Transition Assistance Funding – Questions and Answers

1. What is the funding initiative for?

The Transition Assistance Funding Initiative will assist disability service providers transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Under the Transition Assistance Funding Initiative, eligible disability service providers will be able to apply for Transition Assistance funding of up to $20,000 (GST exclusive) to purchase tailored professional services, including business advice.

2. When do applications open/close?

Transition Assistance Funding applications for the current round will open on 23 March 2019 and close on 26 April 2019 at 11:00pm AEST.

The Transition Assistance Funding Team will not accept late applications unless the applicant can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances beyond their control resulted in an inability to meet the deadline.

Examples of exceptional circumstances could include, but are not limited to:

- Hub infrastructure failure
- natural disasters
- power outages.

The Transition Assistance Funding Team will make the final determination about whether to accept a late application after the round has closed. The decision will be made after considering the exceptional circumstances provided by the applicant.

3. Should I apply for Transition Assistance Funding?

This Transition Assistance Funding Opportunity is for organisations that are either currently delivering, planning to commence, or planning to expand existing delivered services under the NDIS. If you are not planning to deliver services under the NDIS, you will not be able to complete an application for Transition Assistance Funding. If you are unsure, please contact the Community Grants Hub at support@communitygrants.gov.au.

4. I am not an NDIS registered provider. Should I apply for Transition Assistance Funding?

You do not need to be an NDIS registered entity to apply for Transition Assistance Funding. However, if you are not NDIS registered and do not intend to seek NDIS registration in the next 18 months, you will be unable to complete an application for funding.

The following organisations are encouraged to apply:

- those currently NDIS registered
- those in the process of seeking NDIS registration
- those likely to seek NDIS registration in the next 18 months if you are one or more of the following type of organisation:
    - Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO)
    - Aged Care provider
    - Disability (non-NDIS) service provider
    - Health and other service organisation, defined as one of the following:
        - Hospital services and rehabilitation activities service provider
        - Mental health and crisis intervention service provider
        - Housing and homelessness service provider
        - Self-help and personal social welfare service provider
        - Provides services to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
        - Participant advocacy provider
    - Subcontracting to an NDIS registered organisation.

5. Where do I apply for funding?

A Readiness Assessment and Readiness Plan must be completed before completing an application. The Readiness Assessment will generate a unique identifier code for you to enter into your application form.

After this has been completed and you have generated your unique identifier code you can complete the online Transition Assistance Funding application form.

6. If I am unsuccessful, can I apply for additional rounds (if applicable)?

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email and those applications will automatically resubmitted by the Transition Assistance Funding Team if there are subsequent rounds. These applicants will not need to resubmit the application themselves.

7. What are the priority areas for this round?

Priority areas for this round include Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander service providers, providers delivering to remote locations, and/or other areas where there are NDIS service gaps. This means providers will be prioritised in this round in regions where there is unmet demand for NDIS service providers, or in regions where it is difficult to access NDIS service providers.

8. What is a Readiness Assessment and Readiness Plan?

A Readiness Assessment is a self-assessment of your organisation's overall readiness to succeed in the NDIS. The results of this assessment will generate a Readiness Plan which will highlight actions that your organisation may wish to consider taking, to support your organisation to be equipped for NDIS reform.

9. Why do I need to complete a Readiness Assessment?

Applicants must complete the Readiness Assessment before commencing the application form. You will be provided with a unique identifier after completing the Readiness Assessment and will be required to include this in the application form.

A Readiness Assessment can be completed multiple times, however the final Readiness Plan generated prior to completing a Transition Assistance Funding Application will be used. If you are successful in applying for Transition Assistance Funding this version of your Readiness Plan will be discussed in a Direct Contact Session.

If you have any concerns regarding the results of your readiness assessment, you can contact your local Regional Coordinator who can discuss your results with you.

10. How will the Readiness Plan be used?

Direct Contact Sessions will be held with successful applicants to discuss the Readiness Plan and agree appropriate business priorities for individualised supports.

11. How much funding is available?

A maximum funding pool of up to $5,600,000 (GST exclusive) is available for this current round. Applicants can apply for Transition Assistance Funding from $5,000 to $20,000 (GST exclusive). If less than $5,000 is required, this may be agreed during Direct Contact Sessions.

12. Am I expected to co-contribute funds?

No, there are no expectations or requirements for you to co-contribute funds.

If the services you choose to access exceed the value of the Transition Assistance Funding you receive, your organisation may choose to contribute the additional funds as the maximum individual organisation funding available is $20,000 (GST exclusive).

13. Are there any additional requirements for funding?

In addition to meeting eligibility criteria, all successful applicants will be required to participate in a direct contact session. These sessions will be conducted over the telephone and you will be requested to nominate an attendee from your organisation.

Direct contact sessions will be held with successful applicants to discuss their Readiness Plan and agree appropriate business priorities for individualised supports. The output of the direct contact session will be a tailored Transition Assistance Funding Agreement that confirms the activities and reporting requirements for the funding. Broadly, these are:

- Signed Statement of Compliance for working with vulnerable people
- Signed Statutory Declaration on completion of the Agreement
- Participation in post-agreement surveys which will include completing an updated Readiness Assessment.

14. Is there a list I can choose a Professional Business Consultant from?

Yes, a list of Professional Business Consultants will be made available to Transition Assistance Funding Recipients and published on the website. This list will support Funding Recipients to procure high quality goods and services.

This list may assist recipients to access suitable professional business consultants. Funding Recipients are responsible for conducting appropriate due diligence and enquiries with potential professional business consultants to satisfy themselves that value with relevant money will be achieved with the funds.

If your organisation prefers to choose its own professional business consultant, you will be asked to record and justify this decision in your Transition Assistance Funding reporting requirements.

15. Can we apply as a consortium for additional funds?

No, applicants cannot apply as a consortium. Each application must contain a single ABN and the organisation registered to that ABN will receive, and be responsible for, the funding.

16. Can I pool my funds with other successful applicants?

Yes, if you are successful in applying for Transition Assistance Funding you may choose to pool your resources with another successful Transition Assistance Funding applicant. However, each organisation is responsible for their reporting requirements and must ensure eligible activity requirements are met.

New questions and answers added 8 April 2019

17. How do I get on the list? How does a consultant express an interest in being included on the list?

Further information about the Professional Business Consultant aspect of the BLCW Program is not available at this time.

We encourage organisations to stay abreast of updates about this aspect of the Program, which is expected to be available in mid-April through the BLCW website and the supporting information on the Community Grants Hub page.

18. If the list is available in April, don't I need to know more information now so that I can get onto the list?

No. For the avoidance of doubt, mid-April is the expected date for any further information about the list to be provided, not the expected date by which the list will be completed and made available.

19. Will the list be available for applicants before they submit an application?

No. The list is not associated with the Transition Assistance Funding application process. The list will be used to assist successful funding recipients.