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# Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity - Food Relief

## Feedback for applicants

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The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity - Food Relief (FR) grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the grant opportunity guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

### Overview

The application submission period opened on 22 October 2024 and closed on 2 December 2024.

Through the FWC Activity, funding is provided for the FR Grant Opportunity. FR contributes to the FWC Activity outcomes by increasing Commonwealth-funded Emergency Relief (ER) providers' access to a cost-effective supply of food and material aid, for provision to eligible clients experiencing financial crisis.

Material aid is practical assistance given to people in financial crisis. This may constitute items such as toiletries and personal hygiene products, cleaning products, blankets, clothing, essential school supplies, and essential white goods.

The program will run over 5 years, from 2025–26 to 2029–30.

### Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the 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 an open competitive grant process. Applications which underwent preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (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.

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

- meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
- meeting the eligibility requirements outlined in the guidelines
- how well the responses and proposed activities met the assessment criteria
- the volume of applications received and the extent to which applications compared against other applications
- the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments

- whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
- 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 guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

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

### Criterion 1

#### Describe your organisation's capacity to deliver FR on a national scale.

Applicants were required to:

- outline their organisation's track record and management approach, including the proposed governance structure for administering Commonwealth-funded FR services nationally.
- outline their organisation's physical locations (for example, warehouse locations, food hub locations, locations with delivery vehicles owned/rented by their organisation).
- describe how their organisation would support Commonwealth-funded Emergency Relief providers located in each state and territory with a cost-effective supply of food and/or material aid, including providers in regional and remote areas of high disadvantage.
- detail the expertise and experience of the staff/volunteers who would be directly and indirectly delivering FR (for example, paid and unpaid staff, administration support).
- describe the development and training they would be providing staff (paid and unpaid) to ensure they have the necessary skills and support to deliver services effectively.

Where relevant, applicants also:

- described the activity responsibility of their consortia partners.
- described the practices and processes they would implement to comply with state/territory food safety standards when preparing and transporting food.

#### Strong applications:

- provided a clear description justifying their capacity to deliver FR on a national scale, claims were supported by the inclusion of:
  - comprehensively demonstrating their track record and management approach. Responses were supported by recent statistics and key performance indicators to demonstrate a persuasive case.
  - explained their proposed governance structure in detail with reference to their ability to administer Commonwealth-funded FR and/or Material Aid services on a national scale (for example, by outlining the specific role of the Chief Executive Officer and board in relation to the management of FR service delivery).
  - clearly identified the organisation's physical locations and showcased why these locations are best equipped to serve the community by increasing support to Commonwealth-funded ER providers.
  - comprehensively outlined their strategy to support Commonwealth-funded ER providers with reference to how they would support providers in regional and remote areas of high disadvantage. Responses were supported by specific examples to demonstrate capability and services to be delivered.

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- clearly described areas of expertise and experience among staff/volunteers working both directly and indirectly on the project and described how these staff/volunteers would be trained and developed over the course of the program.
- where relevant, explained the nature of their consortia partnership by providing a detailed overview of the role, responsibilities and expertise of any partners in relation to the assessment criteria.
- where relevant provided credible justification of handling/transporting protocols and explained how they would ensure compliance with state/territory guidelines.

### Criterion 2

#### **Describe how your organisation will deliver FR on a national scale.**

Applicants were required to:

- detail their organisation's expertise and experience in maintaining or developing strong collaborative relationships with partners (for example, farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and logistics companies), to source food and/or material aid and ensure it is distributed to community organisations in a cost-effective, timely manner.
- detail how their organisation would leverage other sources of funding, resources and/or support to help address the need for FR services.
- outline how their organisation intended to respond to increased demand arising from unforeseen crisis events, for example natural disasters.

Where relevant, applicants also:

- described the activity responsibility of their consortia partners.
- described how they would work with partners, including Emergency Relief providers, to ensure that (wherever possible) the food that was made available to local Emergency Relief providers was culturally appropriate / aligned with the cultural needs of the local community.

#### **Strong applications:**

- provided a detailed overview of the applicant's history and expertise in developing or maintaining collaborative relationships with partners and explained their role in sourcing and distributing food and/or material aid.
- clearly demonstrated their ability to leverage other sources of funding showcasing specific examples where possible to justify their response and address the need for food and/or material aid services.
- comprehensively outlined contingency plans and strategies they intended to use to manage increased demand. Responses provided clear examples of experience demonstrating capability and capacity to respond to unforeseen crisis events.
- where relevant, clearly explained their consortia partnership activity responsibility in relation to the assessment criteria.
- where relevant, explained how they will collaborate with partners, including ER providers to ensure services are delivered to a high standard, this includes culturally appropriate food that aligns with the need of the local community.

### Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.