



COVID-19 Regional Partnership Grant

GUIDELINES

October 2021

1. ABOUT THE FUNDING

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The NSW Government COVID-19 Regional Partnership Grant aims to distribute grant funding to non-government organisations that primarily deliver services in regional New South Wales.

The purpose of the grant funding is to:

- Support vulnerable people and diverse communities in regional NSW including people required to isolate due to COVID-19.
- Provide additional funds to eligible service providers to increase the support they are already providing to vulnerable people in the community, in response to COVID-19.

The grants will contribute to the NSW Government's efforts in building resilience, and empowering regional community groups to deliver local services and emergency support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants will also support NSW Government efforts to:

- Decrease the transmission of COVID-19
- Increase the number of individuals testing for COVID-19
- Increase the vaccination rates in regional LGAs
- Reduce the movement of people in the community to help reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Encourage local communities and services to build resilience to the impacts of COVID-19.

RATIONALE FOR COVID-19 REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT

The evidence is clear that families, young people and communities living in regional areas are experiencing increased pressure and hardship, as a result of COVID-19. Recent data shows vulnerable populations are being disproportionately affected by the economic and mental health impacts of the lockdowns.

One-off payments are being offered to allow existing funded non-government organisations, delivering services in regional communities, to enhance delivery of existing evidence informed services they are already providing to vulnerable people.

This grants round is designed to be streamlined, to avoid increased administrative burden on service providers that are focused on delivering services to vulnerable people in these affected communities.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Eligible organisations are invited to accept an invitation for a grant. Funding amounts for successful organisations will be determined once the grants round is closed, as some

organisations will decline the offer and funds may be re-apportioned.

All organisations who accept the invitation and are able to deliver the grant requirements outlined below will receive funding. There is no competitive process.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

A simple process to accept a grant is available [here](#). Organisations will be asked if they are able to meet each of the grant requirements outlined below. Given partner organisations will already be funded to deliver evidence informed services to vulnerable people, no further evidence will be required.

Shortly after grant registrations close, DCJ will advise organisations of the funding amount available and will provide a Funding Deed.

Grant funds will be released via a one-off payment after the Funding Deed has been signed. The intention is for the grants funds to be expended by organisations by 28 February 2022, with extensions allowed if agreed with DCJ beforehand.

USE OF FUNDING - CONNECTING AND COORDINATING

The COVID-19 Regional Partnership Grants are available to connect vulnerable people, young people and diverse communities in local regional communities (including people required to isolate due to COVID-19) to support services. The grant will fund the provision of information, advice, referral and brokerage for those people, and where required, the coordination of support services.

Grant recipients will need to connect people to, and coordinate if needed, the following types of supports:

- Family and parenting support
- Emotional and trauma support needs (i.e. mental health, drug and alcohol, family and domestic violence).
- Service coordination for people who are vulnerable and are required to isolate due to 'stay at home' requirements of the Public Health Order. This may include accessing accommodation.
- Financial support information.
- Brokerage of material aid to meet immediate needs, including but not limited to essential items, hygiene, data plans, and care packages.

Service delivery can be by telephone, tele-practice or online, as needed.

Partnership approaches to grant applications will be supported, this may include providing funding to other local organisations to deliver the supports listed above.

Organisations must accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers, and local referral networks.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must:

- Be a non-government organisation currently receiving funding from NSW Department of Communities and Justice or have received funding from Regional NSW.
- Already be providing evidence informed support services, as outlined above, to vulnerable families and communities in regional NSW. By 'regional NSW' we mean outside of metropolitan areas of NSW.
- Have the capacity to scale up existing service delivery to deliver information, advice, referral and brokerage to meet increased demand, and expend the grants funds by 28 February 2022, unless agreed with DCJ beforehand. Scaling up service delivery may involve existing workforce, additional staff or volunteers, or brokered services.
- Have effective networks and working relationships with organisations in a regional area.
- Have the capacity and capability to provide culturally responsive services and programs to diverse populations in regional NSW communities.
- Accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers, and local referral networks for people who are required to isolate due to COVID-19
- Be willing to participate in a one-hour weekly group conversation with NSW Department of Communities and Justice and Resilience NSW to provide feedback, problem solve and receive updates.
- Provide weekly reporting on the total number of services delivered by DCJ district
- Be prepared to supply information about their service offerings, including provision of support to people required to isolate owing to COVID, to the [Service Seeker](#) database, or update existing information on that database. This is to enable quick searching and referral.

In addition, an organisation may be required to subcontract to address increased demand for services they are unable to deliver.

2. HOW TO REGISTER

Eligible organisations will be directly invited by DCJ to accept a grant.

Grant acceptance opens on **Friday 22 October 2021** and **closes at 5pm Friday 29 October 2021**. The closing date and time is a strict deadline. No extensions will be permitted.

The grant acceptance link is [accessible through SmartyGrants](#).

Instructions to complete a simple grant acceptance will be available on SmartyGrants.

The grant acceptance confirms organisations are able to meet the eligibility criteria and reporting requirements. Organisations will need to accept the grant invitation for DCJ to create a funding deed.

Organisations are not required to submit any additional information such as a proposals or budgets.

All queries during the application must be submitted in writing, via email to: COVID-19PartnershipGrant@facns.nsw.gov.au

3. CRITERIA – WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The following criteria are used in the consideration of grant applications.

APPLICANT MEETS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must:

- Be a non-government organisation currently receiving funding from NSW Department of Communities and Justice or have received funding from Regional NSW.
- Already be providing evidence informed support services, as outlined above, to vulnerable families and communities in regional NSW.
- Have the capacity to scale up existing service delivery to deliver information, advice, referral and brokerage to meet increased demand, and expend the grants funds by 28 February 2022, unless agreed with DCJ beforehand. Scaling up service delivery may involve existing workforce, additional staff or volunteers, or brokered services.
- Have good networks and working relationships with organisations in a regional area.
- Have the capacity and capability to provide culturally responsive services and programs to diverse populations in regional NSW.
- Accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers and local referral networks for people who are required to isolate due to COVID-19.
- Be willing to participate in a one-hour weekly group conversation with NSW Department of Communities and Justice and Resilience NSW to provide feedback, problem solve and receive updates.

- Provide weekly reporting on the total number of services delivered by DCJ district.
- Be prepared to supply information about their service offerings, including provision of support to people required to isolate owing to COVID, to the [Service Seeker](#) database, or update existing information on that database. This is to enable quick searching and referral.

Unless you have been invited for a COVID-19 Regional Partnership Grant you will not be considered.

THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE MUST BE COMPLETE AND SUBMITTED ON TIME

Grant acceptance not submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal before the closing date will not be considered.

WHAT THE COVID-19 REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT BE USED TO SUPPORT

The grant funding will connect vulnerable people, young people and diverse communities in regional NSW (including people required to isolate due to COVID-19) to support services.

The grant will enable services to establish linked support (i.e. through existing workforce and/or additional staff or volunteers) for the provision of information, advice, referral and brokerage for vulnerable people, and where required, the coordination of support services.

The types of supports the grant will be required to connect people to, and coordinate if required, include but are not limited to:

- Family and parenting support.
- Emotional and trauma support needs (i.e. mental health, drug and alcohol, family and domestic violence).
- Service coordination for people who are vulnerable and are required to isolate due to 'stay at home' requirements of the Public Health Order. This may include accessing accommodation.
- Financial support information.
- Brokerage of material aid to meet immediate needs, including but not limited to essential items, hygiene, data plans, and care packages.

Service delivery can be by telephone, tele-practice or online.

Organisations will accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers and local referral networks.

4. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Grant invitations have already been reviewed by NSW Department of Communities and Justice to ensure eligibility.

5. FUNDING DEED

All successful applicants (organisations) will be required to comply with the grant requirements outlined above, in addition to the standard terms of the Funding Deed.

The grant term will be from the date the Funding Deed is signed to 28 February 2022.

Any extension of the grant term will require approval from NSW Department of Communities and Justice as specified in the Funding Deed.

REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision high-level weekly data reporting are a condition of funding.

Grant reporting will include:

- How many occasions of service were provided in the past 7 days by DCJ district

One month after the end of the grant term, by 31 March 2022, successful applicants will be required to acquit the grant via SmartyGrants.

Organisations will be required to specify the amounts expended on the following items:

- Staff costs (additional staff on boarded)
- Brokerage
- Additional expenditure relevant to the delivery of the program