



OFFICIAL

Cyber Security Awareness Support for Vulnerable Group

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Home Affairs (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Cyber Security awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups 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 11 June 2024 and closed on 23 July 2024 at 9:00pm AEST.

This grant will support community groups to amplify and tailor government communications to their cohorts to explain cyber security issues, encourage these communities to take basic steps to protect themselves and also connect them with existing Government support services.

Selection Process

The Community Grants 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.

When assessing and deliberating on applications the panel took into consideration several factors including the inclusion or exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received and meeting the identified requirements outlined in the guidelines and the available funding envelope.

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

- Meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
- Meeting the eligibility requirements outline in the guidelines
- Determining 'like' applications
- How well the responses met the assessment criteria
- Comparison of applications with similar proposed activities and/or target cohorts
- Whether the project would achieve coverage across a variety of demographic cohorts, locations, and activities
- Whether the project demonstrated value for money
- How the proposed activities compared to existing government initiatives
- 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 Community Grants 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 considered a quality response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion 1

Demonstrate a strong need for increased cyber awareness within your target community/communities.

When addressing the criterion, a strong application:

- Described the current awareness of the targeted community and specified the issues facing vulnerable groups in the targeted community.
- Demonstrated why the target community requires additional/tailored support with cyber security.

Strong applications:

- Clearly identified the targeted community, articulated the cohorts' vulnerabilities, and specific issues the community faces with regard to cyber security.
- Provided evidence that outlined the level of cyber security awareness of the targeted community, e.g statistics, anecdotal evidence and academic research.
- Outlined specific reasons why the targeted community does not currently benefit from existing cyber security training and why additional and/or tailored support is required.

Criterion 2

Describe the grant activity/activities that your organisation will undertake.

When addressing the criterion, a strong application:

- Demonstrated how the proposed grant activities and delivery method will be tailored to the vulnerable group.
- Demonstrated how the activity/activities will achieve the grant objectives outlined in section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Strong applications:

- Described the grant activities and method of delivery with reference to specific measures that would be taken to tailor activities or delivery methods to meet the needs of the vulnerable group.
- Linked activities to specific grant objectives and outlined how these activities would achieve the policy intent.

Criterion 3

Describe your organisation's ability to successfully deliver the grant activity.

When addressing the criterion, a strong application:

- Demonstrated the organisation's experience in delivering similar projects to the target community and what the outcomes were?
- Demonstrated the organisation's community knowledge, networks and partnerships with the target community and outlined how they will use these to successfully deliver the project.
- Outlined how they would monitor and evaluate project outcomes.

Strong applications:

- Described the experience the applicant has in delivering similar projects with regard to the specific nature and outcomes of the project.
- Where the applicant had not delivered similar projects in the past, relevant strengths and experience of the key staff were discussed.
- Outlined relevant knowledge and connection with the targeted community with specific reference to any networks and partnerships in place and how these would be used to reach into the target cohort.
- Discussed the methodology to monitor and evaluate project outcomes against clearly defined measures and/or key performance indicators.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.