care viability or sustainability that your service is experiencing
- how your proposal will address these particular barrier/s to child care viability or sustainability
- data or information that supports your application, such as evidence of:
  - low population and/or fluctuating demand
  - costs or disadvantage specific to location
  - your understanding of your client base
- how grant funding will be used to deliver the proposal
- the qualifications and experience of your staff and the ability of your organisation to deliver the proposal.



Strength	Feedback
<p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the particular barriers to child care viability or sustainability that are being experienced.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly identified how the proposal will address the identified barrier/s.</p> <p>Strong applications provided relevant data and information to support claims made.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how grant funding will be used to deliver the proposal.</p> <p>Strong applications demonstrated the qualifications and experience of staff to deliver the proposal.</p>	<p>Stronger responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ what the barrier to child care viability or sustainability was, and how it has been identified</li><li>▪ how the proposed project will address the identified barrier and why it is suitable</li><li>▪ relevant data and information to link the barrier and the proposed project, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– demonstrated need for child care in the community</li><li>– how service closure would impact the community</li></ul></li><li>▪ how grant funding will be administered to assist proposal delivery</li><li>▪ the qualifications and experience of staff in delivering projects, administering grant funds and service delivery.</li></ul> <p>Weaker responses did not clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ identify a barrier to viability or sustainability or demonstrate the need for the activity</li><li>▪ demonstrate a link between how the proposal will address the identified barrier or lacked clarity on how it would achieve the grant objectives</li><li>▪ utilise relevant evidence to support the claims made in the application</li><li>▪ describe how grant funding would be used to achieve the project outcomes</li><li>▪ demonstrate the relevant qualifications and experience of staff to deliver the proposal, or similar and related types of activities.</li></ul>



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### ***Community Support***

**Describe the particular barrier/s to child care participation in your community and how your proposal intends to address these.**

Your response should include:

- the particular barrier/s to child care participation that your organisation is experiencing
- how your proposal addresses these particular barrier/s and increases child care participation
- how you will build and maintain relationships with relevant stakeholders to help you achieve intended outcomes
- how grant funding will be used to deliver the proposal
- the qualifications and experience of your staff and the ability of your organisation to deliver the proposal.



Strength	Feedback
<p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the particular barriers to child care participation.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly identified how the proposal will address the identified barrier.</p> <p>Strong applications described how relationships with relevant stakeholders would be built and maintained to help achieve the intended outcomes.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how grant funding will be used to deliver the proposal.</p> <p>Strong applications demonstrated the qualifications and experience of staff to deliver the proposal.</p>	<p>Stronger responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ what the barrier to child care participation was, and how this has been identified</li><li>▪ how the proposed project will address the identified barrier and why it is suitable</li><li>▪ potential stakeholders and a strategy to engage and/or involve them in service delivery</li><li>▪ how grant funding will be administered to assist proposal delivery</li><li>▪ the qualifications and experience of staff in delivering projects, administering grant funds and service delivery.</li></ul> <p>Weaker responses did not clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ identify a barrier to participation and demonstrate the need for the activity</li><li>▪ demonstrate a link between how the proposal will address the identified barrier or lacked clarity on how it would achieve the grant objectives</li><li>▪ identify linkages to potential stakeholders in the community or demonstrate a strategy to utilise relevant stakeholders to achieve grant objectives</li><li>▪ describe how grant funding would be used to achieve the project outcomes</li><li>▪ demonstrate the relevant qualifications and experience of staff to deliver the proposal, or similar and related types of activities.</li></ul>

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## ***Capital Support***

**Describe the need for additional child care places in your community and how your proposal will contribute to meeting this need.**

Your response should include:

- the need for additional child care places in your community and how your capital works project will address the need and result in more child care places
- information that supports your application such as population data or evidence of need and support from families, schools, other child care services in the area or community groups
- how you estimated the cost of the project and how you will manage unexpected expenses, including how grant funding will be used to deliver the proposal
- the result of your efforts in securing other financial contributions for your project (for example, bank, local council, charity, community organisation)
- the qualifications and experience of your staff and the ability of your organisation to deliver the proposal
- how your organisation will ensure that the capital construction will be completed as planned.



Strength	Feedback
<p>Strong applications clearly outlined the need for additional child care places in the community, and how the capital works project will address the need and result in more child care places.</p> <p>Strong applications provided clear information to support claims made in the application.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly described how the cost of the project were estimated, how unexpected expenses would be managed, and how grant funding would be used to deliver the proposal.</p> <p>Strong applications described how other sources of financial contributions have been secured.</p> <p>Strong applications provided the qualifications and experience of staff and the organisation to deliver the proposal.</p> <p>Strong applications clearly described how the organisation will ensure that capital construction will be completed as planned.</p>	<p>Stronger responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a need for support for additional child care places in the community</li><li>▪ how the capital project would result in an increase in child care places in the community by meeting or exceeding demand</li><li>▪ relevant data and information to link the barrier and the proposed project</li><li>▪ the use of qualified cost estimators, or capital works tenders to provide an educated estimate of the cost of the project, including a contingency for unexpected costs</li><li>▪ the sources and amounts of financial contributions that have been secured</li><li>▪ the qualifications and experience of staff in delivering projects, administering grant funds and service delivery</li><li>▪ the use of project delivery principles/milestones to allow for the capital construction to be completed on time.</li></ul>



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Strength	Feedback
	<p>Weaker responses did not clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ demonstrate a need or support for additional child care places in the community</li><li>▪ link the capital works project to an increase in child care places</li><li>▪ provide relevant information to support claims made in the application</li><li>▪ describe how the costs of the project were estimated or demonstrate measures to manage unexpected costs</li><li>▪ describe if other sources of financial contributions were available</li><li>▪ demonstrate the relevant qualifications and experience of staff to deliver the proposal, ensure project delivery, or similar and related types of activities</li><li>▪ describe measures/methods to ensure the construction will be completed as planned.</li></ul>