Strong and Resilient Communities - Cashless Debit Card Support Services Grant Opportunity

Questions and Answers

1. **What is the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) - Cashless Debit Card (CDC) Support Services grant opportunity.**

   The Cashless Debit Card support services grant opportunity is delivered as a separate stream within the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity under the Families and Communities Program.

   The grant opportunity aims to support the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people by enabling the development of community driven/led solutions, designed to meet identified strong needs that place people on long-term pathways towards self-reliance. This opportunity will focus on CDC locations including the regions of Ceduna in South Australia; East Kimberley and the Goldfields in Western Australia; Bundaberg and Hervey Bay in Queensland; and in the Northern Territory.
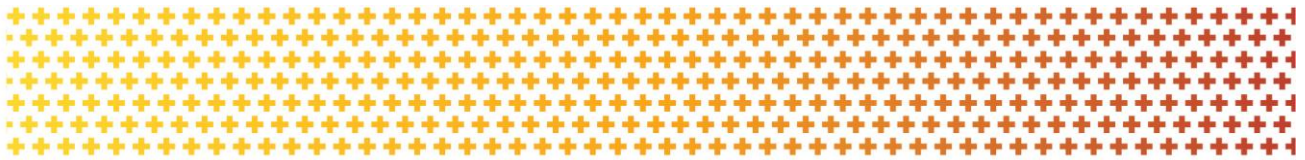
2. **What is the difference between the SARC CDC Support Services Grant Opportunity to the SARC Inclusive Community grant opportunity?**

   The SARC CDC Support Services grant opportunity opened on 27 September 2021, with grant expenditure of up to $31.1 million (GST exclusive) for the period of 2021–222 to 2022–23. The SARC CDC Support Services grants will focus on supporting CDC participants in the regions of Ceduna in South Australia; East Kimberley and the Goldfields in Western Australia; Bundaberg and Hervey Bay in Queensland; and in the Northern Territory.

   The SARC Inclusive Communities grant opportunity is anticipated to open by December 2021, with grant expenditure up to $63 million (GST exclusive) for the period of 2022–23 to 2026–27. The SARC Activity Inclusive Communities Grants are for building strong, resilient, cohesive and harmonious communities to ensure that individuals, families and communities have the opportunity to thrive and are not focused on supporting CDC participants or confined to any particular geographic locations.

3. **What is the closing time and date for applications?**

   The application form must be submitted by **9:00 pm AEDT on Monday 25 October 2021**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**.

4. **If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?**

No, extensions will not be given.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date the [late application policy](#) available on the Community Grants Hub website will apply.

5. **How much funding is available for this grant opportunity?**

The Australian Government has announced a total of up to $31.1 million (GST exclusive) over 2 years for the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – CDC Support Services grant opportunity.

6. **Is the funding on going?**

This grant opportunity seeks applications for projects to be delivered from February 2022 to 30 June 2023 with the possibility of a 2 year extension.

7. **When will I know the outcome of my application?**

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

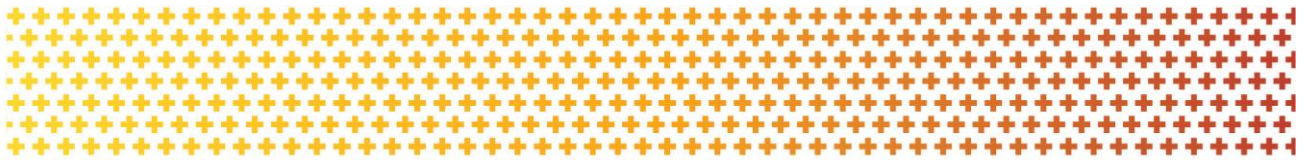8. **How can I submit the Application Form?**

The form is an online Application Form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the grant opportunity documents.

9. **Do character limits apply to my application?**

Yes, the application form includes character limits – up to 6000 characters (approximately 900 words) per assessment criterion. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

10. **Does my organisation need to be located and operating in the CDC sites of Ceduna in South Australia; East Kimberley and the Goldfields in Western Australia; Bundaberg and Hervey Bay in Queensland; and in the Northern Territory (NT)?**

To be eligible to receive funding under the SARC CDC Support Services grant opportunity, organisations need to be currently operating or have the capacity to operate in CDC locations and currently deliver services in regional and remote Australia.

11. Why is the Department of Social Services emphasising the difference between outputs and outcomes for the SARC CDC Support Services Activity?

The department is interested in understanding what outcomes are being achieved for all funding it administers. The outputs delivered are important. However, the outcomes – the specific benefits and positive change achieved though SARC CDC funding, is equally important. Measureable outcomes achieved tell the department how effective activity funding has been.

12. Can organisations apply for funding to enhance an existing activity or project or is it exclusively for brand new projects?

Yes. You can apply to enhance an existing activity/project as well as brand new projects for SARC CDC Support Services funding.

13. Can organisations apply for funding for a project that has already been funded by the Government for example Jobactive, Disability Employment Service?
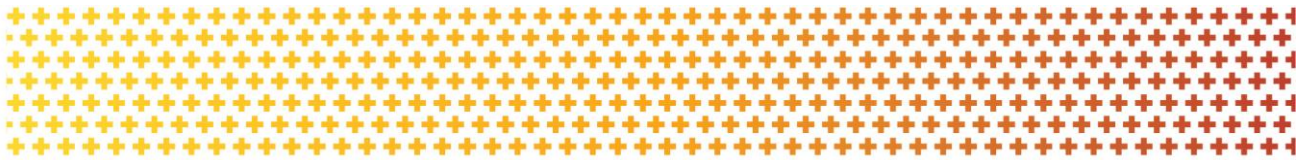
No. We cannot provide a grant if you have received funding from another government source for the same purpose.

14. Can organisations propose projects that operate through partnerships and/or consortia?

Project proposals that operate through various partnership and/or consortia models may be considered for SARC CDC Support Services funding. In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'.

15. Will reporting under the Data Exchange allow sufficient insights into benefits for individuals level changes or are the results going to be aggregated up to the group cohort level?

The SARC CDC Support Services grant opportunity will mandate the Data Exchange (DEX) Partnership Approach. As part of the Partnership Approach, organisations will gain access to a number of additional reports. The DEX Client Outcomes report allows grantees to apply filters and drill down from an aggregate group level to an individual client level, where paired SCORE changes for an individual can be viewed over time. The 'filter' feature of the DEX reports allows grantees to find insights at the aggregate level based on client demographics, location, outcome domain, and so on. Additional information on the DEX and reporting requirements will be provided in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

16. Can I put in a joint application?

The department will accept these arrangements and will particularly encourage them where an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) and non-Indigenous organisation have a relationship. Organisations that use this kind of partnership arrangements should ground their partnership in the APO NT Partnership Principles.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group. The lead organisation will also need to be currently operating or have the capacity to operate in CDC locations and currently deliver services in regional and remote Australia.

Where consortia arrangements have been finalised, you must attach a copy of the final arrangement.

Where an arrangement has not yet been finalised, you must attach evidence outlining all parties' agreement to the consortia arrangements. You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the agreement.

17. Where should I go for further information?

Applicants are encouraged to keep an eye on GrantConnect for further information, including additional questions and answers for all applicants as part of the grants opportunity documents, once the round opens.

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Questions and Answers added on 8 October 2021

18. Section 3 of the SARC CDC Support Services Grant Opportunity has been updated

The department has updated the SARC CDC Support Services grant opportunity. The updated version of the grant opportunity removes the second paragraph under Section 3, the grant amount and grant period. The department has removed the sentence regarding the maximum amount per project.

19. Instructions on how to update your already submitted application

The department has updated the SARC CDC Support Services grant opportunity. If you have already submitted an application that now needs to be updated because of this change, you will need to create a completely new application form. You will then be able submit the new application which will replace the already submitted one.