



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Structural Adjustment Fund – Round 2

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Structural Adjustment Fund – Round 2 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 26 July 2024 and closed on 5 September 2024.

The aim of the Structural Adjustment Fund (the Fund) grant program is to create employment pathways and opportunities for people with intellectual disability and other high support needs.

The Fund will enable this by supporting a range of innovative projects to create:

- sustainable employment, training and capacity building opportunities for people with high support needs
- better pathways to open employment for people with high support needs
- supported employment workplaces that better meet community expectations, including by paying higher wages and becoming more connected to the community.

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 department, with the assistance of a selection advisory panel (the panel), assessed and considered the eligible and compliant applications that were received through an Open Competitive grant process.

The panel established by the department, comprised 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 outline in the guidelines
- how well the responses 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
- whether the proposed activities targeted a priority cohort and/or geographical location
- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the department and the Commonwealth.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity. 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 were quality responses to the assessment criteria.

Criterion 1

Demonstrate how your project aligns with the Guiding Principles

When addressing the criterion strong applicants:

- described what the project is trying to achieve, including methodologies for achieving this and how many people with disability will be supported
- demonstrated how funding will assist organisations to evolve pursuant to guiding principles for the future of supported employment
- included how success of the project will be measured
- detailed how the activity/ies could be scaled up and/or how the activities will be sustainable beyond the grant period
- demonstrated how the funding would support people with disability with high support needs in their employment.

Strong applications:

- demonstrated individualised approaches to job support and skill development, including involving people with disability with high support needs in co-design of employment pathways
- were person-centred, demonstrating that the approach meets the needs of the individual/s the project is targeting
- demonstrated a phased approach to help people find work with clearly articulated links between project goals and outcomes
- demonstrated robust methodology and offered multi-disciplinary wrap around support to participants
- proposed innovative design methodology, learnings capture and sharing for potential sectoral change
- detailed how their activities would be measured and provided clear links between goals, methodology and outcomes.

Criterion 2

Demonstrate your organisation's capability and capacity to deliver the grant activity/ies

When addressing the criterion strong applicants:

- demonstrated the organisation's experience and capacity including experience in delivering similar projects
- described the organisation's existing or planned partnerships with key stakeholders and explained their role in the project
- in the case of newer organisations with less experience, the applicant demonstrated their understanding of the complex needs of the cohort that they intend to support, and demonstrated how they will identify suitable participants, and partnerships to support the project
- outlined how the grant will utilise the existing evidence base on supporting people with high support needs in their employment, as well as how their project will build on the evidence base
- demonstrated how the project will support the priority cohorts defined at section 5.1 of the guidelines.

Strong applications:

- demonstrated their organisation's capability to deliver the project by providing evidence of their success with similar projects
- demonstrated their understanding of disability and their experience working with people with disability with high support needs, particularly in employment settings
- targeted one or more of the priority cohorts being people with disability with high support needs in rural and remote areas, people with disability with high support needs located in South Australia and the Northern Territory, First Nations people with disability with high support needs, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people with disability with high support needs, women with disability with high support needs, LGBTIQ+ people with disability with high support needs
- identified having existing relationships with community organisations and groups of the cohort they intended to target and in the locations they intended to provide services
- demonstrated how their initiative filled a much-needed gap in a particular region or location, how they would engage participants and measure success.

Criterion 3

Deliver Value for money for Government

When addressing the criterion strong applicants:

- provided a project budget
- outlined a proposed payment structure
- explained how the grant will deliver value for money for the government.

Strong applications:

- provided a realistic budget for the project they described, taking into account the number of people they would support which demonstrated knowledge of the target group
- detailed how the project would provide value for money with clear, measurable outcomes and transparency regarding how in-kind contributions and partnerships optimised the support provided to people with disability.

Individual feedback

Applicants seeking individual feedback should submit requests to SEPolicy@dss.gov.au. Requests for individual feedback will only be accepted within 10 business days of receipt of the outcome of your application. Feedback will be provided within 20 business days of receipt of the request.