



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Grants-in-Aid Program

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The objective of the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) grant opportunity is to fund discrete projects or activities which address a specific problem or issue and will achieve a clear national benefit to the Australian ex-service and Defence community. The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- encourage co-operation and communication between the ex-service community, Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) and the Australian Government
- assist ESOs to:
 - support their branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations in performing compensation or wellbeing advocacy or other welfare work
 - advance the objectives of all ESOs more generally, including improved co-operation and communication between national bodies, branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations on repatriation and military compensation matters.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 23 March 2021 and closed 9:00 pm AEST on 6 May 2021.

The grant opportunity received 32 applications. Following the Decision maker's decision, 14 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$137,090.91 (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 (GOGs) 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 14 providers to deliver the Grants-in-Aid program.

Applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the GOGs.

There were a high number of ineligible applications from Ex-Service Organisations at the sub-branch or state level. The Grants-In-Aid program requires applicants to be a national ESO. The definition of a national ESO for the purpose of Grants-in-Aid funding is outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines.

A national ESO is considered to be an organisation which:

- has direct links to the ex-service community
- has membership consisting primarily of veterans, past and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and/or their dependants and has branches of offices in a majority of states and territories
- is established primarily to represent the interests of members, to provide pensions, advocacy and/or welfare assistance to veterans, past and present members of the ADF and/or their dependants
- does not operate as a business or charge any fee for acting on behalf of the veterans, past and present members of the ADF and/or their dependants in the provision of claims or welfare services
- has objectives which aim to benefit the welfare of its members nationally
- is incorporated in the states and territories in which it is established and/or acts, and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

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.

Assessing value with relevant money includes consideration of the relevant financial and nonfinancial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to the:

- quality of the project proposal and activities
- if the proposal is fit for purpose in contributing to government objectives
- whether the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved
- the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Selection Results

14 providers were selected to deliver the GIA grant.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the GOGs. 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:

- What is the specific problem or issue you have identified?
 - What is the discrete project or activity you will undertake to address the identified issue, and how many people do you expect will participate? (What will you do? Who will it help?)
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Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated why the veteran community needs the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the project would encourage cooperation between the ESO community and the Australian Government.• Why their project was needed and how it addressed a specific issue.

Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

Describe how the national ex-service and Defence community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes.

A strong response will address:

- What outcomes do you expect to achieve from your project, and how do these relate to the Grants-in-Aid Program outcomes? (Why is it important and what will change?)
- The intended outcomes of the program are to:
 - encourage co-operation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government
 - assist ESOs to:
 - support their branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations in performing compensation or wellbeing advocacy or other welfare work
 - advance the objectives of all ESOs more generally, including improved co-operation and communication between national bodies, branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations on repatriation and military compensation matters.

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the outcomes will be achieved	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the project would support their branches and sub branches in performing both compensation and welfare advocacy, and• How their project would advance the objectives of ESOs more generally, including methods for improving communication and cooperation between branches and affiliate organisations.
