

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Australian Government has introduced significant reforms to employment, participation and community development services in remote Australia to help more people get into jobs and participate in their communities.

From 1 July 2013 the Australian Government is investing $1.5 billion in the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), building on the strengths of former services: Job Services Australia (JSA), Disability Employment Services (DES), the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP).

# What is the CDF?

$237.5 million over five years is being provided as a Community Development Fund (CDF), managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). The fund will support social and economic participation in the 60 remote regions through a wide variety of activities and services that will benefit:

* remote communities by supporting community development and social and economic participation for RJCP participants
* remote job seekers by creating employment opportunities and innovative approaches to recruiting, employing and retaining job seekers, particularly Indigenous people, women, young people and people with a disability.

Projects proposed for funding should be consistent with priorities set out in the region’s Community Action Plan.

Communities should start considering what funding they may need to support objectives that will be identified in their Community Action Plans. They are also encouraged to start talking to their RJCP provider about whether the CDF is the best option for funding these objectives.

# GrantS process

CDF funding is available to a range of potential recipients. These may include local councils, community and non-government organisations and employers, as well as RJCP providers.

CDF proposals will be assessed through a national competitive grant process, with decisions on funding made by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The timing and frequency of grants round is at the discretion of the Minister.

Information about any current CDF grants rounds as well as the CDF Guidelines can be found on the Grants & Funding page of the FaHCSIA website.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

For information on the Remote Jobs and Communities Program, visit [www.deewr.gov.au/rjcp](http://www.deewr.gov.au/rjcp) or call 1800 805 260.