



ACT
Government

2024-25 ACT Women's Safety Grant Program

Grant Guidelines

Applications open: 12 noon Tuesday 19 November 2024
Applications close: 3 pm Tuesday 14 January 2024

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2024-25 ACT Women's Safety Grant Program

1 Introduction

The Community Services Directorate is pleased to announce the opening of the 2024-25 ACT Women's Safety Grant Program (the Grants or the Grant Program).

The Grant program provides funding support to organisations, and community groups for innovative projects to improve the health, wellbeing, and safety of ACT women and gender diverse people who align themselves with this group.

2 Aim

This program aims to support innovative projects that promote the improvement of health, wellbeing, and safety of ACT women and gender diverse people and to advance priorities identified in the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

3 Government objectives

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led organisations are encouraged to apply.

Consistent with the objectives of the grant program, funding for projects, activities or initiatives that contribute towards closing the gap on disadvantage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Canberrans will be considered.

This is part of the ACT Government's commitment to Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As outlined in the [ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement](#), the ACT Government and community partners are committed to self-determination as the guiding principle in the delivery of programs and services.

ACT Health and Wellbeing

Projects and initiatives must demonstrate how they address any of the ACT Health and Wellbeing Framework outcomes.

For more information, visit the [ACT Wellbeing Framework website](#).

4 Eligibility requirements

Who can apply?

- Organisations

Individuals, profit making groups, government entities and registered political parties are not eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants can only apply once in the 2024-25 round.

Applicants must have no overdue acquittal obligations for any previous Community Services Directorate grant. **All overdue acquittals must be completed prior to submitting an application.**

Organisation eligibility requirements

Organisations can apply if they:

- Operate in the ACT
- Are a non-government, legally incorporated entity or supported by an incorporated auspicing organisation
- Are a registered not-for-profit or a charitable organisation
- Have no overdue acquittal obligations for any previous Community Services Directorate grant. **All overdue acquittals must be completed prior to submitting an application**
- Have the qualifications, skills, experience, and reputational standing to manage the proposed initiative
- Have appropriate insurance cover held by the organisation implementing a funded project. This may include Public Liability of no less than \$10 million, Personal Accident, Volunteer Cover and or Directors Professional Indemnity. Evidence of insurance may be required as a condition of the grant

Unincorporated Community groups may be eligible to apply through an auspicing entity. For more information refer to 'Auspicing arrangements' section.

Auspicing arrangements

If you are a community group or organisation that is not legally incorporated (unincorporated) then you may ask an incorporated organisation to auspice an application on your behalf.

An auspicing body is an organisation that accepts the legal responsibility including financial accountability for a project. If your organisation is not a legal entity, you will need to arrange for an organisation that has legal status to act as an auspicing body.

The auspicing organisation must provide a letter of support with the application stating they will:

- Be the applicant for this grant funding and if successful contract directly with the Community Services Directorate for the receipt of grant funding, and comply with all grant funding contractual obligations, including the provision of financial acquittal

documentation.

- Be the entity that will accept the grant funding for the project and administer the funding in accordance with the Grant Guidelines and Letter of Offer.
- Disburse grant funding to the auspiced party in accordance with the Grant Guidelines and Letter of Offer and not unreasonably withhold funding from the auspiced party for the implementation of the project.

Funding cannot be used for

The following will not be funded:

- Projects that do not contribute to or meet the aims and priorities of the program
- Projects that are not delivered primarily within the ACT or benefits the ACT community
- Projects requiring ongoing funding to sustain the project or activity
- Projects or activities already funded by the ACT Government or Australia Government, or where alternative sources of funding are available
- Projects that are a duplication of, or in parallel with an existing service, program, project, or event.
- General administration and operational costs such as salaries, memberships, subscription fees, communication and IT, stationery, rent, leasing, or utilities, machinery, vehicles, or large capital equipment of any kind
- Items not declared in the grant application and therefore unapproved
- Costs of projects or activities that have already taken place, or item already purchased
- Operational insurance costs specific to the project
- Activities for or by a political party
- Debt repayments of any kind
- Any travel or accommodation costs
- Projects which have a high component of administration costs (other than research).
- Prize money or gifts
- Activities that contain content that may offend or bring into disrepute the applicant organisation, The Community Services Directorate and/or the ACT Government
- Activities that do not comply with public safety requirements or meet relevant Australian Government legislative requirements
- Projects or activities which are deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.

5 Funding

Available funding

The total funding available under this Program is \$100,000.

The maximum grant that can be applied for is \$20,000.

As there is no good or service being exchanged, and the grant is intended to be a contribution, GST is not applicable to grant payments.

The value is for one project or initiative only and is non-recurring.

Successful recipients will have 12 months from the date of the Letter of Offer to expend the funding.

6 Priority areas for funding

The ACT Women's Safety Grants have 4 priority areas for projects and initiatives, which align with the priorities identified in the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*:

- **Prevention**
- **Early intervention**
- **Response**
- **Recovery and healing**

The *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* is available on the Australian Government Department of Social Services website at: <https://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence>

See the 'Project details' section for more information about these priority areas.

7 Project details

Project eligibility

Eligible projects must:

- Achieve outcomes in line with the priorities of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*
- Not be retrospectively funded, duplicate or ongoing/recurrent funding
- Have not received funding from another source to deliver the same or similar project, funding from these grants can be used to supplement existing funding
- Occur primarily in the ACT and for the benefit of women and gender diverse people who align themselves with this group in the ACT.

Applications may include proposals for projects and initiatives that address the priority areas of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. The *National Plan* details several objectives for each of the priority areas:

Prevention

1. Challenge the condoning of violence against women and embed prevention activities across sectors and settings.
2. Advance gender equality and promote women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships.
3. Strengthen positive, equal, and respectful relationships between all people in public and private spheres.
4. Listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.
5. Support men and boys in developing healthy masculinities and positive, supportive relationships with their male peers.
6. Harness technology in the prevention of violence against women and children.
7. Invest in making workplaces safe and preventing sexual harassment.
8. Elevate the voices of children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right.

Early intervention

1. Reduce the long-term impacts of exposure to violence and prevent further exposure.
2. Address adolescent violence in family settings.
3. Improve timely responses to newly identified cases of violence, attitudes and behaviours that may lead to violence perpetration.
4. Enhance accountability of people who choose to use violence and address misidentification of perpetrators.
5. Build sector and community capacity to identify and support women and children at increased risk of experiencing gender-based violence and to intervene early to stop violence from escalating.

Response

1. Ensure frontline services provided by states and territories are coordinated, integrated, and appropriately resourced with a skilled and qualified workforce to support all victim-survivors.

2. Incorporate an understanding and appropriate response to the specific challenges diverse communities face in relation to family, domestic and sexual violence.
3. Ensure women and children escaping violence have safe and secure housing, from crisis accommodation to longer-term, sustainable social housing.
4. Improve justice responses to all forms of gender-based violence.

Recovery and healing

1. Ensure victim-survivors are well supported in all aspects of their daily lives through trauma-informed, culturally safe, and accessible services that support long-term recovery.
2. Design recovery services and supports that are tailored to the specific needs of diverse populations and individuals, and women and children of all ages and in all locations.
3. Ensure everyone impacted by sexual violence receives specialist recovery and healing services.
4. Recognise children and young people as victim-survivors of violence in their own right and establish appropriate supports and services that will meet their safety and recovery needs.

8 Assessment of applications

When your application is received it will be checked against these grant guidelines to ensure eligibility for funding.

Assessment process

Following the eligibility check, a Grant Assessment Team will assess your application. The Grant Assessment Team will be made up of a chairperson and 2 other assessors. Grant Assessment Team members will be appointed on their knowledge of the improvement of health, wellbeing, and safety of ACT women and to advance priorities identified in the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

Successful applications may not receive the full amount applied for. The Grant Assessment Team will review and adjust the level of allocated funding as necessary.

Grant Assessment Team members will use the information provided in your application and information from any previous Community Services Directorate grant rounds to assess the applications submitted. If you have been successful in other recent grants rounds, the Grant Assessment Team may take this into consideration during their assessment considering the high number of applications received to ensure fairness across all applicants.

All decisions on whether to award a grant, or on the amount of any grant, are at the sole discretion of the Community Services Directorate.

Assessment criteria for applications

Due to the competitive process, all eligible applications will be assessed and prioritised by the Grant Assessment Team against the following assessment criteria:

- **Contribution to *the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*:** The extent to which the proposal advances the objectives and priorities of the Plan.
- **Outcome:** The proposal must have a clear outcome for the project, initiative, or activity.
- **Capacity:** The proposal demonstrates that the organisation has the capacity to deliver the project and manage the funding. Where the project requires the co-operation of another organisation or ACT Government Directorate, the applicant must demonstrate they have consulted with that organisation or Directorate and sought their endorsement. This endorsement should be provided in the form of a Letter of Support from the co-operating organisation or Directorate.
- **Evidence of need:** The need for the project in the target community is demonstrated. This can take the form of research or consultation.
- **Budget:** The budget is realistic and clearly details all expenditure for the project and demonstrates value for money.

A budget is an estimate of income and expenditure required to complete your project. You will need to provide a budget with your application. This needs to show the funding breakdown for different items.

In some cases, due to the high demand for grants only partial funding can be offered. Therefore, you will need to consider if you can proceed with your project if only part-funding is available.

If you have applied for another grant for this same project, please ensure this is explained in your application.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Notification of outcome

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in writing via email.

The Community Services Directorate expects to notify applicants of the outcome of their applications in March 2025. Please ensure that this timeframe is taken into consideration when planning your projects. Between the grant round closing, and receiving your outcome letters, applicants may not hear anything from the Community Services Directorate Grants team.

Unfortunately, not all applications can be funded as there are usually more applications received than funds available. This does not necessarily mean that the project or application is not worthy. It is more likely that other project applications were ranked higher in the assessment process.

If you would like feedback on your application, please see the 'Application Feedback' section.

9 Accepting a grant

Grant Agreement

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

- How to accept an offer
- Detail on the grant amount to be funded
- Detail the purpose or activity for which the grant is given
- The term of your funded activity for which the grant amount must be fully expended
- How to acquit your grant funds when the project has been completed.

The ACT Government does not carry any responsibility for the activities undertaken by grant recipients.

Funds must be spent only on items and activities listed in your application. The Letter of Offer may have conditions of what the funding can and cannot be spent on.

Changes to project

A grant is funded based on the details of your application only. If something changes due to unexpected circumstances, you must first obtain written approval from the Community Services Directorate. Your request to change the project will be reviewed by the Delegate and you will be advised in writing if the request is approved or declined. Failure to seek approval to change the purpose can result in non-conformance and may result in you having to return the full grant amount that was paid by the Community Services Directorate.

Acknowledging support

Grant Recipients must ensure the assistance provided by the ACT Government is appropriately acknowledged in any promotional or other materials. The ACT Government's Branding Guidelines and "Supported By" logo are accessible at:

<https://www.act.gov.au/act-government/communications/design-and-brand-guidelines>

Grant and project promotion

The names, project descriptions and funding amounts of all successful applications will be posted on the ACT Government Grants website following completion of the grants process. By accepting a grant, you agree to this and to the ACT Government Media team contacting you to discuss publishing a story on how the grant was used.

If you do not want your name published, or to be contacted by the ACT Government Media Team please let the Community Services Directorate Grants Team know when you accept your grant.

Grant recipients must provide details of the deliverable for promotional activity and are encouraged to invite members of the ACT Office for Women, Community Services Directorate and the Minister for Women to any related events/launches.

10 Acquittal and reporting requirements

All successful applicants must expend the funds within the timeframes nominated in the Letter of Offer.

An acquittal is a signed declaration, submitted at the end of the activity, stating that funding was used for the agreed purpose. This includes providing copies of receipts as proof of expenditure.

Acquittal process

The acquittal of the grant must be submitted through SmartyGrants at:

<http://dhcs.SmartyGrants.com.au/applicant>

Instructions will be provided to successful applicants in their Letter of Offer. You will need to login using the same identification details you used to submit the application. Please keep this in a safe place.

The funds must be expended in accordance with the activity/project outlined in the grant application and in the Letter of Offer, and all receipts must be retained and submitted with the acquittal.

As part of your acquittal, you will be asked to briefly outline who was supported by your program and highlight any key successes or outcomes.

Unspent funds

Any unspent funds from your grant must be returned to Community Services Directorate. Please email the Community Services Directorate Grants team at CSDGrants@act.gov.au to advise of any unspent funds.

Please note: *To be eligible for funding in any future Community Services Directorate grants rounds, applicants must meet all acquittal requirements.*

11 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/2425WSG>

All Applications must be submitted online. Hardcopy or email applications will not be accepted.

If you require assistance to complete your application, please contact the ACT Office for Women women@act.gov.au

Start early – the process of preparing a grant application depends on how well you have planned the activity for which you are applying. You can start this process long before you start and submit an application.

If you have never prepared a proposal or 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>

Start gathering your support materials. These might be quotes, or website details. You can never have enough evidence to support an application, so long as it is relevant to the activity to be funded.

Create login

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 form.

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 must 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. Community Services Directorate will use this information for all correspondence relating to your application.

Completing application as a group/team

Several people can work on an application using the same login details provided that only 1 person is working on the application at any given time. Please ensure you save as you go.

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., 2425WSGxx). You can print a copy of your completed online application or save it as a PDF.

12 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 Community Services Directorate Grants team at CSDGrants@act.gov.au.

Requesting feedback

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

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