Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Inclusive Communities

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Strong and Resilient Communities Activity aims to build strong, resilient, cohesive and harmonious communities to ensure that individuals, families and communities have the opportunity to thrive, be free from intolerance and discrimination, and have the capacity to respond to emerging needs and challenges.

Inclusive Communities grants aim to increase the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families within their communities and enhance their lifetime wellbeing and sense of community belonging. Funding will only be available to eligible organisations to deliver one-off, time-limited projects that support the social and economic participation of people in their communities.

The types of projects that will be funded are:

- projects directed at children and youth under 18 years

- projects directed at unemployed people

- projects directed at addressing issues of racial, cultural or ethnic discrimination within the community

- projects directed at addressing issues of discrimination against women

- projects directed at people with disability or mental health issues to support their full and equal participation in society on an equal basis with others

- projects directed at non-Australian citizens, which would generally include humanitarian entrants or newly arrived migrants from culturally diverse backgrounds, to support the social and economic participation of these non-Australian citizens in their communities

- projects delivered online to support the social and economic participation of people within their communities

- projects to support the social and economic participation of Indigenous Australians within their communities.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub used an open competitive selection process to select multiple providers to deliver the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Inclusive Communities.

The Community Grants Hub received 1,050 applications for funding, each required to address four selection criteria:

Criterion 1 –   Demonstrate a strong need for the project within the target community.

Criterion 2 –   Describe the project in detail, how the project will be delivered and the intended outcomes for all stakeholders.

Criterion 3 –   Demonstrate your organisation's presence in the local community and how your project will link with or complement existing services.

Criterion 4 –   Demonstrate your organisation's governance structure and capability to successfully deliver the project.

Selection Results

Fifty-three organisations were selected to deliver the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Inclusive Communities.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements listed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Further detail about what made a strong response to each criterion is provided below.

Criterion 1

Demonstrate a strong need for the project within the target community.

In responding to the criteria, applicants had to demonstrate **all** of the following:

- the demographic of the community, the extent of the problem identified and how the problem relates to the objectives of the Inclusive Communities grants program

- what services are already available to support the target participants, and whether (and to what degree) there is unmet need

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the demographic of the community, the extent of the problem identified and how the problem relates to the objectives of the Inclusive Communities grants program	The responses clearly described: • the demographic of the target community, including but not limited to: o statistics, reports and data to demonstrate the demographic background of the community o target population as a subset of the general population (via comparison) o supporting information to help identify the target population • the extent of the problem identified within the community (via reports, data, strong anecdotal evidence), including but not limited to: o a description of the problem and what impact it has had upon the community o police crime data, ABS statistics, prevalence of the problem within the target community • how the problem relates to the objectives of the Inclusive Communities grants program, including how the activity will address the issues, or reduce the extent of the problem within the targeted community.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated what services are already available to support the target participants, and whether (and to what degree) there is unmet need	The responses clearly described: • what services are already available to support the target participants, including general support services, specialised support services and the absence of services • whether (and to what degree) there is unmet need, including but not limited to: o the absence of services for the target group and reasons for this unmet need (for example lack of funding, staff or capacity; imminent foreclosure of existing services leaving a service gap etc.) o non-specialised or generic services, which cover a broad range of participants but cannot engage the targeted population o how the proposed activity will fill a service gap (with reference to existing services).

Criterion 2

Describe the project in detail, how the project will be delivered and the intended outcomes for all stakeholders.

In responding to the criteria, applicants had to demonstrate **all** of the following:

- a description and objectives of the project, including how the project will be implemented, delivered and promoted

- who will benefit from the project, what the intended outcomes will be and how the intended outcomes will improve social cohesion and/or community resilience

- why the project should be considered a priority

Strength	Example

Strong applications clearly demonstrated a description and objectives of the project, including how the project will be implemented, delivered and promoted	The responses clearly described:
	
	• the project itself, including a breakdown of the project timeline, including the phases of program implementation, delivery and promotion
	• the different ways success will be measured across the project timeline, including but not limited to:
	    o key deliverables
	    o ongoing evaluation, consultation and refinement of project delivery, implementation and promotion.

Strong applications clearly demonstrated who will benefit from the project, what the intended outcomes will be and how the intended outcomes will improve social cohesion and/or community resilience	The responses clearly described:
	
	• who will benefit from the project and the intended outcomes, including but not limited to:
	    o numbers of individuals, families or target participants expected to benefit from the project upon completion
	    o how the outcomes will contribute to a reduction of the problem identified within the target community, and how these include (or improve) social cohesion and/or community resilience
	    o the additional benefits that cross over into other areas, for example increases in unemployment, confidence, volunteering, and/or community building.

Strong applications clearly demonstrated why the project should be considered a priority	The responses clearly described: • why the project should be considered a priority for the target community or demographic • the specific ways the target community will benefit from the project being implemented.

Criterion 3

Demonstrate your organisation's presence in the local community and how your project will link with or complement existing services.

In responding to the criteria, applicants had to demonstrate **all** of the following:

- the organisation's local knowledge, and having or being able to have a continued presence in the area where the project is to be delivered

- how the project will link in with or complement existing services

- how they will involve key stakeholders and/or governing bodies within the target community

Strength	Example

Strong applications clearly demonstrated the organisation's local knowledge, and having or being able to have a continued presence in the area where the project is to be delivered	The responses clearly described:
	• the organisation's history within the target area, including but not limited to:
	   o the length of time they have existed in the target area, and the types of projects they have implemented for the local community
	   o an understanding of the local community, including through partnerships with local organisations or service providers
	• the organisation's capability to have a continued presence in the local area, including but not limited to:
	   o funding arrangements for the future (through physical assets such as operating premises and/or financial aid for the future)
	   o capacity to recognise issues in the local community and respond (through past or future projects).

Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project will link in with or complement existing services	The responses clearly described:
	• existing services within the target community and how the project will link in with or complement these services, including but not limited to:
	   o cross-referrals and/or shared arrangements of staff/premises
	   o how the project fills a service gap left by existing providers.

Strong applications clearly demonstrated how they would involve key stakeholders and/or governing bodies within the target community	The responses clearly described:
	
	• specific details about the key stakeholders and/or governing bodies in the target community
	• how the organisation intends to involve these stakeholders/governing bodies, including but not limited to:
	    ○ community consultations, forums, reference/steering groups and oversight committees
	    ○ how much input/impact they would have over the project, including allowing for cultural sensitivities in the development, implementation and promotion of the project.

Criterion 4

Demonstrate your organisation's governance and capability to successfully deliver the project.

In responding to the criteria, applicants had to demonstrate **all** of the following:

- the organisation's governance structure, the experience and role of staff, and the organisation's prior experience in delivering similar services

- the organisation's capability to deliver new services to the target participants

- the organisation's capability to meet the reporting and performance requirements

Strength	Example

Strong applications clearly demonstrated the organisation's governance structure, the experience and role of staff, and the organisation's prior experience in delivering similar services	The responses clearly described:
	• the governance structure of the organisation, including but not limited to:
	   o horizontal or vertical organisational structure, including the two-way flow of information
	   o oversight and accountability, including risk management, understanding of and compliance with relevant laws or regulatory frameworks
	• the experience and role of staff, including but not limited to:
	   o the skills, experience and qualifications of key staff involved in the project (delivery, implementation, promotion etc.)
	• the organisation's prior experience in delivering similar services, including but not limited to:
	   o details of services the organisation has provided in the past, how they are similar and how they relate to the objectives of the grant
	   o the outcomes of these projects, including whether or not the projects were successful.

Strong applications clearly demonstrated the organisation's capability to deliver new services to the target participants	The responses clearly described:
	• an understanding of the barriers to engagement with the target (or future) participants
	• capacity to deliver new services, including but not limited to:
	   o evaluations of previous projects, including what worked well and areas for improvement for future projects
	   o a history of providing different services to participants.

Strength	Example

Strong applications clearly demonstrated the organisation's capability to meet the reporting and performance requirements	The responses clearly described:
	
	• the organisation's capability to meet reporting and performance requirements, including but not limited to:
	  ○ a history of receiving funding/grants from local, state or federal government departments, including the amounts received and the intent of the funding
	  ○ the experience, qualifications and skills of staff involved in the reporting and management of performance requirements related to government funding
	  ○ external evaluations/auditing of previous funding and/or projects.