

Supporting Stronger Communities grant program

Applicant Guidelines

Enabling Neighbourhood and
Community Houses and Centres to
address poverty and disadvantage to
strengthen their local communities.



SIDNEY MYER FUND

Supporting Stronger Communities grant program

Applicant Guidelines 2020

AIM OF PROGRAM -

The Supporting Stronger Communities (SSC) grant program gives Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres the opportunity to access funds to target poverty and disadvantage in their local communities.

WHO IS FUNDING –

The Sidney Myer Fund has formed a partnership with the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) to deliver the SSC grant program.

The Sidney Myer Fund provide grants across Australia to improve people's lives in lasting and positive ways. In line with this, the SSC grant program has been developed to enable Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres to apply for grants to respond to emerging needs to address poverty and disadvantage to strengthen their local communities.

WHO CAN APPLY –

- ❖ **This small grant program is available to all Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres across Australia that are in towns or cities with a population of more than 15,000 people.**

Small grants for applicants in rural and regional Australia are available through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities program. This program prioritises applications from communities with fewer than 15,000 people

https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Strengthening_Rural_Communities

- ❖ **Other local Community groups and organisations are also able to apply by forming a partnership with their local Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre.**

The Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre will take the lead role in the project. Evidence and an outline of the partnership details will be required when completing your application.

(To see if your partnership arrangement would be eligible, please refer to the information sheet about Partnering arrangements.)

- ❖ **Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres need to be a member of their State peak body of Houses and Centres which is a member of the national peak body ANHCA.**

If you are unsure whether you are a member, please contact the peak body in your state.

- Community Centres South Australia - (08) 8371 4622
www.communitycentressa.asn.au
- Linkwest Western Australia - (08) 9485 8929
www.linkwest.asn.au
- Local Community Services Association (LCSA NSW) - (02) 9660 2044
www.lcsansw.org.au
- Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania – (03) 6244 1615
www.nht.org.au
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) - (03) 9602 1228
www.nhvic.org.au
- Queensland Families and Communities Association (QFCA) - (07) 4055 6440
www.qfca.org.au

- ❖ **Only one submission will be considered per Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre at any one time.** In order to ensure that the funding is spread throughout the houses around Australia, applicants will only be able to receive funding **once every 2 years**.

(In the case of organisations that manage multiple centres, one application will be accepted from each separate house or centre.)

WHO CAN'T APPLY –

- Community organisations that are not working in partnership with a Neighbourhood or Community Houses or Centre.
- Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres who have received a grant from the SSC grant program in the last 2 years.
- Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres who have not completed their acquittal for previous SSC grants.

ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS –

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED –

Projects that are developed in response to emerging community needs targeting poverty and/or disadvantage can apply for funding through this grant program.

Existing programs can also apply for funding to adapt or expand their program providing it is clearly explained how the changes are required to meet changing needs in the community.

You can apply for funding to cover costs associated with delivering projects which can include (and is not limited to) -

- Wages for the delivery of the project
- Equipment hire or purchase costs
- Hall hire costs for off site facilities
- Community Training costs

If you are unsure whether something will be eligible for funding please call the ANHCA Grants Officer on 0428 964 817 or email emily@anhca.org

WHAT CAN'T BE FUNDED –

- Projects that take place in towns or cities with less than 15,000 people.
- Existing programs or programs that start before the funding is allocated
- Ongoing core operational costs (e.g. rent, regular wages, utilities)
- Programs that don't clearly outline how they will target poverty or disadvantage

Please note - While funding will not be given to existing programs, if you have demonstrated success with your program and wish to further develop or extend your program to meet the changing needs of the community, this could be considered eligible. Please call the ANHCA Grants Officer on 0428 964 817 or email emily@anhca.org **BEFORE** you begin your application to determine whether it will meet eligibility criteria.

FUNDING PRIORITIES -

Projects undertaken within this grant program will be designed to address poverty or other forms of disadvantage. At times, there might be specific needs within the community that are given priority in a grant round.

When there are identified priorities, they will be clearly advertised within the current round and funding will be prioritised for projects meeting that need within the community.

FUNDING AVAILABLE –

Through this grant program, Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres **can apply for up to \$10,000 for projects** that seek to address poverty or disadvantage within their local communities.

The total annual funding available through this grant program is \$250,000. All projects undertaken through this grant program will need to be completed within 12 months from commencement.

Please note –

- Applicants are only able to **receive funding once every 2 years.**
- This grant program will seek to achieve national coverage across the total grant pool. As such, targets are set for the proportion of funding that will be allocated in each state per round.

FUNDING TIMELINES –

Applications for the small grant program are open throughout the year.

There will be 3 rounds in 2020. These rounds will be delivered within the following timeframes -

Round three –

Applications open – 3 February 2020

Applications close – 13 March 2020

Applicants notified of outcomes – April 2020

Round four –

Applications open – 11 May 2020

Applications close – 18 June 2020

Applicants notified of outcomes – July 2020

Round five –

Applications open – 3 August 2020

Applications close – 10 September 2020

Applicants notified of outcomes – October 2020

PROGRAM CRITERIA –

Applications will be scored and ranked by the assessment panel based on the overall assessment against the following program criteria-

- **Understanding the emerging needs of the local community**
- **Capacity to deliver the program**
- **Benefit to local community**

PREPARING AN APPLICATION –

Before applying for funding, it is helpful to plan your proposed project / program by ensuring that –

- You are eligible for funding as a Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre in Australia based in a town or city of more than 15,000 people or a community organisation partnered to one;
- Your project/ program and its components are eligible;
- You have identified and can show the need for the project/ program;
- You can clearly outline the objectives of your project / program;
- You have gathered all necessary documentation

HOW TO APPLY -

There are **3 funding rounds available in 2020.**

Round 3 closes on the 13th of March, round 4 closes on the 18th of June and round 5 closes on the 10th of September.

To apply, you must submit an online application form via Smarty grants:
<https://anhca.smartygrants.com.au>

ASSESSMENT PROCESS –

Once the applications are received, they will be checked for eligibility and all eligible applications will be referred to an Evaluation panel for assessment. This panel will consist of members of the ANHCA board from around Australia and a representative of the Sidney Myer Fund.

Once the grant round closes, there will be approximately 1 week for internal assessments and then 4 weeks for the panel to meet, evaluate the applications and finalise the allocations. This timeline will be dependent on the number of applications received.

Applicants will receive notification of the result of the outcome of the grant round once the panel have concluded with their assessments.

If successful, applicants will then receive a funding agreement which will need to be signed and returned with an invoice in order to receive payment. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified as soon as possible following the assessment process.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS –

A final acquittal report will be required at the conclusion of the project outlining outcomes achieved and a statement of expenditure outlining how the grant money was allocated.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE –

Emily Harnett, the ANHCA Grants Officer, will be available for advice and support throughout the year.

If you have any questions regarding a project idea or an application, please call Emily on (03) 9602 1228, 0428 964 817 or email emily@anhca.org