



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

# Economic and Community Participation (ECP) Program

**Economic Participation Grant Opportunity 2020–21**

**Feedback for applicants**

**Easy Read version**



## How to use this feedback



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (the department) wrote this feedback. When you see the word 'we', it means the department.



We wrote this feedback in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold  
**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 25.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another feedback document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information on the **Community Grants Hub website**.



You can ask for help to read this feedback. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## **What's in this feedback?**

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## About this grant opportunity



A **grant** is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



The Information Linkages and Capacity Building program gives grants to organisations that support people with disability.

We usually call it ILC.



ILC grants help our community be more:

- **accessible** – everyone can use it
- **inclusive** – everyone can take part.



Your **capacity** is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- knowing the right people who can help you.



ILC also helps people with disability live ordinary lives.



Economic Participation is an important part of the ILC program.



Our **economy** is the total amount of goods, services and money that Australia makes and uses.



**Participation** is when you take part.



Economic participation is when people take part in our economy by:

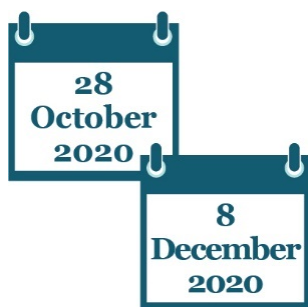
- working
- earning money.

## About the Economic Participation grants



Organisations had to send a form in to apply for the Economic Participation grant.

We call this an **application**.



Applications for the Economic Participation grant:

- opened on 28 October 2020
- closed on 8 December 2020.



Organisations could apply for grants between \$250,000 and \$1,200,000.



Organisations could use the money from this grant to pay for activities they deliver over 12 months.

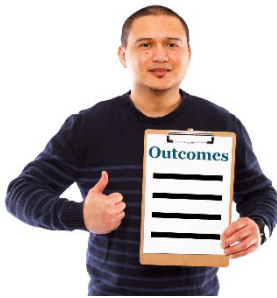
We call this **funding**.



Economic Participation activities help people with disability take part in our economy.



The Economic Participation grant had 3 **outcomes**.



Outcomes are important results we want to achieve.

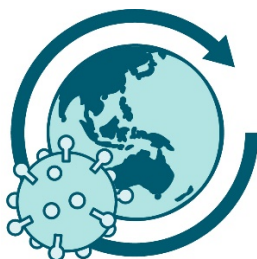


We gave grants to projects that met 2 or more of our outcomes.



The first outcome is to teach people with disability work and job skills.

This includes new skills for jobs that have changed because of **COVID-19**.



COVID-19 is a virus that has affected many people around the world. It is also known as coronavirus.

The second outcome is to help people with disability find:



- support
- places to work.

This includes working in their own business.

The third outcome is to:



- encourage employers to hire more people with disability
- teach employers how to support employees with disability.

## What is this feedback about?



We received 396 applications for the Economic Participation grants.



We gave funding to 36 applications.

In this feedback we explain:

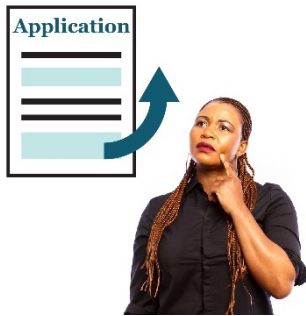


- how we chose who we gave funding to



- what applications did well.

We also explain:



- what applications could do better



- the important parts of the application.



We wrote this feedback to help organisations know how to make their applications stronger in the future.



We won't give feedback on individual applications.



You can find out about new grant opportunities on the:

- **GrantConnect website**
- **Community Grants Hub website.**

## How we chose who to give grants to



There are rules about:

- who could apply for Economic Participation grants
- how we choose who gets a grant.



There is a set of guidelines about the Economic Participation grants.



They explain the types of organisations that could apply.



The guidelines also explain what:

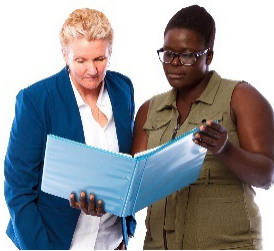
- organisations need to tell us in their application
- **evidence** organisations need to give us.



Evidence is proof that something is true.



You can find an Easy Read version of these guidelines on the **Community Grants Hub website**.



When we get an application, people from the department read it carefully.



After this, another group of people read the applications.



This group is called the Selection Advisory Panel.

For this grant round, the Panel was made up of people:



- with disability



- who work for the department



- who work for the National Disability Insurance Agency

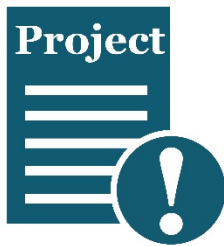


- who work for other parts of the government.

They think about:



- how the activities met the outcomes of the grant



- if organisations showed why their project was important



- if organisations can do what they say they will do in the application



- if any other organisations already offer the activities



- what people who work for state and territory governments have said.

## What strong applications were like

Strong applications showed:



- why their project was important



- how their project would work well



- no other organisations already run similar activities in the same place



- they have the right skills and experience to deliver the project.

Strong applications also showed:



- why their project met the outcomes of the grant



- if they could deliver the activities during the 12 months of funding.

Strong applications also identified if the project would support:

**NDIS**



- participants – people with disability who take part in the NDIS

**NDIS**



- people with disability who don't take part in the NDIS



- both groups.

## What some applications could do better



Some organisations could have read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines more closely.



Some organisations could have made sure they answered every question.



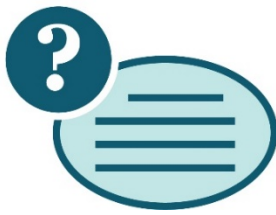
Some organisations could have showed they understood:

- the grant program
- what it wants to do.



Some organisations could have supported their answers with more:

- evidence
- examples.



Some organisations could have only included information that answered the questions



Some organisations could have showed their project would be good **value for money**.



When a project is good value for money, the activities:

- meet the needs of the community
- don't cost too much money.

## Important parts of the application



There were 4 **Assessment Criterion** in the application form.



An Assessment Criterion is a question that you need to answer.



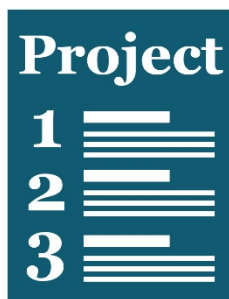
If you applied for a grant, you had to answer all the Assessment Criterion.



You can find the Assessment Criterion in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on the **Community Grants Hub website**.

## Assessment Criterion 1

Strong applications talked about:



- the activities in the project in detail



- who the activities will support

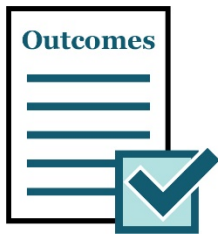


- where the activities will be delivered.



Strong applications included evidence to show why the project is needed.

Strong applications also talked about:



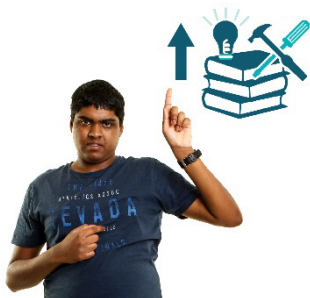
- how the project would meet the outcomes of the grant



- where the activities would take place and why they wanted to work in those areas. They didn't just list the activities.

## Assessment Criterion 2

Strong applications talked about:



- how the project will help people with disability build their capacity



- who the project would support



- why the organisation chose to support certain **priority cohorts** or groups.



Some people with disability from some groups in our community need extra help.

We call these Priority Cohorts.

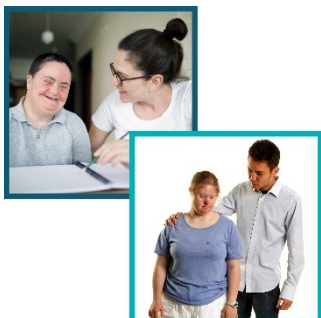
For this round of grants, these groups are:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- young people
- people living in **rural and remote areas**.



Rural and remote areas are places far away from cities or towns.



Strong applications also showed how the organisation would:

- connect with these people
- support their needs.

### Assessment Criterion 3



Strong applications talked about how people with disability would take part in:

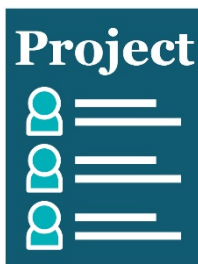
- planning the project
- delivering the project.



Strong applications talked about how people with disability who took part in the project could get long term jobs after the project finished.



Strong applications showed the project wasn't too big for the organisation to run.



Strong applications listed the main people who would work on the project, including their:

- experience
- skills.

## Assessment Criterion 4



Strong applications showed they could keep the project going when the funding finishes



Strong applications talked about how the organisation would make sure the project works well.



Strong applications talked about what people would achieve.



Strong applications included evidence to show why the project is needed.

## Word list



### Application

A form you send in to try to get a grant.



### Assessment Criterion

An Assessment Criterion is a question you need to answer in an application.



### Capacity

Your capacity is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- knowing the right people who can help you.



### COVID-19

COVID-19 is a virus that has affected many people around the world. It is also known as coronavirus.



## **Economy**

Our economy is the total amount of goods, services and money that Australia makes and uses.



## **Evidence**

Evidence is proof that something is true.



## **Funding**

Funding is the money in a grant.



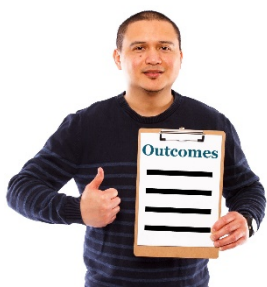
## **Grant**

A grant is money from the government for important work that can help others.



## **Independent**

When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.



## Outcomes

Outcomes are important results we want to achieve.



## Participation

Participation is when you take part.



## Priority Cohorts

Some people with disability from some groups in our community need extra help.

We call these Priority Cohorts.



## Rural and remote areas

Rural and remote areas are places far away from cities or towns.



## Value for money

When a project is good value for money, the activities:

- meet the needs of the community
- don't cost too much money.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about this feedback you can contact the department by:



### Option 1

- calling **1800 020 283** and choosing Option 1



- emailing  
**[support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)**



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