Community Resilience Grants

Regional and Rural Victoria

Guidelines 2018-19

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

Victoria's success as a culturally diverse, accepting and open society has long been a source of pride for our State.

Our diversity is not only one of our greatest assets, it is also one of our greatest strengths.

It is through exposure to different ideas and ways of thinking that great innovations take root and grow. It is from the openness and acceptance of our friends, families and business partnerships that safe and cohesive societies are created.

Maintaining our social cohesion takes time and commitment from us all.

Without a sense of purpose or belonging, people may sometimes feel isolated or alienated. These feelings can sometimes lead people to become vulnerable to extremist ideologies that appear to offer social connection based on false promises.

Victoria's *Strategic Framework to Strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities* (Strategic Framework) forms the basis for activity to ensure that all Victorians feel connected, no matter what their heritage or culture.

Underpinned by the principles of shared responsibility and new ways of working together, the Strategic Framework recognises that we all have a role to play in addressing the everyday challenges to social cohesion and community resilience. This responsibility does not fall on one sector or community alone.

The Community Resilience Grants provide regional and rural communities, and local young people in particular, the opportunity to develop and lead projects that facilitate critical and constructive dialogue, build resilience to factors which underlie extremism and discuss issues of concern.

Staying connected in challenging times is not easy, but now more than ever, Victorians need to come together. As a united community everyone can be supported and together, we can achieve anything.

Regardless of where we were born, the language we first spoke or the faith we follow, we are all Victorian, and as Victorians it is up to all of us to trust and respect, to contribute and belong, to be Victorian – and proud of it.

We look forward to hearing about your ideas and how they respond to these challenges.

Robin Scott MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Jenny Mikakos MLC
Minister for Youth Affairs

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1.   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 building resilience to violent extremism.

Guided by the *Strategic Framework to Strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities* (Strategic Framework), this approach recognises that government agencies, community organisations, individuals and service providers all have a role to play in addressing the social cohesion and resilience challenges we face.

Due to the success of the pilot round of grants, the Taskforce allocated funding for this second round of grants to take place in rural and regional Victoria. Successful projects will focus on prevention and early intervention activities and will be community and youth-led.

2.   VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL POLICY STATEMENT

Victorian. And proud of it. is Victoria's Multicultural Policy Statement. It sets out the Victorian Government's way forward with a range of policies, programs and services that encourage every one of us to participate in a stronger, safer and more harmonious community.

The Multicultural Policy Statement is underpinned by the Victorian Values Statement, a set of shared values that form the foundation of our cohesive, multicultural society. The five values are:

One law for all

Everyone is equal under the law. All Victorians have the same legal rights, responsibilities and protections.

Freedom to be yourself

Everyone is free to be themselves and to feel safe in being true to themselves. The Government wants every Victorian to be able to celebrate their culture with pride and in peace.

Discrimination is never acceptable

Everyone has a responsibility to promote inclusion and participation and to reject exclusion, racism and all forms of violence.

A fair go for all

Everyone deserves a fair go in life. No matter where they live, their circumstances, or their background, every Victorian deserves the support they need to enjoy the Victorian way of life.

It is up to all of us to contribute to a Victoria we can be proud of

We all want similar things – the opportunity to thrive, for our successes to be recognised, and for our families and loved ones to be safe, secure and happy.

3. AIMS

Funding granted through the Community Resilience Grants will support projects which meet at least one of the following aims:

a) Develop innovative projects and partnerships which address the conditions that underlie violent extremism

b) Respond to tensions caused by right wing, ISIS-inspired and other violent extremist narratives

c) Enable critical and constructive dialogue about factors that undermine social cohesion and may lead to violent extremism.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the *Stocktake Research Project – A Systemic Literature and Selected Program Review on Social Cohesion, Community Resilience and Violent Extremism* to inform their application. Details on where to find this document are at Section 15 of these Guidelines.

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4. FUNDING AVAILABLE

The total amount of funding available for this round of Community Resilience Grants is $500,000.

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

Funding available: between $30,000 and $120,000 per application.

Projects will be funded for a maximum of twelve months from the time of executing the Funding Agreement. All projects should be completed by 31 May 2019.

5. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Community, not-for-profit and community peak body organisations based in regional and rural Victoria are eligible to apply for these grants. Please see Annex 1 for a list of eligible Local Government Areas.

Metropolitan-based community, not-for-profit and community peak body organisations with regional and rural offices may also apply. In these cases, projects must be implemented in regional and rural Victoria and be led by regional and rural communities and young people.

Eligible applicants must also:

a) be a legal entity, such as an incorporated body or association, and be able to enter into legal agreements with the Victorian Government;

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 community, not-for-profit or community peak body 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, government bodies, organisations established for profit-making purposes, and sole trading and other individuals, are not eligible for these grants.

6. WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED?

Funded projects will focus on prevention or early intervention and **must** align with at least one of the aims in Section 3 above.

In addition, the following is a non-exhaustive list of project types 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 project ideas on 1300 366 356 prior to submitting their application.

7. WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED?

The following projects will **not** be funded through these grants:

- Projects that are not community or youth-led (refer to Annex 3 for definition).

- Projects that will not take place or be led by people in rural or regional Victoria.

- Projects which do not focus on prevention or early intervention.

- Projects, including sporting and arts projects, which do not meet one of the grant aims.

- Projects where applicants have not already engaged project partners.

- Projects which do not include in-kind funding or funding from another source.

- Projects which respond primarily to family, homophobic or gang violence.

- Projects led by organisations that have failed to complete previous projects funded by the Victorian Government.

- 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.

- Requests for the purchase, maintenance or upgrading of facilities.

- 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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8. PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between eligible applicants and local government, academic and/or private stakeholders, 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 the grants. International and interstate travel costs, however, will not be funded.

9. EVALUATION

Organisations funded through these grants will be required to evaluate their projects.

The Community Resilience Unit (CRU) at the Department of Premier and Cabinet will provide successful applicants with support to develop a project logic to ensure that project evaluations align with the Strategic Framework and the Taskforce's key performance areas (KPAs):

- Decreased sense of marginalisation
- Decreased attraction to violent extremist narratives
- Increased social, civic and economic participation
- Increased skills and capacity to engage
- Increased community cohesion
- Increased sense of belonging
- Increased support for diversity
- Increased perceptions of community safety

As part of the application process, applicants will be required to outline which of the KPAs their projects will impact. Please refer to Annex 2 for further description of the KPAs.

The person/s undertaking the evaluation for your project will be expected to work closely with the CRU, including attending capacity building workshops and developing a project logic to guide evaluation of the project.

Applicants may include budget for travel and accommodation in Melbourne for the purpose of participating in these workshops.

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10. APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1 – Read the Guidelines to ensure that your organisation and project are eligible.

STEP 2 – Consider the assessment criteria below in terms of your project.

STEP 3 – If you would like to discuss your application please call 1300 366 356.

STEP 4 – Complete and submit your application on-line at
https://dpc1.force.com/publicform/crgrants1819

Applications open on Monday 26 February 2018 and close at 5pm Friday 6 April 2018. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Successful applicants will have until 31 May 2019 to complete their project.

11. 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 Taskforce for approval. Final assessment will take into account scoring against the selection criteria in these Guidelines, assessors' comments, project type and the balance of projects across Local Government Areas.

In some cases the assessment panel may ask applicants to provide additional information to support with assessment of their proposal.

12. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

i. **Demonstration of how the project will address the grant aims (25%)**

   a. Which of the grant aim/s will your project target?

   b. 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

   • How the project activities will lead to the change taking place.

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c. Outline how the need for this project was identified, considering all or any 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?

ii. Demonstration of how the project will be community or youth-led (25%)

a. Describe how community and 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 and 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 the project.

iii. Demonstration of project planning (10%)

a. Timeline – please outline indicative milestones associated with your project.

b. Budget breakdown – please complete the budget table in the application form.

c. Human resources – please outline the skill sets and personnel required to deliver the project.

d. Risks – What are the risks to the success of this project? How will these be managed?

If your project is successful, you will be required to submit a detailed project plan.

iv. Demonstration of how the project will be measured against the Community Resilience Grant key performance areas (20%)

a. Who will evaluate the impact of this project?

b. What key performance areas will your project impact? (See Annex 2 of these Guidelines)

c. What methods will be used to collect data to measure whether the project has had an impact on the key performance areas 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?

You will be required to submit letters of support from each proposed partner.

b. Outline any in-kind and/or financial support that will be provided as part of the project. (Note that it is a requirement of these grants that a portion of 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?
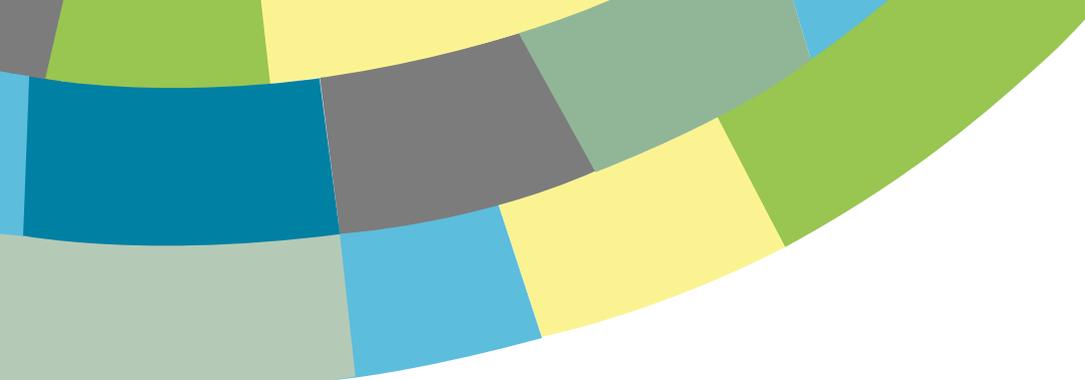
13. FUNDING STRUCTURE

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. It is expected that there will be at least three payment milestones for each project. Indicative payment milestones include:

- 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 during the project.

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

14. 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 1300 366 356.

All successful organisations 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.

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15. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please refer to the following links for additional information to support you in writing your application:

- 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/images/documents/about_dpc/Strategic_Framework_to_Strength_Victorias_Socoal_Cohesion.pdf

- Victoria's Multicultural Policy Statement - https://proud.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Victorian-And-Proud-of-it-MPS-180207.pdf

- 'Stocktake Research Project – A Systemic Literature and Selected Program Review on Social Cohesion, Community Resilience and Violent Extremism' – www.vic.gov.au/system/user_files/Documents/riosc/FINAL_Stocktake_Research_report.PDF

- 'Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation Surveys 2017' www.monash.edu/mapping-population/public-opinion/social-cohesion-report

- 'Engaging Our Youth Our Future' report, Victorian Multicultural Commission - www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/images/2016/EngagingOurYouthOurFuture.pdf

- YERP – project management resources for young people - www.yerp.yacvic.org.au

- Youth Central - grants assistance page - www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/government-info-assistance/youth-grants

16. CONTACTS AND ENQUIRIES

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

- Phone: 1300 366 356

- Email: communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au

- Website: www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience

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ANNEX 1 - ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Alpine Shire Council

Ararat Rural City

Ballarat (City of)

Bass Coast Shire

Baw Baw Shire

Benalla Rural City

Buloke Shire

Campaspe Shire

Central Goldfields Shire

Colac Otway Shire

Corangamite Shire

East Gippsland Shire

Gannawarra Shire

Glenelg Shire

Golden Plains Shire

Greater Bendigo (City of)

Greater Geelong (City of)

Greater Shepparton (City of)

Hepburn Shire

Hindmarsh Shire

Horsham Rural City

Indigo Shire

Latrobe (City of)

Loddon Shire

Macedon Ranges Shire

Mansfield Shire

Mildura Rural City

Mitchell Shire

Moira Shire

Moorabool Shire

Mount Alexander Shire

Moyne Shire

Murrindindi Shire

Northern Grampians Shire

Pyrenees Shire

Queenscliff Borough

Southern Grampians Shire

South Gippsland Shire

Strathbogie Shire

Surf Coast Shire

Swan Hill Rural City

Towong Shire

Wangaratta Rural City

Warrnambool (City of)

Wellington Shire

West Wimmera Shire

Wodonga (City of)

Yarriambiack Shire

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ANNEX 2 - KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS (KPAS)

KPA1, Decreased sense of marginalisation

Individuals who feel marginalised from mainstream society may be attracted to the apparent solutions offered by violent extremist propaganda. Individuals who do not feel marginalised are more likely to express their political views through conventional non-violent and democratic processes.

KPA2, Decreased attraction to violent extremist narratives

Individuals drawn to violent extremist narratives may benefit from the skills and support to identify the flaws in those narratives and to reject them.

KPA3, Increased social, civic and economic participation

Individuals who can confidently engage in mainstream Victorian society and believe that their participation is valuable and effective are less likely to consider the need to resort to violent extremism.

KPA4, Increased skills and capacity to engage

Individuals with the skills and confidence to participate in Victorian social and civic life, and to lead activities that lead to social cohesion and the rejection of violent extremist narratives, are more likely to do so than those who do not have the skills and confidence.

KPA5, Increased community cohesion

Communities that are cohesive and resilient are less likely to create divisions that foster violent extremism, and are more able to respond effectively should they be impacted by violent extremism.

KPA6, Increased sense of belonging

Communities where everyone feels welcome and that they belong are less likely to create the divisions that may foster violent extremism.

KPA7, Increased support for diversity

Intolerance of other cultures and other faiths adversely effects community cohesion and our sense of belonging and provides the foundation for racist or religious exclusivist views.

KPA8, Increased perceptions of community safety

Exaggerated fear of violent extremism can adversely impact on support for diversity and social cohesion.

KPA9, Increased number of initiatives from funded research and pilot programs

Continuing to increase our knowledge base and applying that to new initiatives will improve outcomes and reduce the risk and impacts violent extremism.

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ANNEX 3 - 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 description. It may be a legal entity with an organised structure and constitution, or it may be an informal association.

Resilience - The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses or acute shocks they experience (100 Resilient Cities 2016).

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.

Partnership – Partnership means financial or non-financial collaboration between two or more parties to undertake the project. See Section 8 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
- 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.

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