

Housing Construction Traineeship Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) contain key information regarding the Work Skills Traineeships – Housing Construction Traineeship Fund and should be read in conjunction with the program [funding guidelines](#). This program is administered by the Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT).

Why has the Queensland Government launched this Fund?

As part of the Construction Workforce Fund, the Housing Construction Traineeship Fund will increase the participation of underrepresented cohorts in the housing and construction sectors by funding additional Work Skills Traineeships projects focused on residential and social housing.

What is the Housing Construction Traineeship Fund?

The Housing Construction Traineeship Fund (the Fund) has been modelled on the Work Skills Traineeship program delivered under the highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative.

The Work Skills Traineeships program is a direct job creation program that funds paid work placements on community, public works and environmental projects for up to six months. The program allows trainees to undertake paid work while learning in a supported work environment. Participants undertake a Work Skills Traineeship (Certificate I in Business, Construction, Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Retail Services or Hospitality) that integrates vocational skills with on-the-job training.

The program assists unemployed people to address barriers to workforce participation, including women re-entering the workforce, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, mature age job seekers, veterans, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and recently released prisoners.

The Fund will operate under the existing Work Skills Traineeships framework. The main difference is that only purpose-specific residential and social housing projects will be funded.

For projects funded under the Housing Construction Traineeship Fund, trainees complete a Certificate I in Construction qualification and General Construction Induction Card (white card) on-the-job.

The Fund will provide entry level skills and jobs to unemployed Queenslanders from diverse backgrounds to gain skills to enter the housing and construction workforce.

Why is the Fund part of the Work Skills Traineeships program?

Successful projects under the Fund will operate the same way as standard Work Skills Traineeships projects.

Participants in the program are employed full-time as entry-level trainees on work placement projects for 18-26 weeks. The Certificate I in Construction traineeship is one of the five traineeships available under the Work Skills Traineeships program.

What funding is available?

In 2024–25, \$2 million is available to fund purpose-specific residential and social housing projects under the Work Skills Traineeships program.

This funding is additional to the Work Skills Traineeships program's annual budget allocation.

Learn more about the [Work Skills Traineeships Housing Construction Traineeship Fund](#).

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

Not-for-profit community-based organisations are eligible to apply for funding under the Housing Construction Traineeship Fund.

Applicant organisations must be able to demonstrate a commitment to access and equity principles, as well as an ability to provide appropriate support services to the trainees.

How do I apply for funding?

A one-off funding round for the Fund is being held in 2024.

The funding round opened on Monday 10 June 2024 and closes on **Sunday 28 July 2024**.

This is a separate funding round to the standard funding rounds held under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Applications must be submitted online via the Training and Skills Programs portal under the existing Work Skills Traineeships program.

Learn more about the [application process and how to apply](#).

Is the application form the same as standard Work Skills Traineeships applications?

Yes. The application form and required supporting documentation is the same as the standard Work Skills Traineeships application.

Letters of support are expected to demonstrate connections with stakeholders in the housing and construction sectors.

How many funding rounds are there under the Fund?

The funding round is a one-off round in 2024.

DESBT expects the funding round to be oversubscribed, same as all other funding rounds held under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Why does the Fund have a separate application process to standard Work Skills Traineeships projects?

The Housing Construction Traineeship Fund is targeted to provide outcomes specifically for the housing and construction sectors.

Applications will be assessed based on how well these outcomes are demonstrated in the project proposal.

The Fund provides \$2 million, in addition but separate to the \$37.35 million available under the general Work Skills Traineeships budget in 2024–25.

How do I demonstrate the project is a residential and social housing project?

It is important that your project proposal demonstrates clear strategies and plans to achieve outcomes expected under the Fund.

For example:

- Recruitment strategies that connect with underrepresented cohorts to support the housing and construction sectors

- Tailored support and assistance that aligns with individual and industry requirements, and supports individuals to stay and succeed in the housing and construction sectors
- Skills Assure Supplier/RTO selection process that demonstrates relevant industry knowledge and experience
- Work activities and community benefits that are clearly associated with residential and social housing initiatives e.g. building and maintenance works on a social housing project or Queensland Government residential building project
- Scope of work supports the development of broad skills to satisfy the requirements of the Certificate I in Construction
- Project staff (particularly the Workplace Supervisor) with relevant experience in the housing and construction sectors
- Post Placement Support offered to trainees to assist with their transition to ongoing work in the housing and construction sectors and increase their competitiveness in the job market
- Letters of support demonstrating industry connections and support for the project, including but not limited to employment opportunities as trades assistants or apprentices in the housing and construction sectors.

What is the General Construction Induction Card?

Workers in the construction industry are required to complete the General Construction Induction Card. The nationally recognised unit of competency for the card is CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry.

In Queensland, the card was previously known as a 'white card'.

Can other training be included in the project?

Yes. Other units of competency, skillsets or non-accredited training can be included in your application if they support outcomes. Examples of other units of competency include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, asbestos awareness and working safely at heights.

It is also expected that work readiness training and soft skills will also be delivered.

Does the Supervising Registered Training Organisation (SRTTO) need to be a Skills Assure Supplier?

Certificate I in Construction training must be delivered by a Skills Assure Supplier funded under the User Choice program.

General Construction Induction Card and other nationally recognised training must be delivered by an RTO, but they aren't required to be a Skills Assure Supplier.

Learn more about the [Skills Assure Supplier framework](#) and the [User Choice program](#).

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed against the published assessment criteria, including your organisation's capacity to manage the proposed project, and the extent to which the project will service community and industry needs.

When will I find out whether my application is successful?

Applicant organisations are expected to be notified of the results of the funding round in September 2024.