



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Veteran and Community Grants (V&CG) Program

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The objective of the Veteran and Community Grants (V&CG) Program is to maintain and improve the independence and quality of life for members of the Australian veteran community by providing funding for projects which will sustain or enhance health and wellbeing.

The intended outcomes of the program are to deliver projects which:

- are sustainable and have an ongoing benefit for members of the Australian veteran community
- increase opportunities for members of the Australian veteran community to engage in social and community activities and/or improve health behaviours and support healthy places.

Under this grant opportunity, practical projects and activities which will support safe, accessible environments for veterans and their families to enable social connection and positive engagement to improve wellbeing are encouraged. This includes small-scale non-capital infrastructure projects.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 3 November 2020 and closed on 29 January 2021.

The grant opportunity received 225 applications. Following the decision maker's decision, 113 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$2.407 million (GST exclusive).

There was a strong interest in the program and successful applications were of a very high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the Selection Process below.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Selection Process

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) used a targeted competitive selection process to select 113 providers to deliver the V&CG Program.

Applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applications were assessed on merit, based on:

- how well they met the criteria
- how they compared to other applications
- whether they provided value with relevant money.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria.

- Criterion 1: Project need and suitability - ***Describe your project and why it is needed.***
- Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes - ***Describe how the target group will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes.***
- Criterion 3: Ability of organisation to deliver - ***Describe your organisation's experience delivering projects that benefit the target group.***

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 Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



Selection Results

113 organisations were selected to deliver the V&CG grant.

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

Criterion 1: Project need and suitability

Describe your project and why it is needed

A strong response will address the following.

- What activities will be undertaken, and how many people are expected to participate in the activities? (What will you do?)
- Who the target group is and why they need this project? Provide data, research, community feedback, surveys etc. (Who will it help?)
- How the activities will address the particular needs of the target community? (How will it help?)

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated why the veteran community needs the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the specific needs of the veteran community and how they will be helped supported by evidence with data and research▪ how the activity assists veterans with transition back into civilian life▪ how the activity reduces social isolation for the target cohort.

Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

Describe how the target group will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes

A strong response will address the following.

- What outcomes does the organisation expect to achieve from their project, and how do these relate to the V&CG Program outcomes? (Why is it important and what will change?) The intended outcomes of the program are to deliver projects that:
 - are sustainable and have an ongoing benefit for members of the Australian veteran community
 - increase opportunities for members of the Australian veteran community to engage in social and community activities and/or improve health behaviours and support healthy places.
- How they will know the project has been successful? (How will you evaluate?)

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the outcomes will be achieved.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ how the activity will provide an ongoing benefit for veterans and encourage healthy behaviours.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project will be sustainable and have an ongoing benefit for members of the Australian veteran community.	Strong responses clearly provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ information on how sustainability would be achieved while continuing to support veterans' health and wellbeing and providing further opportunities for participation.
Strong applications clearly outline how they will evaluate the project.	Strong responses clearly provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a plan for evaluating the activity to help support future improvements.

Criterion 3: Ability of organisation to deliver

Describe your organisation's experience delivering projects that benefit the target group

A strong response will:

- describe the organisation's experience in delivering similar projects, including the outcomes achieved (what your organisation offers)
- describe the organisation's community knowledge, links, networks and partnerships and outline how you will use these to successfully deliver the project (how your organisation is connected to the community)
- outline the project risks and how they will manage them (how your organisation plans for success).

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated experience in delivering similar projects and working relationships with other local community organisations.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the strong working relationships with other local community organisations assisting the veteran community.
Strong applications clearly described the outcomes that were achieved from these similar projects.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ their experience in working with veterans on similar projects.
Strong applications clearly described how this/these link/s with community organisations will help deliver the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the importance of their links with community organisations and how they will assist in the project delivery.
Strong applications clearly explained how the risks will be managed.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ their approach to risk management including how to manage risks of COVID-19.