



Core and Cluster Sector Capacity and Capability Building Program

The Core and Cluster Sector Capacity and Capability Building Program will support organisations to build their capacity and capabilities, to assess readiness and participate, as appropriate, in Core & Cluster procurement.

Why have the Core and Cluster Sector Capacity and Capability Building Program?

DCJ is committed to the growth of the housing and homelessness sector. Supporting the involvement of sector organisations is critical to the success of the Core and Cluster Program. DCJ is also committed to increasing the number of ACCOs that deliver specialist homelessness services, in NSW.

The Program aligns with DCJ's sector development priorities and responds to feedback from the [Core and Cluster Stakeholder Engagement Sessions](#) held in May and June 2022. DCJ heard from stakeholders that sector capacity building support is needed, to ensure organisations are able to assess readiness and participate, as appropriate in Core and Cluster procurement.

DCJ also wants to focus on supporting Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, smaller organisations and regional services who have expressed a need for additional assistance, where required.

What will the program fund?

There are three pathways to the Program:

1. Organisations will be able to apply for grants, through the Industry Partnership to engage or approach professional services, for activities such as:
 - tender writing support
 - procurement advice
 - support to design tender applications, including relating to:
 - [SHS Program Specifications](#),
 - [Good Design for Social Housing](#)
 - [LAHC - Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Functional Design Brief](#)
 - financial advice
 - training
 - legal advice for contract negotiation

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2. Through The Coolamon Project

Support will be available through ACHIA's The Coolamon Project (ACHIA NSW's Incubator-Accelerator) to develop a customised Core and Cluster support package, to assist Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs, ACCO partnerships or Aboriginal led consortia).

3. Via key peaks

ACHIA, DVNSW and HNSW will lead and support additional local engagement, collaborations, partnerships and implementation planning to support planning and collaboration on potential Core and Cluster applications.

Which organisations will be eligible for grants through the Industry Partnership?

This program is made available to eligible organisations through the Industry Partnership.

Eligible organisations include:

- Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)
- Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) services
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
- Community Housing Providers (CHPs)
- and other eligible organisations

Prioritisation will be given to grant applications from:

- ACCOs and Aboriginal CHPs and SHS
- Smaller organisations (funded services with an annual revenue less than \$5 million) that are interested in the Core and Cluster Program but have limited capacity to participate



Local implementation planning

The Core and Cluster Sector Capacity Building Program will also provide support to ACHIA, DVNSW and HNSW to lead and support additional local engagement, collaborations, partnerships, and implementation planning.

These peaks will meet with local service providers and stakeholders to support planning and collaboration on potential Core and Cluster applications.



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How can my organisation apply for this Program?

DCJ is working with ACHIA, DVNSW and HNSW to finalise the Program, and the upcoming local engagement arrangements. ACHIA, DVNSW and HNSW are working hard to progress the work as quickly as possible, including on-boarding new staff to support the Program.

More information will be released soon on the DCJ website. ACHIA, DVNSW and HNSW will also communicate about the Program with their members.

Where can I find more information about Core and Cluster?

Find more information on the Core and Cluster Program at the [DCJ Website](#).

Procurement questions relating to Core and Cluster Expressions of Interest or Requests for Tender are to be directed to the NSW Government [e-tendering site](#).

Enquiries about the Core and Cluster Program can be emailed to SHSProgram@fac.s.nsw.gov.au.