Social Cohesion Measures Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab Communities (APMAC) Support Projects

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Home Affairs (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Social Cohesion Measures Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab Communities (APMAC) Support Projects 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 18 September 2024 and closed on 16 October 2024.

The APMAC grant opportunity is being provided as part of the Australian Government's package to support Australian Palestinian, Muslim and other communities who have been affected by the Hamas - Israel conflict.

The objective of this package of funding is to support and strengthen resilience in Australian communities who have been affected by the conflict through a range of measures, in response to the particular needs of local communities.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- foster the integration of Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities

- reduce community isolation within Australia

- reduce instances of discrimination and racism

- develop tolerance and respect for different cultures and religions

- foster community wellbeing and social inclusion and cohesion

- improve the safety of Australian communities that may experience threats due to the Hamas - Israel conflict

- enable communities to undertake activities safely and free from harassment

- deter crime by improving security infrastructure at community organisation facilities

- contribute to greater community resilience and wellbeing.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- increased integration outcomes for Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities

- reduced instances of discrimination, racism, crime or violence in communities affected by the Hamas - Israel conflict

- increased rates of social connections by Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities with the broader Australian community

- increased sense of safety and belonging in Australia for Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities.

The APMAC grant opportunity will prioritise supporting:

Australian Palestinian-led organisations or organisations representing Palestinian Australians ▪ community organisations who are already working directly with Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities who have been impacted by the Hamas - Israel conflict.

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:

- compliance and eligibility requirements
- how well the responses met the assessment criteria
- Whether the project aligned with the grant opportunity objectives
- the volume of applications received and the extent to which applications compared against other applications
- the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
- The reach of the project
- The geographical spread of projects
- The spread of funding across the 2 program streams
- Whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
- Minimising possible duplication with other Commonwealth and state and territory government programs/service delivery.

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: Need

Describe who your project will support and what their need is.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- outlined the characteristics of their target group/ community and how this cohort aligned with the intent of the grant opportunity of supporting Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities affected by the Hamas – Israel conflict
- outlined the needs of this target group/community and how these needs were related to the Hamas – Israel conflict
- outlined what support the target group/community currently receives and identified any gaps.

Strong applications:

- Specified their target group/community and described the demographic of the group/community with reference to evidence or statistics.
- Described how the cohort of their group/community aligned with the intent of the grant opportunity.
- Clearly described the needs of their target group/community with reference to how these needs linked to the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- Outlined the current level of support their target group/community receives and where the support came from as well as what gaps were present.

Criterion 2: Outcomes

Describe your proposed project and how it will achieve positive outcomes for your target group/community and contribute to the objectives of the grant opportunity outlined in section 2.1.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- outlined the activities they would deliver through the proposed project
- outlined what outcomes were expected to be achieved through the project activities
- outlined how these activities would address the need/s identified in Criterion 1.

Strong applications:

- Named and detailed the activities they proposed to deliver with reference to elements such as timeframes, participant numbers, venue and so on.
- Described key outcomes of their project with reference to how their proposed activities would achieve these outcomes and elements such as key performance indicators and timeframes among others.
- Linked their outcomes and activities to the needs that they specified in criteria 1 with specific attention paid to how their activities address these needs.

Criterion 3: Capacity

Demonstrate your organisation's capacity to achieve outcomes for your target community through the proposed project.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- outlined their organisation's relationship with the target group/community, including previous support provided by their organisation to the community

- described their organisation's ability to deliver the project to the target group/community

- identified any risks associated with the grant activity and mitigation strategies to manage these risks.

Strong applications:

- Detailed their organisation's relationship with the target group/community and clearly described any previous support or activities that the organisation has delivered to the target group/community.

- Outlined their organisation's strengths and ability to deliver their proposed activity, reference was made to staff numbers, qualifications or partnerships they may hold.

- Clearly identified any risks associated with the grant activity and provided detailed mitigation strategies to reduce the chance or effect of those risks.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.