

Community Resilience Grants - Guidelines 2015-16

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COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS

Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and the Minister for Youth Affairs

Victoria is renowned for its rich cultural diversity, its accessible and open public spaces, and its welcoming and inclusive communities. Our diversity is one of our greatest assets and it extends into our family connections, our social and cultural influences and our global business practices.

Maintaining a socially cohesive Victoria, however, including strengthening our resilience and a diverse community that respects human rights, takes time, effort and investment from us all.

A key priority of *Victoria's Strategic Framework to Strengthen Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities* is for all Victorians to have a strong sense of belonging, no matter what their race, religion, ethnicity, or cultural identity. We know that some people without a sufficient sense of purpose or belonging can feel rejected and isolated, and a small number may then be vulnerable to extremist ideologies which offer false promises and realities.

The Community Resilience Grants are part of the Victorian Government's strong commitment to gain a deeper understanding of, and respond to these challenges.

Grants funded through this program will enable communities, and young people in particular, to engage in critical dialogue, develop ways to constructively express their views, raise issues of concern to them and their community, and build resilience to extremist narratives.

We look forward to hearing your ideas on how to respond to these challenges.



Robin Scott MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Jenny Mikakos MLC
Minister for Youth Affairs



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Communities and young people are best placed to know their environments and develop projects which respond effectively to local needs.

OVERVIEW

In May 2015, the Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Ministerial Taskforce (Taskforce) was established to lead the Victorian Government's approach to strengthening social cohesion and enhancing community resilience. Underpinned by the Strategic Framework to Strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities (Framework), this approach recognises that government cannot do this work alone. Individuals, community organisations, government agencies, businesses and service providers all have a role to play in aligning our collective efforts to address the social cohesion and community resilience challenges we face.

The main focus of the Framework is prevention and early intervention. These Community Resilience Grants aim to support community organisations to:

- develop innovative projects and partnerships which address the conditions which underlie violent extremism;
- respond to tensions caused by right wing, ISIS-inspired and other violent extremist narratives; and
- enable critical and constructive dialogue about issues that are important to the Victorian community and its young people.

In developing these projects, communities and young people are seen to be best placed to know their environments and develop projects which respond appropriately and effectively to local needs. All successful projects funded through these grants will therefore be community or youth-led.

The Community Resilience Grants will be evaluated against the grant objectives outlined below, with funded organisations expected to participate in this evaluation. Future funding rounds will depend on outcomes of the evaluation.

GRANT OBJECTIVES

Successful grants will support the ongoing implementation of the Framework, and will align with at least one of the following grant objectives:

1. support and work with communities and young people to develop collaborative approaches to building resilience to hate and violent extremist narratives; and
2. support and work with communities and young people at risk of violent extremism to develop their confidence and skills to advocate for their concerns and grievances through peaceful, democratic means.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The total amount of funding available in 2015-16 is \$600,000. Future rounds of funding will depend on the outcomes of the evaluation (see 'Evaluation' below).

Given the competitive nature of these grants, funding approved may be less than the amount requested. In these cases, grant recipients will be asked to revise their project in-line with the funding offered.

Small grants: between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Major grants: between \$50,001 and \$100,000.

Projects will be funded for a maximum of twelve months from the time of executing the Funding Agreement.

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Community, not-for-profit and peak body organisations based in Victoria are eligible to apply for these grants.

Eligible applicants must:

- a) be a legal entity, such as an incorporated body or association, and be able to enter into legal agreements with the Victorian Government represented by the Community Resilience Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC);
- b) have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- c) have at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance to cover all aspects of the project.

If your organisation is not eligible, you may nominate an auspice organisation which meets the above criteria to apply for a grant.

In addition to the above criteria, an auspice organisation may be a local council.

Commercial organisations, bodies established for profit-making purposes, and sole trading and other individuals, are not eligible for these grants.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED?

It is a requirement that projects focus on prevention or early intervention, and meet at least one of the grant objectives.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of project examples which may be funded through these grants:

- Projects which encourage and train young people to use social media, other media and public performance to speak up and express themselves through the development and sharing of positive and constructive alternative narratives.
- Community and youth-led initiatives which create a sense of belonging and empower participants and others to develop and lead responses to violent extremist narratives.
- Forums, workshops and/or other mechanisms which encourage young people and communities to develop and practise critical and analytical thinking skills.
- Projects which empower women and mothers as proactive agents of change.
- Projects which strengthen cyber safety knowledge, and enable communities and families to respond effectively to online grooming of young people.
- Projects which support young people and communities to develop advocacy and diplomacy skills which enable constructive and proactive self-representation during grievances and matters of concern.
- Projects which facilitate dialogue and action to address the causal factors that influence individuals who engage in extremist behaviours.

Applicants are encouraged to call and discuss other innovative project ideas with the Community Resilience Unit on (03) 9651 0690 prior to submitting an application.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED?

The following project categories will not be funded through these grants:

- Projects that are not community or youth-led (refer to Annex 1 for definition).
- Projects which do not focus on prevention or early intervention.
- Projects, including sporting and arts projects, which do not meet the grant objectives.
- Projects where applicants have not already engaged with project partners.
- Projects which do not include in-kind funding or funding from another source.
- Organisations that have failed to complete previous projects funded by other Victorian Government departments.
- Activities that are the primary focus of other Victorian Government programs.
- Projects that are already fully funded.
- Retrospective funding for projects that have already started or have been completed, including any activity undertaken prior to the notification of the application outcome.
- Activities not commenced or concluded by the times agreed in the Funding Agreement.
- Requests for the purchase, maintenance or upgrading of facilities or equipment.
- Significant funding for equipment that the project does not require for its ongoing life.
- Funding primarily for administrative salaries (although it is noted that administrative salaries may form a component of the overall project cost).
- Projects, activities or travel outside Victoria, or funding for people or organisations from overseas to visit Victoria.
- Party political activities.
- Celebration of national holidays.
- Celebration of religious and cultural festivals, rituals, events and promotions.
- Religious teachings.
- Competitions and commercial or fundraising activities.



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PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between eligible applicants and other community, not-for-profit and peak body organisations are strongly encouraged.

Eligible applicants may establish interstate and/or international partnerships for the purpose of these grants, noting that international and interstate travel costs will not be funded.

EVALUATION

An evaluation of the Community Resilience Grants will be commissioned by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and will take place at the same time as projects are delivered.

Under the Terms and Conditions of these grants, successful applicants will be required to participate in this evaluation. Participation may include interviews with the evaluator, granting the evaluator permission to observe activities (where appropriate), giving the evaluator access to project materials and data, and attending a workshop with other grant recipients.

Applicants are also required to articulate, through the application process, how they will assess their projects against the grant objectives. This information will feed into the overall evaluation of the Community Resilience Grants.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1 - Read these Guidelines to ensure that your organisation and project are eligible

Step 2 - Consider the selection criteria below in terms of your project

Step 3 - Watch the short YouTube video related to these grants.

The link can be found at www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience

Step 4 - Discuss your application with the Community Resilience Unit on (03) 1300 366 356

Step 5 - Complete and submit your application on-line at <https://dpc1.force.com/publicform/commresgr>

Applications open on Friday 8 April 2016 and close at 11.59pm Sunday 15 May 2016.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in June 2016.

Successful applicants will have twelve months to complete the project from the commencement date of the Funding Agreement (see Terms and Conditions).

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Eligible applications will be assessed by an assessment panel comprised of Victorian Government officers and two community members external to the Victorian Government. Panel members will have access to all applications submitted as part of the Community Resilience Grants.

The assessment panel will meet to discuss assessments and make recommendations to the Ministerial Taskforce for approval. Final assessment will take into account scoring against the selection criteria below, assessors' comments, and the balance of applications across grant objectives, project types and regional and metropolitan areas.

In some cases, the assessment panel may ask applicants to provide additional information, including evidence of support and cooperation with other organisations, or detail on the methods proposed to measure the project against grant objectives.

CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- i. Demonstration of how the project will address the grant objectives (30%):
 - a. Which of the grant objectives will your project target? Note that you may target more than one objective.
 - b. Please provide an outline of the project you propose to deliver under these grants, including reference to:
 - target population;
 - what the project intends to change;
 - project activities; and
 - how the project activities will lead to the change taking place.
 - c. Please outline how the need for this project was identified. Please consider any or all of the following - community plans, strategies, policies, data, research and community consultation findings.
 - d. Why is your organisation best placed to address these needs and deliver this project?



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- ii. Demonstration of how the project will be community or youth-led (30%):
 - a. Describe how community or young people will be involved in the planning, delivery and leading of the project.
 - b. Describe how the project will increase the skills, knowledge and leadership of the community or young people involved in delivery of the project.
 - c. Provide evidence of the interest and momentum that already exists amongst the community and young people to deliver this project.
- iii. Demonstration of project planning
 - a. Timeline – please outline indicative milestones associated with your project.
 - b. Human resources – please outline the skill sets and personnel required to deliver this project.
 - c. Risks – What are the risks to the success of this project? How will these be managed?

Please note that if your project is successful, you will be required to develop a detailed project plan.

- iv. Demonstration of how the project will be measured against the Community Resilience Grants objectives (20%):
 - a. What methods will be used to collect data to measure whether the project has met the grant objectives and whether the intended change has taken place?
- v. Value for money, cost effectiveness and partnerships (20%):
 - a. Outline any partnerships included in this project. What knowledge and skill sets do these partners bring?
 - b. Outline any in-kind and/or financial support that will be provided as part of the project. (Please note that it is a requirement of these grants that a portion of the project costs be covered by in-kind or other financial support.)
 - c. What experience and networks do you and your partners bring that will strengthen this project?

FUNDING STRUCTURE

Payment milestones will be discussed with each grant recipient during the preparation of the Funding Agreement. The length of time of the project may impact on the number of payment milestones. There will be at least three payment milestones for each project including:

- 40% on signing the Funding Agreement. Agreements will only be signed subject to funding conditions that arise during assessment, and on receipt of a detailed project plan.
- 40% on receipt of a progress report.
- 20% on submission of the final report, including budget acquittal and submission of data and evaluation undertaken by you during the project.

Payments will be made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Victorian Government through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement are fixed and no negotiations will be entered into. You may request a copy of the Funding Agreement template by contacting the Community Resilience Unit on (03) 9651 0690.

All successful applications will be required to maintain at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance to cover all aspects of the project for the term of the agreement. Successful applicants will be required to produce a certificate of currency to verify their insurance.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please refer to the following links for additional information related to these grants:

- Community Resilience Unit – www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience
- Strategic Framework to strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities – www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience
- 'Engaging Our Youth Our Future' report, Victorian Multicultural Commission – <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/images/2016/EngagingOurYouthOurFuture.pdf>
- Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation Surveys 2015 www.scanlonfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Mapping-Social-Cohesion-Report.pdf
- YERP – resources to enable youth voice and engagement - <http://yerp.yacvic.org.au>
- Youth Central grants page – <http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/government-info-assistance/youth-grants>

CONTACTS AND ENQUIRIES

For more information and to discuss your application, please contact the Community Resilience Unit:

- Phone: (03) 1300 366 356
- Email: communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au
- Website: www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience

ANNEX 1 - DEFINITIONS

These definitions are provided for the purpose of these Guidelines.

Community and youth-led – Project design that enables community and youth voice, decision-making and action to design, lead and implement the project.

Community organisation – An organisation which is based in or around a ‘community’ of some kind. It may be a legal entity with an organised structure and constitution, or it may be an informal association.

Community Resilience – A community’s ability to manage adversity, uncertainty and disruption. Inherent to this term is shared responsibility and the idea that resilience depends on networks and links between individuals, communities, organisations, businesses and governments. Key concepts associated with community resilience include: good functioning while under stress; social adaptation; self-reliance; social support; social cohesion; and social capacity.

Not-for-profit organisation – An organisation which does not earn profit for its owners. All of the money earned or donated is used in pursuing the organisation’s objectives.

Partnerships – Partnerships means financial or non-financial collaboration between two or more parties to undertake the project. See Section 6 of the Guidelines above.

Social Cohesion – The degree to which a society creates a sense of belonging and promotes trust. In Australia, the key measurement of social cohesion is achieved through the Scanlon-Monash Index (SMI) of Social Cohesion which provides an overview in the five core domains of social cohesion:

- **Belonging:** shared value, identification with Australia, trust;
- **Social justice and equity:** evaluation of policies, views on the adequacy of financial support for people on low incomes, the gap between high and low incomes, trust in the Australian government;
- **Participation:** voluntary work, political and cooperative involvement;
- Acceptance and rejection, legitimacy: experience of discrimination, attitudes towards minorities and newcomers; and
- **Worth:** life satisfaction and happiness, future expectations.

Violent Extremism – A willingness to use unlawful violence, or support the use of unlawful violence by others, to promote a political, ideological or religious goal. Violent extremism includes a willingness to use or support terrorism, other forms of politically-motivated violence (e.g. violent protests) and some forms of communal violence (e.g. racially-motivated assaults).

Young people/youth – People aged from 12 to 25 years of age.