



Aboriginal
Affairs



Aboriginal Affairs NSW

COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program Guidelines

Applications open 30 August 2021

Applications close 19 November 2021

Apply at <https://aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au/>

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program aims to support:

- activities that limit the movement of Aboriginal people outside their homes and ensure this movement is COVID safe, to minimise the risk of transmission.
- the provision of trauma informed, culturally appropriate, local community based social and emotional wellbeing support for Aboriginal people impacted by COVID-19.
- Aboriginal people's access to accurate and timely information regarding COVID-19 and its impacts.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program provides funding to meet the health and wellbeing needs of Aboriginal people across NSW in response to the impact of COVID-19.

The program will address the immediate needs of Aboriginal people by funding eligible community organisations to deliver, expand and introduce new programs, initiatives, and services without duplicating existing services.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW (AANSW) has allocated \$1 million for the program in 2021.

Applicants can apply for grants from **\$1,000 to \$10,000**.

Applications open: 9am Monday 30 August 2021.

Applications close: 5pm Friday 19 November 2021.

Applications will be accepted at any time and the assessment panel will meet weekly.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications approximately 10 days after they submit their application.

Projects must be implemented by recipients within three months of funding being received.

Applicants can apply more than once if a separate need has been identified.

Applications can be completed online at <https://aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au/>.

An *Applicant's Guide* and *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* are available to assist applicants from the [Aboriginal Affairs NSW website](#).

Applicants should read the program documentation on the AANSW website before starting an application and contact their closest AANSW regional office if more information is needed.

WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR?

A project must address one of the four project categories listed below. The following are examples of the types of activities that may be funded. Your project does not need to be limited by these examples.

1: Social and Emotional Wellbeing Support:

- Telephone or video appointments for Aboriginal people with counsellors or support staff.
- Online group workshops or support groups for Aboriginal people.
- Materials and equipment to support cultural wellbeing and healthy lifestyles such as craft kits for children, sports equipment, cooking equipment and ingredients.
- Address the withdrawal or reduction of services for adults and children with disability such as respite for parents and carers.
- Maintain connection to culture for children in Out of Home and Kinship Care.

2: Keeping Communities Connected:

- Online group workshops for Aboriginal people.
- Purchase of IT equipment, software and online meeting subscriptions.
- Support to establish new or continue existing community groups, such as Elder's groups, new mums' and men's groups.
- Training and education to build skills and capacity in online service delivery.
- Support live streaming of culturally significant events or activities.

3: Respond to Immediate Needs:

- Provide food, clothing, or housing where a funding gap exists.
- Hygiene, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) packages and delivery.
- Transport hire, taxi and rideshare fares, vehicle leasing to transport Aboriginal people to access essential items or support delivery.
- Support access to internet, digital technology, and equipment.
- Support access to telehealth or videoconferences for specialist services.
- Access testing facilities or vaccinations.

4: Advocacy and Community Information

- Facilitate access to legal advice relating to public health orders, rental issues, fines, and family violence where funding gap exists.
- Communication of accurate and culturally appropriate information on vaccinations and testing.
- Financial counselling and debt management services.
- Local and tailored Aboriginal community-based messaging.

Funding cannot be used for:

- Extensions to buildings or other major capital works.
- Sitting fees, travel allowance or costs associated with membership of Boards/councils.
- Activities that may create an ongoing dependency on Grant funding.
- Costs that are not directly associated with the delivery of the Project.

See the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for further information on what can and can't be funded.

Projects will not be eligible for funding if they:

- do not align with the program aims.
- are a core responsibility of another government agency.
- receive funding from another source for the same project.
- are part of a service gap being met by another agency or funding source.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

The COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program will provide funding to Aboriginal run or controlled groups or organisations.

Eligible applicants include:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth)
- a company incorporated in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- a Local Aboriginal Land Council under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)
- an Incorporated Association (incorporated under state legislation, and commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc' in their legal name)
- an Incorporated Cooperative (incorporated under state legislation, and commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust.

Applicants must be located in NSW and/or delivering a service to Aboriginal communities within NSW and must have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million per claim.

Applicants **not** eligible for funding are:

- individuals
- non-Aboriginal groups or organisations
- Federal and State Government agencies and bodies
- NSW Public Schools (however, can partner with an eligible organisation)
- for-profit organisations, including Aboriginal businesses
- unincorporated Aboriginal organisations or groups without an eligible auspicing organisation
- organisations that have not met project requirements, including acquittal and reporting for grant funding received from AANSW in the previous two years.

Unincorporated Aboriginal groups

Unincorporated groups must be Aboriginal community groups – that is, they must be led by Aboriginal people. If an unincorporated Aboriginal group wishes to apply for a COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program they will need to partner with an eligible organisation to receive and administer the funding (Auspice). The eligible organisation must apply on behalf of the unincorporated group.

Unincorporated Aboriginal groups that are unable to partner with an eligible auspice organisation should contact their nearest AANSW regional office to discuss the application.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS

All applications will be screened for eligibility. Eligible applications will then be assessed by a panel of AANSW NSW staff based on the assessment criteria within one week of submission.

Applications that demonstrate how they meet the criteria are more likely to be funded than those which don't. Some applicants may be offered partial funding due to the demand for funding, not adequately meeting the assessment criteria or ineligible items.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria	What are we looking for?
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Project Category	Evidence that the project meets the program aims and at least one project category
Project Detail	Explanation of what the funding will do and how it will be spent
Community Benefit	Evidence of who the project will benefit and how this will be achieved
Level of need	Evidence that the project is meeting an unmet need and who will benefit and/or funding is time critical, or a funding gap exists
Capacity	Evidence organisation has a history of delivering similar projects, or has received and acquitted other funding sources
Value for Money	It is clear how budget items contribute to the project outcomes. The budget is reasonable and realistic

Consideration will also be given to ensure a good geographic spread of projects across NSW and current COVID-19 areas of concern.

See the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for more information on the criteria.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COVID-19 impacts

Due to the changing impacts of COVID-19 across NSW, projects must be in line with NSW Government public health orders and advice, for example, with regards to social distancing and public gatherings. For more information visit the NSW Government [website](#).

If COVID-19 rules in NSW change during the grants period, AANSW may request further information from you on how you propose to manage COVID-19 risks for your project.

Funding arrangements and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Enter into a Funding Agreement with AANSW within two weeks of the offer being made. This will include reporting requirements for your project.
- Start and complete funded activities and events by the dates specified in the Funding Agreement.
- Notify AANSW of any proposed changes to your funded activity.
- Acknowledge the support of Aboriginal Affairs NSW in accordance with the [Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).
- Report on outcomes from the activity and acquit the grant within 21 days of project completion. If the acquittal is not completed within the required timeframe you will not be eligible to apply for AANSW Grants for the next two years.

Successful applications will be included in:

- public media releases
- an announcement on the AANSW website
- AANSW social media promotion.

SUPPORT AND CONTACTS

For any questions regarding the AANSW COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response Grants Program, please contact your nearest AANSW regional office on the phone numbers below or email grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au:

Batemans Bay	02 8575 1002
Tamworth	0425 395 672
Coffs Harbour	02 8575 1069
Broken Hill	02 8575 1057
Bourke	02 8575 1073
Dubbo	02 8575 1073
Newcastle	02 8575 1073
Sydney	02 8575 1105