

Social Enterprise Sector Development Grants

Frequently asked questions

The frequently asked questions (FAQs) contain key information about the Sector Development Grants (SDG) and must be read in conjunction with the program's funding guidelines.

Why has the Queensland Government launched this grant?

Through the Social Enterprise Jobs Fund (SEJF), the Queensland Government is investing in a range of initiatives to support the sustainable development and inclusive growth of Queensland's social enterprise sector.

This grant opportunity recognises the importance of effective support structures in building and sustaining social enterprises. The SDG will provide funding for projects that aim to develop, strengthen and grow the social enterprise ecosystem in Queensland, particularly in regional communities.

Project proposals may include activities to increase sector capability and capacity; establish or expand networks; research, create or pilot sector development models; or assist social enterprises to overcome barriers to growth and scalability.

Am I eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible, applicants must be sector intermediary organisations or ecosystem developers that actively contribute to sector growth and capability development for social enterprises.

Individual social enterprises are eligible to apply if their primary role is to deliver incubator or accelerator programs, or they are active in ecosystem development.

Note: applicants will be required to demonstrate experience, outcomes and achievements in working with the sector and social enterprises in Queensland, as well as collaborative sector relationships including with the peak body, the Queensland Social Enterprise Council (QSEC). Evidence may include letters of support or testimonials attached to the application form.

Do I have to be operating in Queensland?

Yes. The applicant organisation must have operated in Queensland for a minimum of two (2) years at the time of application.

How much funding is available for approved projects?

The amount of grant funding available is \$10,000 up to \$200,000 (exc. GST). Applications will not be considered if the grant amount sought is below \$10,000 or above \$200,000.

Note: an itemised project budget must be attached to the application form to support the total grant funds requested. The budget template to be used is available on the DESBT website (see "Further information" below).

Can I partner with other stakeholders to deliver my project?

Yes. Consortia, cross-sectoral collaborations, or partnership arrangements are encouraged to ensure your project proposal:

- addresses a clear ecosystem development need or gap and aligns with existing sector development activities planned or underway, as informed by QSEC
- is less likely to duplicate other SDG project proposals, and



- will deliver maximum sector reach, outcomes and impact.

If successful, the applicant organisation will be responsible for overall project management including reporting requirements, distribution of grant funds to project delivery partners (if applicable) and achievement of project deliverables and KPIs.

Note: all project delivery partners must be identified in the application form.

When must projects be completed?

All projects must be completed by 30 June 2023.

Note: the application form will ask for a detailed breakdown of core project tasks and activities to be undertaken and the estimated project delivery timeline. The project timeline (i.e. funding period) will be subject to approval by DESBT.

What can the grant funds be used for?

Eligible activities and expenditure to support project delivery may include:

- additional staff costs to deliver project services (such as new or extra roles directly related to the project delivery)
- research and engagement
- educational resources and materials
- training or coaching programs to develop social enterprises
- travel, accommodation and venue hire costs within Queensland.

What can't the grant funds be used for?

Projects will not be considered if funds are sought for the following ineligible activities and expenditure (but not limited to):

- purchase of significant assets (such as buildings or vehicles)
- existing staff member salaries/wages
- interstate and overseas travel
- ongoing business operating and maintenance costs (such as utilities – electricity, gas, water, rent)
- any other recurrent costs (such as established positions within the organisation)
- services delivered in-kind
- retrospective payments for expenses incurred or for work undertaken, prior to grant approval
- fees for activities or equipment provided by related parties (such as companies with common shareholdings or directorship with the applicant, and employees or immediate family of the applicant).

When will applications open?

Applications open on **6 January 2022**.

How do I apply?

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted via the **online application form**. The online application form is available on the DESBT website (see “Further information” below).

When will applications close?

Applications must be submitted by **COB Friday 11 February 2022**. Incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Can I submit more than one application?

Applicant organisations can only submit one project proposal i.e. only one grant application per ABN will be considered.

Multiple delivery locations within the one project proposal are permissible but must be clearly identified in the application form.

How will my application be assessed?

This grant will be released via an open competitive funding round.

Applications will be assessed against the published criteria on page four (4) of the program’s funding guidelines. Applications deemed to be ineligible in accordance with the eligibility criteria will not advance to the assessment stage.

Applicants should note the list of assessment criteria is not necessarily exhaustive and DESBT may consider other criteria as it considers appropriate.

Grants will be awarded based on merit to those projects that demonstrate the best value for money and delivery of ecosystem benefits and outcomes that address program objectives.

Applicants and/or project partners that are prepared to co-contribute (either in-kind and/or financially) to their projects will also be viewed favourably, however a lack of alternative funding sources will be taken into consideration.

When will I find out if my application is successful?

The assessment and approval process will take approximately four to six weeks. Once finalised, all applicants will be advised in writing regarding the outcome of their application.

How will the grant funds be paid?

Successful applicants must enter into a formal Services Agreement (contract) with DESBT.

An upfront payment will be made upon execution of the Services Agreement but no sooner than 30 days prior to the project start date.

DESBT may vary the payment schedule based on individual assessment of the applicant organisation, project delivery timeline and the amount of grant funds awarded.

Projects must be acquitted after completion and unexpended or surplus grant funds returned to DESBT.

Further information

For further information, please refer to the program’s funding guidelines available on the DESBT website at www.desbt.qld.gov.au/training/future-skills-fund/social-enterprise-grants.

You can also contact DESBT via email at programdesign@desbt.qld.gov.au.