Community Resilience

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.

Community Resilience grants aim to build strong, resilient and cohesive communities to help make Australia more secure and harmonious as a whole. This will be done through providing grants designed to address issues in communities that show potential for or early signs of low social cohesion, and/or racial, religious or cultural intolerance. Low social cohesion can have long term implications for community productivity, prosperity, harmony and could ultimately pose a risk to Australia's national security. Funding will only be available to eligible organisations to deliver one-off, time-limited projects that focus on diversity and community belonging and/or address barriers to social and economic participation in the target community.

The types of projects that will be funded include projects aimed at:

- helping people connect with government and non-government services;

- strengthening community leadership to foster greater community cohesion;

- promoting mutual respect, understanding and fair treatment for all Australians;

- promoting understanding of Australia's democratic principles, rights and obligations and the unifying value of citizenship;

- leadership training to empower women in new and emerging community groups;

- addressing racial, cultural or religious tensions between particular groups in the community through educational, social, cultural or sporting activities that bring people of different cultures or faiths together;

- facilitating increased participation in social, economic and community life;

- facilitating initiatives and activities to better build understanding of Australia's cultural diversity;

- providing youth at risk of marginalisation with welcoming and non-threatening access to services that aim to build trust and increase their community participation; and

- an online platform that aims to provide information for marginalised youth and will help to challenge extreme views.

Selection Process

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

The Community Grants Hub received 405 applications for funding. Each applicant was required to address the following four selection criteria:

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

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

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

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

Selection Results

Twenty-nine organisations were selected to deliver the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Community Resilience.

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 you have identified, how the problem relates to the objectives of the Community Resilience grants program, and how the project relates to the whole of the community; and

- 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 an understanding of the demographic of the community, the extent of the problem identified, how the problem relates to the objectives of the Community Resilience grants program, and how the project relates to the whole of the community	The responses clearly described:
	
	• the demographic of the target community, including but not limited to:
	   ○ statistics, reports and data to demonstrate the demographic composition of the community
	   ○ defining the target population as a subset of the general population (via comparison)
	   ○ 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:
	   ○ a description of the problem and what impact it has had upon the community
	   ○ evidence to outline the prevalence of the problem within the target community
	• how the problem relates to the objectives of the Community Resilience 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 knowledge and understanding of 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 and/ or specialised support services.
	• whether (and to what degree) there is unmet need, including but not limited to:
	   ○ the absence of services for the target group and reasons for this unmet need (for example lack of funding, staff or capacity)
	   ○ non-specialised or generic services, which cover a broad range of participants but cannot engage the targeted population

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 and delivered;

- how you will engage with the whole community, including how the project will be 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; and

- 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 and delivered	The responses clearly described: • the intended project, including; the objectives, target cohorts, proposed activities and outcomes • the steps and timeframes involved in program implementation and delivery • how the proposed activity will fill a service gap
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how you will engage with the whole community, including how the project will be promoted	The responses clearly described: • engagement strategies outlining how the project will engage with the whole community • promotional strategies for example; digital media, newsletters, community radio and newspapers

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:
	   ○ numbers of individuals, families or target participants expected to benefit from the project
	   ○ 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
	   ○ the additional benefits that cross over into other areas, for example increases in employment, confidence, volunteering, and/or community building

Strength	Example
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

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:

• your 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 your project will link in with or complement existing services; and

• how you 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 been established 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
	  o engagement with target community such as through the employment of local staff
	• the organisation's capability to have a continued presence in the local area
	• 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 local knowledge of existing networks
	  o cross-referrals and/or shared arrangements of staff/premises

Strength	Example
	o how the project fills a service gap or complements an existing service

Strong applications clearly demonstrated how you will 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:
	   o community consultations, forums, reference/steering groups and oversight committees
	   o how much input/impact they would have over the project, including allowing for any sensitivities (for example cultural) 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:

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

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

- your 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 oversight and accountability, including risk management, understanding of and compliance with relevant laws or regulatory frameworks • the management structure, including identifying key staff involved with the project and their roles • the experience and role of operational staff, including but not limited to:

Strength	Example

	○ 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:
	    ○ details of services the organisation has provided in the past, how they are similar and how they relate to the objectives of the grant
	    ○ the outcomes of these projects, including whether or not the projects were successful

Strong applications clearly demonstrated your 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:
	    ○ a history of providing different services to participants
	    ○ evaluations of previous projects, including what worked well and areas for improvement for future projects

Strong applications clearly demonstrated your 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, the intent of the funding, and whether or not the funding was acquitted/evaluated as being successful
	    ○ the experience, qualifications and skills of staff involved in the reporting and management of performance requirements related to government funding
	    ○ details about performance management, culture and structure, including meetings and reporting lines
	 • external evaluations/auditing of previous funding and/or projects