



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



NAIDOC Local Grants Program

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy has a budget total of \$5.7 billion (GST exclusive) over 4 years from 2021–22 to 2024–25. For this NAIDOC Local Grants opportunity, a total of up to \$1.4 million (GST exclusive) is available in 2021–22.

While there are no maximum or minimum amounts that can be applied for this grant round, the majority of grants are for amounts of \$200 to \$1,000 (GST exclusive), depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity.

The objectives of the program are to promote:

- the expression, engagement and conservation of Indigenous Australians' cultures
- Indigenous Australians' participation in the social and economic life of Australia through healing, and strengthening the capability, governance and leadership of Indigenous Australians, organisations and communities
- broader understanding and acceptance of the unique place of Indigenous Australians' cultures in Australian society.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous Australians' cultural expression and conservation, including recognition of Australia's shared history and valuable Indigenous Australian heritage
- support activities increase the participation of Indigenous Australians in Australian society through healing and improved individual, community and organisational capability and leadership
- promote the unique place Indigenous Australians and their cultures have in Australian society.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 17 January 2022 and closed on 22 February 2022 at 9:00 pm AEDT, with 883 applications received.

There was 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.

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 National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) used an open competitive selection process to select providers to deliver the NAIDOC Local Grants Program.

Applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

NIAA considered applications on their merits, based on:

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

Applications were scored in relation to whether they fully met, partially met or did not meet the assessment criteria.

Key considerations in determining value with relevant money included:

- the relative total value and breakdown of costs (budget) of the grant sought
- the quality and purpose of the grant activity
- intended outcomes
- alignment with Culture and Capability and NAIDOC program objectives
- the relevant experience of the applicant.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

- Criterion 1: Need and community involvement
- Criterion 2: Cultural competence
- Criterion 3: Organisational capability
- Criterion 4: Delivering outcomes

Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements.

Guidance for future NAIDOC Local Grants applications

The following tips are intended to provide guidance in completing applications for NAIDOC Local Grants funding.

Make sure you read supporting information before applying

- Start your application as soon as possible and submit on or before the closing date. Late applications may not be accepted.
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- Thoroughly read all available information provided about the NAIDOC Local Grants round when applying for funding.
 - Consider how your application will align with the annual NAIDOC theme, aims, and objectives of the funding round.
 - Ensure you are only applying for funding to cover eligible costs as outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
 - Examples of what is out of scope for funding:
 - administration fees
 - the purchase of capital items
 - infrastructure and support costs associated with ongoing activities
 - Welcome to Country services or ceremonies.

Check the application before it is submitted

- Organisations and community groups are encouraged to check the application form for completeness prior to submission. Take advantage of the Checklist provided.
- Check all details are correct including checkboxes, eligibility requirements met and all required attachments have been included.
- Use the entity type listing and where relevant, provide the supporting detail.
- Check your organisation is submitting only one application for all locations in which you wish to run the activity – for example if you are a Catholic school, check if other schools in your diocese are also interested in applying for a grant and make one submission.

Addressing Selection Criteria

- Strong applications clearly identified the need for NAIDOC activities in the area by, for example, providing information about the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals or families accessing your service or who live in the local area.
- Strong grantees also demonstrated how they would engage with the local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in planning and running their event, for example through consultation with Elders.
- These grants may contribute to an activity with funding from other sources. Strong applications also detailed the other funding had already been sought for the activity and how additional funds would be secured. This demonstrates both community involvement and shows how the activity would deliver outcomes.

Request for Individual Feedback

If you would like feedback on your application please contact: support@communitygrants.gov.au. Queries should be sent no later than 10 June 2022. Please allow for a 20 business days turnaround.
