



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Seniors Connected Village Hubs National Grant Manager Activity

Questions and Answers

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

The Application Form must be submitted by **11.00pm (AEDT) on 4 November 2020**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**.

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

No, extensions will not be given.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date the [late application policy](#) available on the Community Grants Hub website will apply.

Please refer to section 7.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

3. How much funding is available for the Village Hubs National Grants Manager Activity?

A total funding cap of \$0.8 million over four years (from 2020-21 to 2023-24) is available for the National Grants Manager to administer the Village Hubs Grants Fund (that is, \$0.2 million per annum). The Village Hubs Grants Fund is valued at \$3.9 million over the same period, but is for distribution to other organisations that are approved to operate each Village Hub.

Please refer to section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for grant funding limits.

4. I want to apply for funding to establish a new Village Hub – when can I do this?

Applications to operate a new Village Hub are expected to be sought through a separate process opening sometime between April and May 2021. This current grant opportunity is only for the selection of a **National Grants Manager** that will assist the Government select new Village Hub operators.



5. Is the funding on-going?

No, the program funding ceases on 30 June 2024.

As outlined in criterion 2 of the assessment criteria in section 6 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, the National Grants Manager will be required to encourage and support Individual Village Hubs towards long-term financial sustainability.

An evaluation of the activity will inform considerations of Government on arrangements for Village Hubs beyond 30 June 2024.

6. What if the cost of administering the Village Hubs Grants Fund is more than \$200,000 per year?

There is a firm upper cap of \$0.8 million (GST exclusive) for the period 2020-21 to 2023-24 for the National Grants Manager to administer the Village Hubs Grants Fund. No additional funding is available. However, it will be possible to negotiate the distribution of the total funding cap across the four financial years of the activity.

7. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

This grant opportunity is open to organisations with knowledge and understanding of:

- mental health issues associated with loneliness and social isolation experienced by older Australians living in the community
- how the Village Hub model supports older Australians in the community to achieve positive mental health outcomes by alleviating loneliness and social isolation and complement other services in the community such as clinical mental health treatment and other aged care services
- delivering services to Indigenous Australians in a culturally safe and appropriate way.

The successful National Grants Manager must have capacity to administer grant funding to multiple organisations across Australia that will operate Village Hubs in the local community.

8. Can I apply to manage part of the grant (say in one State or for a smaller number of Village Hubs)?

No. Village Hubs is a national measure and the National Grants Manager will need to have the capacity to support the establishment and operation of at least ten new Village Hubs across Australia in multiple states/territories.

You may wish to consider forming a consortia proposal with other organisations if you believe you can only deliver part of the grant requirements.



9. Is the Village Hubs National Grants Manager responsible for paying for the evaluation of the activity?

No. A separate evaluator will be procured by the Department of Social Services (the department) with separate funding. However, the National Grants Manager will be expected to work with the evaluation team and may be required to provide or facilitate data, advice and other information to assist the evaluator.

10. Can Village Hubs be based in retirement villages or other aged care facilities?

No. Village Hubs target older Australians living at home in the broader community and are not designed to supplement the services of retirement villages or aged care facilities. However, it is possible some Village Hub activities could involve visiting people in aged care facilities. In addition, people who live in aged care facilities could choose to leave the facility to attend a Village Hub.

11. Can I make changes to my application after it has been submitted?

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should immediately contact the Community Grants Hub by phone on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or by email at support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub may ask you for more information in relation to any mistake(s). Changes are only permitted if they do not change the substance of your application.

Please note, any changes made to the application are at the Community Grants Hub's discretion as there is no requirement to accept any additional information, or requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing time.

Please refer to section 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

12. 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.

13. How can I submit the Application Form?

The form is an online Application Form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the grant opportunity documents.



14. Do character limits apply to my application?

Yes, the application for Village Hubs National Grant Manager includes character limits – up to 6,000 characters (approximately 900 words) per assessment criterion. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

15. Where should I go for further information?

If you have any questions, please call 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within five working days.

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au. The question period will close at 5.00 pm AEDT on 28 October 2020.

Questions and Answers added on 20 October 2020

16. I understand this is the first stage of the department’s implementation, may I ask if the Seniors Connected Program – Village Hubs will be an established design that will be replicated and if it is, is there flexibility in the model?

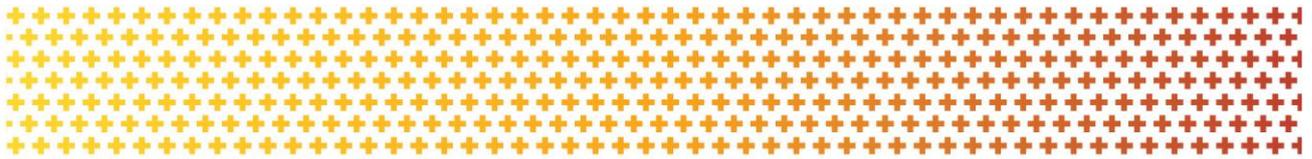
This initiative draws on the knowledge from the existing Village Hubs operating in Australia, like the Waverton Hub, which is by design, a flexible and community-led model (please refer to section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines). As such, there is expected to be some flexibility in the model adopted in individual sites when Village Hubs are established. The National Grants Manager may assist individual Village Hub providers as they adapt the model.

The Waverton Hub has also produced a manual which it may share with other organisations interested in replicating the Waverton model.

17. Does the National Grants Manager administer all Hubs, including the existing and the proposed ones?

The National Grants Manager will assist the Government select providers for new Hubs. The National Grants Manager will not deliver the Village Hubs in individual sites, but will offer assistance to new Village Hub providers as they establish and develop each Hub.

The National Grants Manager will not be responsible for existing Village Hubs. However, where existing Village Hubs elect to become involved in community of practice activities, the National Grants Manager can ensure existing Village Hubs and new Village Hubs learn from each other.



18. Where I can find information about the location of Village Hubs in Victoria?

The Department of Social Services is not aware of a Village Hub model currently operating in Victoria.

The National Grants Manager will not operate the individual Village Hubs. The National Grants Manager will assist the Government select individual Village Hubs through a separate process expected to commence around April 2021. This includes using the National Grants Manager’s experience and evidence to help inform the location of individual Village Hubs.