

Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors Grant Program – Round Three

Grant Guidelines

August 2022



Contents

Overview of the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program – Round Three	2
Objectives	2
Funding Amounts	2
Assessment.....	4
Eligibility Criteria	4
Prioritisation.....	5
NSW National Redress Scheme sanctions.....	5
COVID-19	5
Grant funds expenditure.....	5
Grant funds exclusions.....	5
Insurance.....	6
Banking details information	6
Application process.....	6
Successful applicants obligations	6

Overview of the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program – Round Three

The NSW Government is committed to investing in projects and initiatives that support our vision that all people in NSW experience the benefits of living longer and enjoy opportunities to participate, contribute to and be included in their communities.

The social isolation of older people is a significant barrier to achieving this vision. Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program focuses on addressing social isolation and the challenges to building and maintaining quality social connections for older people. There have been two grant rounds of Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program since early 2021 and it is identified as an action under *Priority Area 3: Participating in Inclusive Communities* in [Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031](#). These grants aim to deliver a program to support local communities to establish ongoing connections between older people to promote inclusion and combat isolation and loneliness.

Round three of the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program has three funding categories. Introducing funding categories supports the customer focus of the grants as per the Minister for Seniors' priorities for older people who are culturally and linguistically diverse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, with disability and caring responsibilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or asexual (LGBTIQA+), and those who live in regional or rural areas.

Objectives

The objectives of the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program are to:

- reduce social isolation for older people aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for Aboriginal people
- support effective, self-sustaining projects that provide meaningful and lasting social connection opportunities for older people who are socially isolated or at risk of isolation
- support projects that help older people connect and actively engage with each other through small group activities (e.g. interest groups, social events or environmental activities) that bring them together in person throughout the year and enable them to develop quality relationships that can be maintained beyond these activities
- support projects and activities that seek to actively engage new people, particularly harder-to-reach socially isolated older people.

Note: Before starting your application or for more detailed information, please refer to the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program - Round Three **FAQ Sheet**.

Funding Amounts

One off funding will be available under three funding categories totalling \$600,000 for this program, including:

- **Category 1: Creation grants** are for new innovative projects, with \$20,000 to five innovative projects with an overall value of \$100,000.
- **Category 2: Enhancement and/or expansion grants** target known projects that work, with \$30,000 each for 10 different organisations with an overall value of \$300,000.
- **Category 3: Local council grants** are available to local councils, with \$50,000 to four different councils with an overall value of \$200,000.

Category 1 - Creation grants

Targets the creation of innovative projects valued at \$100,000 with five successful recipients receiving \$20,000 each.

Aim:

- ✓ Create a new innovative short term program that fosters social inclusion, targets older people and advances the Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031.
- ✓ Improve opportunities for older people to engage and connect with their communities, through innovative projects.

Examples:

- *an organisation working with a women's health centre and partnering with a local club that provides free access to a community transport service, to create a program of social activities for older women living with a health condition.*
- *a council working with the local Meals on Wheels seeks funding to create a supper club program for local residents, where participants undertake weekly cooking classes ending with a completion dinner and support to create ongoing supper clubs in participants' homes.*

Category 2 - Enhancement and/or expansion grants

Targets the enhancement or expansion of known projects that work, with \$300,000 in grants to ten successful recipients receiving \$30,000 each.

Aim:

- ✓ Enhance a successful program that fosters social inclusion to now target older people aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for Aboriginal people.
- ✓ Expand a successful program that fosters social inclusion targeted to older people into a new geographical area or to target a new cohort (for example, rural and remote areas, CALD or LGBTQIA+).
- ✓ Enhance or expand projects that can successfully start delivery as soon as the grant is provided, minimising long set up times and be delivered in full in 12 months.

Examples:

- *a yarning group in the Aboriginal community seeks funding to visit older people who are house bound, with the assistance of a local community transport provider.*
- *a community group that runs a regular movie appreciation night for seniors seeks funding to set up a Bollywood movie club in partnership with a local CALD organisation.*
- *a local conservation group seeks funding to host a program of birdwatching tours for those with low mobility, with the assistance of a rehabilitation centre and local RSL.*

Category 3 - Local council grants only

This is only available to local councils; valued at \$200,000 with four successful recipients receiving \$50,000 each.

Aim:

- ✓ To work with local councils who have the knowledge, skills, resources and capacity to work in this area.
- ✓ For councils with professional expertise, who have capacity and are well-placed to understand community need and generate positive outcomes for older people.

Examples:

- *a council partners with a digital literacy mentoring program for isolated seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The council delivers digital literacy workshops through community centres in multiple priority locations.*
- *a council hosts a series of monthly events; with an emphasis on recreation, education and wellbeing, in different locations across the LGA, that encourage people to get to know other Seniors, their neighbours and their community by trying something new.*

Assessment

Eligible organisations are invited to submit an application against the following assessment criteria.

1. **Relevance** – the project is relevant to the objectives of the grant program and the demonstrated needs of target groups in local communities; and addresses social isolation for older people in NSW.
2. **Impact** – the project will deliver tangible, positive and clearly articulated outcomes. Must provide proof of previous and current impact with lasting social connections.
3. **Implementation** – the applicant demonstrates the appropriate skills and expertise to deliver the project on time and on budget to attract and sustain participation.

Note: For more information and details about assessment criteria, please refer to the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program - Round Three **FAQ Sheet** and website.

Eligibility Criteria

Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors Grant Program - Round Three applications must be from:

- Incorporated not-for-profit communication organisations.
- Other organisations or government agencies that are formally partnering with a not-for-profit organisation.
- NSW local council operating under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

For the purposes of this grant program, ‘incorporated not-for-profit community organisations’ include:

- incorporated organisations that are registered and approved as not-for-profit bodies by NSW Fair Trading.
- not-for profit companies limited by guarantee, registered in NSW (must have ACNC registration and/or DGR status).
- associations (registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 with NSW Fair Trading).
- NSW Local Aboriginal Land Councils.
- religious organisations operating in NSW.
- NSW non-government organisations established under an Act of Parliament.

Applications will not be accepted from organisations that have outstanding acquittals with DCJ.

Note: For more information and details about who is eligible to apply, please refer to the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors grant program - Round Three **FAQ Sheet** and website.

Prioritisation

We encourage a focus on older people from the following priority groups due to these groups being considered at higher risk of social isolation:

- Aboriginal people aged 50 years and over
- from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA+)
- people living with disability, dementia, chronic disease or mental illness
- carers
- people in rural, regional and remote areas.

Applications may also be prioritised to ensure equitable geographic distribution across NSW to ensure and equitable spread of funds and projects.

Applicants must not have outstanding acquittals for any other funding program with DCJ.

NSW National Redress Scheme sanctions

The NSW Government will not award a Grant Funding Arrangement to a non-government organisation with Redress Obligation (or to any of its Related Entities) if that non-government organisation:

- has declined to join the Scheme, or
- at the expiry of six months after the time it is notified to join the Scheme, has failed to do so.

Visit the website for further information about the NSW National Redress Scheme sanctions.

COVID-19

Projects must adhere to current NSW Government public health orders and advice regarding COVID-19. Up-to-date information is available on the [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#).

Grant funds expenditure

Funds can only be used for expenses/activities directly associated to the project. The application must clearly outline your proposed expenditure in the budget you submit with your application.

Grant funds exclusions

The following will not be considered eligible for funding:

- project costs that are already the subject of another government grant, subsidy or financial assistance
- project costs incurred prior to an application being submitted (no retrospective funding will be awarded).

- Permanent salaries/wages
(**except:** costs for temporary staff for your project or event can be included; an existing staff member to work additional hours/days to work on the project; an existing staff member assigned to the project and working the same hours as before; however, their prior duties have been significantly reduced to match the time now devoted to the project. In this case, DCJ may require written evidence that these duties have changed (in the form of copies of old and new position descriptions)).
- Any activity of a commercial nature that is for-profit
- Capital works including building work
- Permanent equipment purchases, for example, tablets and computers
- Business as usual costs or general operating expenses
- Programs and activities that encourage gambling such as bingo, or the consumption of alcohol
- Interstate or overseas travel costs
- The same program or activity twice. For example, two different organisations cannot apply for funds for the same program or activity.

Insurance

Grant recipients must maintain current and adequate insurance appropriate to the activities/services funded under this grant to cover any liability of the grant recipient that might arise in connection with the performance of its obligations under a Grant Funding Agreement. This must include, but is not limited, to a minimum of \$20 million Public Liability Insurance.

Applicants will be asked to provide a copy of all relevant insurance policies and certificates in the application form.

Banking details information

It is the applicants' responsibility to provide correct banking details, including the authorised signature to verify the applicant's bank details, in their application form. Funds transferred to an incorrect bank account may not be recoverable.

Application process

- All applications must be submitted online via Smarty Grants portal.
- Applications will open on 15 August 2022; and close at 11.59pm Monday 19 September 2022
- Applications will initially be reviewed by DCJ for general program compliance, and then assessed.
- Applicants will be formally notified in October 2022 if their application has been successful or unsuccessful. Applicants must ensure their contact details are up to date.

Successful applicant's obligations

- Any variations to the approved project scope, project location and completion time frames outlined in the original application form must be formally requested and approved in writing before any related work takes place.

- To discuss a variation, please contact the SPC-Grants Hub team by email SPC-GrantsHub@facs.nsw.gov.au.
- All projects must be completed by November 2023. You are required to submit a Final Report and Financial Acquittal in SmartyGrants no later than January 2024. DCJ will send you the final acquittal form prior the required date that you will need to complete in the SmartyGrants portal
- Please note that any photographs or videos containing images of participants and/or staff submitted in the Final Completion Report must be accompanied by a signed DCJ still and moving images consent form.
- It is a program requirement that all financial records related to grant expenditure and acquittal be retained by the committee of the organisation for seven years. If the committee changes, these documents must be forwarded to the new incoming committee.

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