

Strong and Resilient Communities Activity Inclusive Communities Grants

Questions and Answers

The following questions and answers are specific to this grant round. Please also refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for general questions about applying for DSS grants.

1. What is the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity?

The Strong and Resilient Communities Activity is a grants activity and will build on the strengths of the Strengthening Communities grants Activity.

The Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity will focus on strengthening the capacity of communities experiencing disadvantage to become more resilient and inclusive through greater community engagement, participation and belonging.

The Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity will comprise three grant programs:

- Community Resilience grants
- Inclusive Communities grants
- National Research grants.

The Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity will commence 1 April 2018.

2. What are Inclusive Communities grants?

Inclusive Communities grants aim to increase the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families within their communities and enhance their life-time wellbeing and sense of community belonging.

Eligible organisations can apply for funding to deliver one-off time-limited projects that support the social and economic participation of people in their communities.

3. My organisation currently receives funding under the Strengthening Communities grants Activity. Why has the Strengthening Communities grants Activity been redesigned?

The Australian Government committed to a redesign of the Strengthening Communities grants Activity in the May 2016 Budget to have a greater focus on building strong, resilient and cohesive communities. The redesign will better align grant opportunities with government priorities and emerging needs.

The following Strengthening Communities grant programs form part of the redesign:

- Community Capacity Building
- Diversity and Social Cohesion
- Multicultural Arts and Festivals.

The Strengthening Communities grants Activity will be replaced by the Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity from 1 April 2018. You must submit an application to be considered for funding.

4. My organisation currently receives funding under the Volunteer Management Program. Can I apply for funding for my volunteer support service under the Inclusive Communities grants?

No. \$5.7 million a year will be allocated to the Volunteer Management Activity from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2021. The Department will contact your organisation directly with further information.

If you are seeking funding for a one-off time-limited project that meets the aims and objectives of the Inclusive Communities grant opportunity guidelines, you must submit an application under this grant round.

5. My organisation has previously received a Multicultural Arts and Festival grant. Can I apply for a grant to run a multicultural arts and festival event?

Grants for arts and festivals events will no longer be supported through a separate Multicultural Arts and Festivals grant opportunity. However, a multicultural arts and festival event will be eligible for funding under Inclusive Communities grants if it forms part of a wider project proposal. This means you can:

- apply for a project that meets the objectives of the Inclusive Communities program and include a small multicultural event, or
- partner with another eligible organisation that is applying to deliver a project and conduct a small event as part of that project.

Up to \$7,500 of your total project budget can be used for a multicultural arts and festivals event.

6. How much funding can I apply for under Inclusive Communities grants?

You can apply for a minimum grant of \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000 a year for a project of one to three and a quarter years duration.

The funding will commence on 1 April 2018 and will cease on 30 June 2021.

Projects of varying budgets and timeframes will be considered for funding.

7. Is the funding on-going?

No. Funding is available for time-limited projects that commence on or after 1 April 2018 and must be completed by 30 June 2021.

8. How many years of funding can I apply for?

You can apply to deliver a project for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of three and a half years. The funding will be available in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

9. Will the Department consider spread as part of the overall grants assessment process, including where projects are delivered geographically and the groups/cohorts to be targeted?

Yes. The Department is committed to ensuring reasonable overall geographical spread, and spread in terms of the groups to be targeted by projects, as part of the grants assessment process.

10. What is the closing time and date for applications?

The Application Form must be submitted by 2.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday 23 August 2017. It is recommended that you submit your application well before the closing time and date.

Please note the closing time may differ in your state or territory.

11. If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?

Only under exceptional circumstances will an organisation be granted an extension for this grant round. Information about the late application process is available on the [Community Grants Hub website](#).

12. Are for profit organisations eligible to apply?

No. Only not-for-profit organisations that meet the eligibility requirements in Section 5 of the Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunity Guidelines are eligible to apply.

13. What attachments should I include with my application?

You **must** submit:

- Budget for your project (on the template supplied by us)
- Letter(s) of Support

Your application will **not** be assessed if you do not attach the requested documents.

14. Why do I have to submit a letter of support with my application?

A letter of support will provide evidence that you have either consulted with, or plan to collaborate with, key stakeholders in your community about the project prior to submitting your application.

Your application will **not** be assessed if you do not attach a letter of support.

15. How is collaboration being defined?

Some organisations may apply to deliver a project that includes elements of collaboration with other organisations to deliver the project.

For the purposes of these guidelines, collaboration is defined as two or more organisations who work together either formally (e.g. through a MoU) or informally (by referring clients, or promoting the project) to combine their capabilities either in the development or the delivery of the grant activity.

If you are submitting a grant application that involves collaborative elements, your application **must** include at least one letter of support from one or more of the organisations involved in the collaborative process.

More information can be found at Section 9.6 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

16. Do I have to collaborate with other organisations?

No. Collaboration is optional.

17. Do I have to attach a budget with my application?

Yes. You will be asked to submit a proposed budget on the template provided by us with your application.

Your application will **not** be assessed if you do not attach a budget with your application.

18. If my organisation is a part of a group of organisations, can we submit a joint application through a consortium (joint) arrangement?

Yes. A joint application can be submitted. If a joint application is successful, the Department of Social Services will enter into a grant agreement with the nominated lead organisation.

19. What is a lead organisation?

A lead organisation must be an incorporated body which is able to enter into the grant agreement. You must nominate a lead organisation for the application. The lead organisation for the project will, if your application is successful, sign the grant agreement, receive the funding and take legal responsibility for performing the activities and meeting the outcomes of the grant agreement.

20. What are the contract conditions for this grant?

A copy of the terms and conditions for Inclusive Communities grants is included in the application pack.

21. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

22. Where should I go for further information?

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au or for general enquiries call the Grants Hotline on 1800 020 283.

23. What feedback will be available for this grant round?

A generic feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website following the finalisation of the funding round.

The feedback summary will provide general round-specific information and will include main strengths and areas of improvement for the applications received in this round.

New Questions and Answers added on 20 July 2017

24. Can an organisation that is a federation of multiple different regional centres throughout a state make multiple submissions under SARC for their different centres, or can only one application be submitted on behalf of the central organisation?

There is no restriction on the number of applications an eligible organisation can submit. Information about the SARC grant rounds is available in the Community Resilience Grant Opportunities Guidelines and the Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunities Guidelines.

25. Who are ineligible to be used as referees or provide letters of support in my application?

The Applicant's Board members, Applicant's staff and employees of Department of Social Services are ineligible to be used as referees or provide letters of support.

New Questions and Answers added on 26 July 2017

26. Is there a reason why the LGBTI community is not included in the following grants?

While there is not an explicit reference to the LGBTI community in the Inclusive Communities grant guidelines or the Community Resilience grant guidelines, eligible organisations are able to deliver projects for the LGBTI community through these grants – provided that the projects correspond with the types of projects that can be funded, at item 3.1 of each of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (types of projects).

For Inclusive Communities grants, this could include, but is not limited to, projects directed at children and youth under 18 years, unemployed people, or people with disability or mental health issues.

For Community Resilience grants, this could include, but is not limited to, projects directed at promoting mutual respect, understanding and fair treatment for all Australians, or strengthening community leadership to foster greater community cohesion.

27. The Grant Opportunity Guidelines states it's a minimum of \$20,000 per year for funding for both the inclusive and resilient grants, however the first year is only 3 months (available from 1 April 2018, financial year ends 30 June 2018). Would the funding still be a minimum of \$20,000 for the first quarter?

An eligible organisation can apply for a minimum of \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000 per year to deliver a project of one to three and a quarter years duration. An applicant can apply for this amount of funding in any of the financial years from 2017-18 to 2020-21.

While organisations are able to apply for more funding than the pro-rated amount in 2017-18 (in accordance with the guidelines), please note that the applicant's Budget must demonstrate clearly how funds will be used, and that applications will be assessed on whether they provide value for money. Budget templates must be submitted with each application.

For more information about how applications are assessed, please see Item 7 (the grant selection process) and item 8 (the assessment criteria) in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

New Question and Answer added on 1 August 2017

28. Can the grant be used to deliver additional services/programs as part of an existing project?

As per Section 6.2 of the Community Resilience and Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunity Guidelines, you cannot apply for a grant for a project that has already commenced or has been completed. However, your organisation may consider submitting an application to deliver a new project that aligns with the types of projects that will be funded under Section 3.1 of the Guidelines.

New Question and Answer added on 4 August 2017

29. Our community organisation has had an unsolicited approach from a professional grant writer who has offered to write our application for a Strong and Resilient Communities grant. This person will charge around 10 per cent of the grant amount awarded if the application is successful. Is such a payment to the grant writer eligible under the Community Resilience and Inclusive Communities grant programs?

As per section 6.2 of the Community Resilience and Inclusive Communities grant opportunity guidelines the grant cannot be used for any costs incurred in the preparation of your grant application or related documentation. This means making a payment to a professional grant

writer using the grant monies awarded cannot be made under Community Resilience grants and Inclusive Communities grants.

New Questions and Answers added on 7 August 2017

30. Is it possible for an organisation to be successful for both the Inclusive Communities grant and the Community Resilience grant for the same project?

No. An organisation cannot receive funding for the same project under both the Inclusive Communities grants and Community Resilience grants. Projects must be unique and directly relate to one particular set of grant opportunity guidelines.

Community Resilience grants are for whole-of-community approaches to building social cohesion in communities that show early signs of low social cohesion, and/or racial, religious or cultural intolerance. Section 3.1 of the Community Resilience grant opportunity guidelines shows the types of projects that will be funded.

Inclusive Communities grants are approaches that target vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families to support their social and economic participation in their community. Section 3.1 of the Inclusive Communities grant opportunity guidelines shows the types of projects that will be funded.

While organisations are not able to receive funding for the same project multiple times under one or both of the grants programs, organisations can apply to deliver more than one project under one or both of the Inclusive Communities and Community Resilience grants programs, provided the projects are unique (different from one another) and directly relate to the relevant grant opportunity guidelines. For example, an organisation might apply to deliver a project that addresses social cohesion issues in the target community under Community Resilience grants, as well as a project to deliver a project that supports the social and economic participation of the target participants under Inclusive Communities grants.

31. Can letters of support and referees be the same people?

Yes. Letters of support can come from a nominated referee(s). Letters of support **must** clearly show the supporting organisation's name or letterhead, contact details and state why that organisation is supportive of the project.

New Question and Answer added on 14 August 2017

32. When selecting Coverage Areas we are unable to select an area as a whole. The issue is that the next page asks us to define the budget allocation per coverage area, whereas our project will focus on social inclusion City-wide, not on a suburb-by-suburb basis. How should we complete the Application Form?

The application form only allows for the selection of service delivery areas by Service Area Level 2 (SA2) of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. SA2s have been designed around whole gazetted suburbs or rural localities. Further information is available on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

If an organisation plans on delivering services across one or more geographic areas, the organisation should select the corresponding and multiple SA2 areas.

If the organisation is electing to allocate its budget to cover a particular region (such as a medium to large city) that covers multiple SA2s, the organisation should allocate its budget equally across those coverage areas in the application form.

New Question and Answer added on 15 August 2017

33. Will there be an annual CPI increase for the funding on top of the funding requested or should this be factored into the annual budgets from the beginning?

CPI should be factored into annual budgets from within the existing funding envelope.

New Question and Answer added on 16 August 2017

34. How can we attach multiple letters of support when the Application Form only allows one attachment under section Attachment 2.

As outlined in Section 9.6 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, organisations should scan multiple letters of support into a single PDF document to then upload for Attachment 2. Section 9.5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines provides further information about attachments to the Application.

New Question and Answer added on 21 August 2017

35. What if one or more of the consortium members do not have an ABN?

The inclusion of ABN numbers in the application form is mandatory for all members of a consortium. Consortium members who do not have an ABN should include the ABN of the lead organisation in the application form.