



**ACT**  
Government

# 2026-27 Tenant Participation Grant Program

## Grant Guidelines

Applications open: 12 noon Wednesday 7 October 2026

Applications close: 3pm Thursday 5 November 2026

## Accessibility Information

The ACT Government is committed to making its information, services, events, and venues, accessible to as many people as possible.

- If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an **alternative format** – such as large print or audio – please telephone **1800 950 225**.
- If English is not your first language and you require the **translating and interpreting services** – please telephone **13 14 50**.
- If you are d/Deaf or find it hard to hear or speak to hearing people on the phone, visit the **National Relay Service (NRS)** at [www.accesshub.gov.au](http://www.accesshub.gov.au)

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# 2026-27 Tenant Participation Grant Program

## 1 Introduction

The Health and Community Services Directorate is pleased to announce the opening of the 2026-27 Tenant Participation Grant Program.

## 2 Aim

This program aims to encourage and support applicants to participate in a range of sporting, arts, cultural, education, employment, and training activities for physical, social, and personal development.

We know that some sporting, arts, education, and cultural activities can be costly. The cost of these activities may be the reason why tenants and their families are limited or unable to do their preferred activity.

By offering these grants, we aim to give more social housing tenants and their families the opportunity to take part in the activities of their choice.

## 3 Eligibility requirements

### Who can apply?

Individuals can apply if they are:

- A public housing tenant in the ACT; OR
- A social housing tenant in the ACT (community and supported housing).

And be:

- Paying subsidised income-based rent (receive a Rental Rebate).

Each household can only apply once in the 2026-27 round.

### Did you know?

Students aged between 3 and 18 can apply for the Future of Education Equity Fund. More information about how to apply for this fund can be found here -

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-and-resource-assistance-for-families>

### Funding cannot be used for

The following will not be funded:

- Activities or items that do not achieve social, life or educational participation.
- IT equipment and IT hardware (including computers, laptops, mobile phones etc).

- Activities that do not occur within the ACT, unless they are online.
- Costs of projects or activities that have already taken place, or items that have already been purchased.
- Operational insurance costs specific to the project.
- Debt repayments of any kind, including personal loans, or HECS-HELP debt.
- Projects or activities already funded by the ACT Government or Australian Government.
- Any travel or accommodation costs.
- Projects or activities which are deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
- Private or public events such as festivals, parties, and celebrations.

## 4 Funding Categories

The 2026-27 Tenant Participation Grant Program has 3 funding categories for projects and initiatives:

### **Social activities**

### **Life skills activities**

### **Education and work activities**

#### **Social activities**

These are activities which individuals can join in with the life of their community, such as sport, music, or art classes. Classes or courses can be online, or in-person. This can include items you may need to purchase for these social activities. Things like –

- Painting class,
- Sports registration and uniforms,
- Music classes and instruments,
- Sewing courses and relevant materials,
- Dance classes and uniforms,
- Community theatre memberships fees (or online version), or
- Gym or pool memberships.

#### **Life Skills**

These are activities which may improve interpersonal skills, such as communication skills, language skills, or safety in the water. This can include items you may need to purchase for these activities. Things like -

- Cooking classes and relevant utensils,

- Improving communication skills or language courses,
- Beginners swimming lessons (for those aged between 0 and 2 years),
- Driving lessons (for those aged 19 and over),
- Training to support friends or family, for example domestic or family violence response training, or Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), or
- First Aid Certificates.

### **Education and work activities**

These are activities in which individuals can learn new job skills, engage in education and training, or undertake career planning classes. This includes items you may need to purchase for these activities. Things like –

- Course fees at Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and/or textbooks,
- Career planning and coaching courses,
- Training or conferences, or
- Childcare fees for the time you are attending a face-to-face course.

The ACT Government does not carry any responsibility for the activity undertaken by tenants, residents, or household members.

## **5 Funding**

### **Available funding**

The total funding available under this Program is \$140,000.

Grants will be awarded to households, instead of individual people. The below table outlines the funding based on the size of your household:

| Household makeup                | Amount eligible for |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 person in your household      | \$400               |
| 2 people in your household      | \$800               |
| 3 people in your household      | \$1,200             |
| 4 people in your household      | \$1,600             |
| 5 people in your household      | \$2,000             |
| Over 5 people in your household | \$2,000             |

As there is no good or service being exchanged, GST is not applicable to grant payments.

## 6 Assessment of applications

As this is a non-competitive grants process, your application will be checked against the eligibility requirements of these grant guidelines to ensure eligibility for funding.

Information provided in your application and information from any previous Health and Community Services Directorate grant rounds will be used to assess the applications submitted. If you have been successful in other recent grant rounds, this may be taken into consideration considering the high number of applications received to ensure fairness across all households.

If the grant round is oversubscribed with more applications received than the funding available, priority will be given to the following groups:

- Those who didn't receive funding in the 2025-26 Tenant Participation Grants
- People who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Single people living by themselves
- Applicants aged over 65

Grants will be awarded using these priority areas until the available funding is exhausted. If more funding becomes available in the 2026-27 financial year, applicants who were deemed eligible but were not successful due to the available funding being exhausted, may be offered a grant.

**Applications received after the grant round is closed will not be accepted.**

### Notification of outcome

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing by email and by letter.

The Health and Community Services Directorate expects to notify applicants of the outcome of their applications in December 2026 or January 2027. Between the grant round closing, and receiving your outcome letters, applicants may not hear anything from the Grants Hub team.

## 7 Accepting grant

### Grant Agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an Agreement. This will be via a Letter of Offer with the Health and Community Service Directorate for which grant funding will be provided. The Letter of Offer will include:

- How to accept an offer
- Detail the grant amount to be funded
- The term of your funded activity for which the grant amount must be fully expended

The ACT Government does not carry any responsibility for the activity undertaken by tenants, residents, or household members.

## 8 Application submission

### Online Application Form

Now that you have read the Grant Guidelines, this section explains how to submit your application on SmartyGrants. All applications must be submitted via the online application form at:

<https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/2627TPG>

All Applications must be submitted online. Hardcopy or email applications will not be accepted. If you need assistance with the online form, please contact Housing Assistance either by phone – 1800 950 255 or via email to [tpg@act.gov.au](mailto:tpg@act.gov.au), or visit us at 153 Emu Bank, Belconnen between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

If you have never written a grant application, we suggest you take some time to understand the process and reach out for assistance if you need it. You will find lots of tips on the SmartyGrants website – <http://help.smartygrants.com.au/display/help/Help+Guide+for+Applicants>

You can start gathering your support materials straight away. These might be quotes, request for class dates, or website details for digital courses. There is no limit to the amount of supporting evidence you can submit, just make sure it is relevant to the activity to be funded.

### Create log in

You will need to create a log in to begin your application and you may begin anywhere in the application form. Please make sure you save as you go.

### Navigating form

On the right-hand side of every screen, there is a box which links directly to every page of the application. Click on any page to jump directly to that page. You can also click 'next page' or 'previous page' on the top or bottom of each page to move forward or backward through the application.

### Saving draft

You can press 'save' at any point and log out. When you log back in, your draft application will be saved, and you can start where you left off.

### Submitting application

The submit button is on the final page. You will not be able to submit your application until all the questions are completed. Once your application has been submitted, you cannot make further changes to it.

### Supporting documentation

All applicants can provide supporting documentation at the time of submission.

If your application does not include all the required documentation, it may be deemed ineligible. SmartyGrants provides an online help guide for applicants. This guide will explain the essential steps you need to take to complete and submit your form. The help guide is accessible at:

<http://help.smartygrants.com.au/display/help/Help+Guide+for+Applicants>

### **Correct contact details**

Please make sure that the contact details listed in your application form are correct. The Health and Community Services Directorate will use this information for all correspondence relating to your application.

### **Save application**

It is recommended that you keep a copy of your application for your records as well as your application ID number (e.g., 2627TPGxx). You can print a copy of your completed online application or save it as a PDF.

## **9 Application feedback**

### **Providing feedback**

Applicants are encouraged to complete the feedback questions at the end of the application form. This feedback assists to improve grant programs, processes, and service delivery. You can also email feedback to the Grants Hub team at [HCSDGrants@act.gov.au](mailto:HCSDGrants@act.gov.au).

### **Requesting feedback**

The Health and Community Services Directorate supports your right to ask questions about the grant application process. If your application has not been successful, email the Grants Hub team at [HCSDGrants@act.gov.au](mailto:HCSDGrants@act.gov.au) quoting your application ID number and outlining your specific concerns. The Health and Community Services Directorate will provide a response as soon as possible.

This information also assists to improve grant programs, processes, and service delivery.

## **10 More information and assistance**

For more information and assistance:

Please contact the Tenant Participation Grants team by emailing [tpg@act.gov.au](mailto:tpg@act.gov.au)

For in person assistance to complete the application form, please come into our Housing ACT office:

153 Emu Bank Belconnen

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am- 5pm

For over the phone enquiries regarding the grant, please call Housing ACT on 1800 950 255.

## 11 Application Checklist

- ☐ You are a public housing tenant, or a social housing tenant in the ACT.
- ☐ You are receiving a rental rebate.
- ☐ The activity selected clearly supports participation with 1 or more of the social, life, educational or work categories.