



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Try, Test and Learn Fund: Tranche 2 batch 2

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$79.6 million to finance projects over the four years of the Try, Test and Learn Fund. There will be around \$50 million of the fund available to support projects over the course of Tranche 2.

The objective of this grant opportunity is to gather evidence to inform future Government policy through small-scale trials of projects to support people at risk of long-term welfare dependence to improve their workforce participation or capacity to work. Tranche 2 has four priority groups but also welcomes ideas to support other groups proposed (and appropriately justified) by applicants. Small scale means that the trials would generally run for six months up to two years with a budget less than \$5 million.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- Gather policy evidence on what works to support people at risk of long-term welfare dependence to improve their workforce participation or capacity to work.
- Improve capacity to work (e.g. through training or skills development and/or workforce participation for people involved in the trials).
- Build capacity and collaboration between Government and other stakeholders.

Projects financed through this grant opportunity will be evaluated through a range of methods, including quantitative and qualitative reviews, stakeholder interviews, participant surveys, case studies, program data analysis and secondary data analysis.

Selection process

The Community Grants Hub used an open competitive selection process to select multiple providers to deliver projects from the Tranche 2 applications submitted by 30 March 2018, referred to as batch 2.

The Community Grants Hub received 37 applications for funding in batch 2, each of which was required to address the following five selection criteria:

Criterion 1: Demonstrate the target group's need for your project.

Criterion 2: Explain how your project will address the target group's needs.

Criterion 3: Explain how the implementation of your project will achieve the grant objectives.

Criterion 4: Explain how your project will achieve value for money for the Commonwealth.

Criterion 5: Demonstrate your organisation's capability to successfully deliver the project and achieve the grant objectives, including its ability to deliver on time.

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

Selection results

Nine project proposals were selected from batch 2 to be delivered as part of Tranche 2 of the Try, Test and Learn Fund.

Successful applicants provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Project Guidelines. Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.

Applications that were shortlisted as potentially suitable will be reconsidered for funding alongside applications received in later batches. We will notify you when the status of your application changes; either to "not successful" or to "approved for funding".

Applicants who were not successful in being granted funding in this batch may reapply later in the Tranche 2 application period.

There is no guarantee that applicants who reapply or are shortlisted will receive funding in future batches, even if applicants address the issues raised by the feedback released over the course of Tranche 2.



Criterion 1: Demonstrate the target group’s need for your project.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- provide evidence that the people targeted by your project are at risk of long-term welfare dependence (e.g. evidence may include Priority Investment Approach data, research, government reports, empirical evidence, etc.)
- provide evidence of the need for your project among those it would support (e.g. evidence may include Priority Investment Approach data, research, government reports, empirical evidence, etc.)
- outline how your project addresses an existing service gap and does not duplicate existing services or supports that are available to your targeted group.

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly provided evidence that the people targeted by the project are at risk of long-term welfare dependence	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The risk of long term welfare dependence on the target group by citing evidence e.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ one or more of the four targeted groups or another identified group in detail, showing understanding of the target group○ statistical data, e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics(ABS), and/or government report(s) and/or research paper(s) to outline the risk of long-term welfare dependence for this target group(s)○ examples of specific risks identified in the target region and how this compares to the rest of Australia/State/Territory○ Barriers/responsibilities that increase the cohort’s risk of dependence.
Strong applications clearly provided evidence of the need for the project among those it would support	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the need for the project among those it would support by citing evidence e.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ statistical data, e.g. ABS, and/or government report(s) and/or research paper(s) to demonstrate how the needs for this target group(s) are not currently being met○ analysis of evidence comparing the target group(s) against other groups in the region○ describing the needs of the target group(s) in the region using case studies or demonstrating how the aspects or components of the proposed project would address the needs of the participants.



Strength	Example
<p>Strong applications clearly outlined how your project addresses an existing service gap and does not duplicate existing services or supports that are available to the targeted group.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how projects will address an existing service gap by providing for example<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ statistical data, e.g. ABS, and/or government report(s) and/or research paper(s) to identify any existing service gap(s) in the target region;○ how the proposed service is not currently provided in the target region;○ how the proposed service will address an existing service gap in the target region.• how projects did not duplicate existing services or resources.



Criterion 2: Explain how your project will address the target group’s needs.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- outline the services that your project will offer to participants
- outline how your project will improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work
- outline how your project will address barriers to employment that affect the target group.

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly outlined the services that the project will offer to participants	Strong responses clearly outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the services that will be offered to participants including<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the ability to offer these services in the target region;○ the involvement of stakeholders e.g. corporations, specialists.
Strong applications clearly outlined how the project will improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work	Strong responses clearly outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the project would improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work, citing evidence (statistics, data, reports) through<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ pathways to employment, training and education○ support for social and community cohesion○ collaboration with other providers/stakeholders○ provision for building skills, social and emotional development○ integrated and holistic services.
Strong applications clearly outlined how the project will address barriers to employment that affect the target group	Strong responses clearly outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the project addressed barriers to employment that affect the target group supported by citing evidence (statistics, data, reports), and providing detail of<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the barriers and the remedial action proposed○ networks and facilities○ identified mentors/trainers/teachers.



Criterion 3: Explain how the implementation of your project will achieve the grant objectives.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- explain how your project will generate valuable new insights and empirical evidence that could improve Government policy aimed at increasing workforce participation or capacity to work for groups at risk of long-term welfare dependence
- explain how your project is a new or innovative approach to supporting a group at risk of long-term welfare dependence
- explain how your project will be practical to implement and evaluate as a trial within the required timeframe.

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project will generate valuable new insights and empirical evidence that could improve Government policy aimed at increasing workforce participation or capacity to work for groups at risk of long-term welfare dependence	Strong responses clearly demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how valuable new insights and empirical evidence on workforce participation or capacity to work would be generated that could improve Government policy, through, for example,<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ providing an overview of project objectives○ monitoring and evaluation process○ describing the types of data that will be collected<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ how the specified data will be collected▪ how data and insights will link to and be useful for Government policy.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project is a new or innovative approach to supporting a group at risk of long-term welfare dependence	Strong responses clearly demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the project will be a new or innovative approach, by citing evidence in support of your claims, for example<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how the project differs from other existing projects, including from other projects in the target region○ a new approach being taken or new elements incorporated○ that this new approach will provide positive outcomes○ how existing services are being utilised or delivered in a new way.



Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project will be practical to implement and evaluate as a trial within the required timeframe	Strong responses clearly demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the project would be practical to implement as a trial within timeframes, through outlining<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a logical structure to the project e.g. stages/project plan○ how each element of the project will be achieved e.g. resources, timing, milestones○ a realistic approach to recruiting participants○ detailed information on monitoring and evaluation.



Criterion 4: Explain how the project will achieve value for money for the Commonwealth.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- explain how your requested amount of grant funding is proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by your project
- explain how your project will use grant funding efficiently and effectively (i.e. economically).

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the requested amount of grant funding is proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by the project	Strong responses clearly demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the requested amount of grant funding was proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by the project, by listing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ people who will benefit directly and indirectly○ citing evidence (statistics, data, reports) of the cost per participant including comparison with annual welfare payments and the estimated total number of participants○ listing project benefits by describing how participant outcomes would be improved, citing research or experience from DSS and internal data sources○ the number of people who will benefit○ any economies of scale e.g. increasing numbers or offering another site(s).
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project will use grant funding efficiently and effectively (i.e. economically)	Strong responses clearly demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how grant funding would be used efficiently and effectively (i.e. economically), by detailing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how maximum benefit can be achieved for the funding○ any resource efficiencies can be realised via partnering with other organisations or stakeholders○ any co-funding arrangements○ the sustainability of the project after the grant finishes e.g. the potential for it to be self-sustaining, and/or the benefits that have a long-term effect.

Criterion 5: Demonstrate your organisation’s capability to successfully deliver the project and achieve the grant objectives, including its ability to deliver on time.

In responding, the applicant was required to:

- outline key staff that will manage and deliver the project, including: the amount of time they will devote; their qualifications; their skills; and their experience, including relevant experience working with the identified participants in the proposed location
- demonstrate your organisation’s experience in successfully delivering projects, and explain how this experience will support your organisation to deliver its project and achieve the grant objectives, including generating measurable outcomes in two years or less.

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated key staff that will manage and deliver the project, including: the amount of time they will devote; their qualifications; their skills; and their experience, including relevant experience working with the identified participants in the proposed location	<p>Strong responses clearly demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how they would manage and deliver the project by detailing the key staff’s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ roles on the project (e.g. project manager, facilitator, accountant), including time to be devoted to the project ○ qualifications (e.g. tertiary or vocational training) ○ relevant skills and experience required for the project ○ experience working with the target group in the area.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the organisation’s experience in successfully delivering projects, and explained how this experience will support the organisation to deliver its project and achieve the grant objectives, including generating measurable outcomes in two years or less	<p>Strong responses clearly demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience in successfully delivering projects through outlining, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ previous projects relevant to the proposed project ○ previous project outcomes. • how this experience would support delivery of the project and achieve grant objectives, including general measurable outcomes in two years or less, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ how experience from former projects will be utilised in the current project ○ how relationships formed from previous projects can/will be utilised ○ how the project will be completed and evaluated on time (e.g. any time and resources built in for unforeseen circumstances).