



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Families and Communities Programme

**Multicultural Arts and Festivals
Funding Round Summary**

March 2016

Families and Communities – Strengthening Communities – Multicultural Arts and Festivals

Multicultural Arts and Festivals (MAF) grants aims to build cohesive Australian communities by providing opportunities for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions.

MAF grants are funded under the Strengthening Communities Activity within the Families and Communities Programme. More detailed information about the Families and Communities Programme and the Strengthening Communities Activity can be found on the [DSS website](#).

Selection type

This selection is an open process. An open competitive selection process means all providers operating in the market place can apply. Open processes are advertised on the DSS website and may be advertised in other media (if required) to attract as much interest as possible. Open rounds have set opening and closing dates, and applications are assessed against specified criteria.

Applicant eligibility

Applications will be assessed against the criteria to ensure public accountability and to meet Programme outcomes. Applications will only be accepted from not-for-profit organisations that are in one of the following categories:

- a. incorporated associations (incorporated under state/territory legislation, commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc.' in their legal name);
- b. incorporated cooperatives (also incorporated under state/territory legislation, commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name);
- c. companies (incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* – may be a proprietary company (limited by shares or by guarantee) or public companies);
- d. Aboriginal corporations (incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*);
- e. organisations established through a specific piece of Commonwealth or state/territory legislation (public benevolent institutions, churches, universities, unions etc.;
- f. partnerships;
- g. trustees on behalf of a trust; and
- h. local governments.

Available funding for this Activity

Total funding of \$125,000 is available for MAF projects held between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017. Within this funding, up to \$5,000 is available for each individual project.

Closing Date and Time

Applications must be submitted by **2:00pm AEST Thursday, 28 April 2016**.

Late applications – information on DSS grant policies, including the late application policy, is available on the [DSS website](#).

Questions

If you need help or support in using and/or submitting the Application Form, please call 1800 020 283, or TTY 1800 555 677, or email grants@dss.gov.au.

Questions and answers for this funding round are available on the [DSS website](#).

If you cannot find an answer to your question on the DSS website relating to this selection process or the Activity, please send your question to grants@dss.gov.au.

Answers to questions will be published on the funding round page within five working days of receipt, unless the answers are available in the Application Pack. DSS will only answer questions about the requirements of the Application Form and Programme Guidelines. DSS is not able to advise how to respond to specific selection criteria.

So that there is enough time for all questions to be available on the funding round page before the closing date and time, DSS will not answer questions, or reply to requests for information or correspondence about the status or progress of applications, after **Thursday, 21 April 2016** until the end of the selection process.

DSS cannot answer questions about individual applications during the assessment process. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application when the assessment process is complete.

Grant objectives – what MAF grants aim to achieve in the community

MAF projects mainly promote inter-community harmony and understanding. MAF projects aim to promote respect, fairness and a sense of belonging for Australians of different cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds, focusing on the promotion of inter-community harmony and understanding.

Statement of Requirement – what sort of projects DSS is looking to support

A MAF project is a structured multicultural festival or multicultural arts activity or set of activities, designed and delivered by the funding recipient. Projects must be consistent with the objectives of the grants, which are to:

- encourage social cohesion and mutual understanding through the sharing of different cultural experiences;
- seek to educate groups about other cultures through information sharing; and/or
- address a social cohesion issue, such as tensions between groups in a community.

Funding is available for projects that are consistent with the objectives of the Strengthening Communities Guidelines Overview, such as projects that:

- promote the importance of mutual respect, understanding and fair treatment of all, regardless of peoples' cultural, racial or religious beliefs;
- promote harmony between groups of people from different cultural, racial and religious backgrounds;
- raise awareness of all Australians in order to build a greater respect and understanding of diversity;
- promote the benefits of living in a culturally diverse society; and
- provide opportunities for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions.

Funding **will not be** available under MAF for:

- Harmony Day events or activities;
- projects already under way or completed;
- subsidy of general ongoing administrative costs such as electricity, phone, and rent of an organisation;
- major capital expenditure, for example towards buildings, gardens, motor vehicles, computers and sound systems, although equipment can be hired for project work;
- projects that are the responsibility of other grant programmes and agencies, such as those which address anti-social behaviour, family issues and crime;
- the delivery of settlement services – for example, casework and assistance to access mainstream services;
- projects focused on accessing services – for example, raising cross-cultural awareness among service providers;
- English language lessons;
- projects that address employer discrimination, as this issue is the responsibility of other Australian Government agencies;
- projects which are primarily focused on curriculum development, academic research or teacher development;
- reprinting existing materials or publication of existing manuscripts; and
- travel to conferences and training programs.

Project Proposals

Project proposals must focus on actively engaging the target group/s and involving the wider community in the activities. The proposed project must involve connecting people across cultures, racial backgrounds and religions.

Though all compliant applications will be considered, preference may be given to:

- applications that strongly demonstrate how the MAF project will address social cohesion issues;
- smaller organisations – for the purpose of this activity, smaller organisations are defined as those with less than 20 full time equivalent employees; and
- organisations depending on MAF funding to make up a significant percentage of the total cost of the project.

Consideration will be given to spreading projects geographically across Australia, as well as supporting areas where there is high cultural diversity and low levels of social cohesion.

Application Requirements

Applicants can apply for one or more projects for **up to \$5,000 for each**, noting that:

- each project **must** be submitted on a separate application form and **must** have a different unique project name;
- you can apply to deliver a single project, up to \$5,000, that includes more than one event location and/or occurs on one or more dates. Information on all locations and dates is to be included in the application.

Your application/s will not be considered if you fail to meet these requirements.

When completing your Application Form, you should:

- provide a brief description of your proposed project, including its start and end dates in the “Provide a brief description of your application for this Activity” field of the form; and
- provide all information where you are asked to do so.

Selection Criteria

The information requested under each criterion **must** be provided.

The equally weighted selection criteria are:

Criterion 1 Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- a. how many participants/attendees you expect at your proposed project and the total cost of the project; and
- b. the different cultural, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds of the targeted groups; and
- c. the identified social cohesion issue/s you hope to address with this project.

Criterion 2 Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Activity objectives in the specified community and/or the specified target group

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- a. the experience and skills of the members of your organisation relevant to delivering projects or events; and
- b. how many staff (excluding volunteers) your organisation employs.

Attachments

For this round, no attachments are requested. Documents attached to applications will not be assessed.

Feedback for this funding round

The Feedback Summary will provide general information and the main strengths and areas of improvement for the applications received in this funding round.

The Feedback Summary will be published on the [DSS website](#) following the finalisation of the funding round.

Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

Multicultural Access and Equity Policy

Australia’s Multicultural Access and Equity Policy: Respecting diversity. Improving responsiveness means that Australian Government agencies make sure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people who need to access government and community services. This means, for example, that appropriate language services should be provided. Grant applicants should consider whether professional translating or interpreting services may be needed to deliver services, projects, activities or events to non-English speakers.

If your Application Form states that a budget is required, costs for translating and interpreting services should be included in your budget.

Assessment

The Assessment Team may be comprised of Australian Government officers from each state/territory and national offices. Teams will undertake training so that applications are assessed consistently. The Assessment Team will be bound by the APS Code of Conduct and the departmental Secretary's Instructions.

Probity and fairness

The selection of funding recipients must be fair, open and demonstrate the highest level of integrity.

The following principles will be applied throughout the selection process:

- a. fairness and impartiality;
- b. consistency, accountability and transparency of process;
- c. security and confidentiality of information;
- d. identification and resolution of conflicts of interest; and
- e. compliance with legislative obligations and government policy.

These principles are intended to achieve an equitable, justifiable and sound process.

DSS may engage an independent **Probity Advisor** to help DSS meet its obligations to make selection processes defensible and able to stand up to external and internal scrutiny.

The Probity Advisor also advises DSS on, and monitors, the procedures used in the selection process to make sure they comply with the published relevant Programme Guidelines. The Probity Advisor plays no part in the assessment of applications.

Programme Guidelines

The Programme Guidelines provide the starting point for parties considering whether to apply for funding and are the basis for the business relationship between DSS and the funding recipient. Applicants are strongly advised to read the Programme Guidelines in conjunction with the Funding Round Summary and the Questions and Answers relevant to this open process before completing an Application Form.

How to apply

Please read and complete the declaration part of the Application Form carefully. Make sure all responses are true and accurate. Click the **Submit Application** button and follow the instructions. All questions will be verified. Any incorrect responses or unanswered questions will be displayed for you to change. The Application Form will not submit until all responses have been verified.

When you have successfully submitted your application, you will get an automated confirmation receipt and email. Submission may take several minutes, the confirmation you should receive is an automated response from DSS. **Please be patient and do not close the Application Form before you get the confirmation. Do not try to submit your**

application more than once. If you do not receive confirmation or you have difficulties submitting the Application Form, please call the DSS Grants Hotline on 1800 020 283.

Grant Agreement information

The Grant Agreement is a performance-based, legally enforceable agreement between the Commonwealth (represented by DSS) and the successful applicant that sets out the Terms and Conditions governing the funding to be provided.

The type of Grant Agreement entered into will depend on the Activity, the assessed Activity risk level, the length of the Activity and the amount of the grant.

The executed Grant Agreement represents each grant provided within it and the relevant Activity and supersedes all prior representations, communications, agreements, statements and understandings, whether oral or in writing.