



Safe and Together Community Grants Program

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Home Affairs (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Safe and Together Community Grants Program grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process below.

Overview

The application submission period opened on 23 November 2022 and closed on 12 January 2023. The grant opportunity received 109 applications.

This Program will enable communities and organisations to deliver a range of activities and programs to support, at the earliest possible stages, individuals who may be vulnerable to developing extremist views and behaviours. The Program will empower communities and organisations to develop and deliver local solutions to these issues in the best way they see fit.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This information was provided to the department's grant opportunity delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through a streamlined open and competitive grant process. Applications which had undergone preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (the Panel) for deliberation.

The panel established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

When assessing and deliberating on applications the panel took into consideration a number of factors incorporating the inclusion or exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received, meeting the identified requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and the available funding envelope.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was based on:

- compliance with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- suitability against the eligibility criteria in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- how well the responses addressed the assessment criterion
- the merit of applications when compared against other applications
- alignment with criteria for funding prioritisation
- compliance with application requirements, including provision of a clear project plan and other requested attachments
- the relative value of the grant sought and whether it provided value with relevant money

- how the proposed activities would contribute to meeting the objectives and intended outcomes of the Program
- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the department and the Commonwealth.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criterion.

The Community Grants Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criterion.

Criterion 1: Activity description

Applicants were asked to describe their proposed grant activity in detail, including identifying which eligible funding category their activity fell under (see Grant Opportunity Guidelines section 5.1 – Eligible grant activities for more detail), how it would be delivered and how it fulfilled the Program’s objectives.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants were encouraged to discuss:

- what activities they would undertake and how many people were expected to participate
- whether applicants would partner with other organisations to deliver the activity and if so, what benefit the partnership would deliver and how it would be managed
- how the activity was anticipated to address extremism in the target community
- what outcomes applicants expected to achieve and how these relate to the Program’s objectives and outcomes as outlined in section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- how applicants would track and report on outcomes
- whether the activity was anticipated to continue beyond the 12-month grant period and if so, how the activity would be supported beyond this time.

Strong applications:

Described the activities the organisation proposed to deliver (for example, information sessions, retreats), who would deliver the activities (for example, youth workers, community leaders) and included the total number of estimated participants taking part in the activity.

Identified the organisations the applicant proposed to collaborate with, and/or any current partnerships in place which would be leveraged to deliver the grant activity.

Outlined the roles and responsibilities of any partner/s in the grant activity, and explained why their partner/s were selected for the grant activity, for example, the partner organisation/s have demonstrated experience in delivering similar services in the target community.

Explained how the applicant would maintain their relationship with partner/s during the grant activity (for example, through an advisory committee, regular meetings with their partner/s).



Strong applications:

Defined the target community (for example, young people in a specific regional/rural area) and described the issues currently faced by the target community (for example, prejudice, vulnerability to developing extremist views and behaviours).

Provided an explanation on how the grant activity would address the issues faced by the target community (for example, participants will share and exchange ideas in protecting themselves against extremism on various social media platforms).

Described the outcomes the grant activity would achieve.

Linked the activity's objectives and outcomes with those listed in section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Described how the outcomes would be measured (for example, surveys, participant attendance rate) and when monitoring and evaluation activities would commence and be completed.

Described how the grant activity would be improved during the project period with participant feedback.

Explained how the grant activity could achieve long-term outcomes for the target community.

Explained how the grant activity could be supported after the grant period (for example, the applicant will seek future funding from other sources).

Criterion 2: Demonstrated need

Applicants were asked to demonstrate why there is a strong need for the proposed grant activity in the target community (which could be defined by a regional/rural area or as a community consisting of young people).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants were encouraged to discuss:

- who the target community is and describe its characteristics, such as size and geographical location
- why the target community requires assistance with addressing extremism, how the issue of extremism may be impacting the community, and provide evidence supporting their claims
- the organisation's connection to the target community and why it is best placed to support the community's needs in addressing extremism
- how the organisation plans to engage with the target community and any other relevant stakeholders who may have an interest in the activity.

Strong applications:

Provided details of anticipated participants within the target community (for example, the targeted backgrounds, age groups and religious faiths). Detailed relevant and recent demographic data (for example, ABS, SEIFA) to describe the target community.

Described the issues contributing to the target community's vulnerability to extremism (for example, ongoing war in participant's home country) and provided evidence that described the



Strong applications:

actions of individuals with similar backgrounds to the target community affected by extremist views (for example, news reports, statistics).

Provided evidence of previous activities or services aimed towards the target community and described the outcomes achieved while working with the target community.

Provided evidence which exemplified the applicant's capability and experience in addressing extremism.

Described the marketing or promotional methods aimed towards the target community and identified who the applicant would engage and consult with (for example, community leaders, Elders).

Criterion 3: Organisational capacity

Applicants were asked to demonstrate their organisation's experience in delivering programs, initiatives or activities aimed at addressing extremism in the target community (which could be defined by a regional/rural area or as a community consisting of young people).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants were encouraged to discuss:

- details of other activities, programs or initiatives their organisation has successfully delivered in addressing extremism – including when and where were they delivered, to which target community, how many people participated in them and what outcomes were achieved
- their relationship with the target community and how they would work with the target community to ensure their grant activity is successfully implemented
- their experience in managing a similar grant activity and what policies or procedures they have in place to manage the grant activity to success if they were funded.

Strong applications:

Outlined any previous activities or services which addressed extremism (for example, when and where they were delivered, who the participants were, how many participants were there and the outcomes achieved).

Provided details on their capability to deliver on program objectives, including how the organisation would leverage or build on staff skills and expertise.

Described the organisation's prior experience in working with the target community and explained how the organisation will personally engage with the target community throughout the activity.

Described any previous experience in delivering a project a government body or foundation had funded via a grant, outlined the role and responsibilities of key individuals who will oversee the grant activity (for example, program manager) and defined the risks that could affect the grant activity (for example, COVID-19, data breaches) and key mitigation strategies.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.
