



Community Development and Participation – Community Capacity Building

Feedback summary

Overview

Community Development and Participation – Community Capacity Building grants are aimed at meeting local community needs. They do so by supporting the delivery of services, projects, activities or events that respond to particular local community needs and make a positive contribution to community life. The funding is for two types of grants:

- time limited projects that support timely and cost effective investment to address a significant need within a community
- multi-year projects that support investment projects which will deliver a social enterprise with significant ongoing benefit to the community.

DSS recognises and supports the work of the civil society organisations in the community sector offering these services for local communities. These organisations have deep experience in the sector and strong commitment to promoting local community interests.

Selection results

The selected projects will build capacity for communities and organisations that identify and address local community need, facilitate partnerships that result in better services and service integration, develop strategies to increase awareness of access to services and support organisations in the delivery of services to individuals and organisations. Details of the excellent proposals for these projects are detailed below.

Selection process

DSS received 1063 applications with proposals for the Community Development and Participation funding round 2014-15 which were of a very high quality.

DSS considered each proposal against five equally weighted selection criteria which are listed below. Only organisations which rated highly in all aspects of the selection criteria were identified as preferred applicants.

The Department also emphasised that in responding to any of the selection criteria for funding rounds, applicants needed to provide evidence to support claims about how they meet each of the criteria. During the application process, the Department provided assistance for applicants in providing evidence including a fact sheet on the types of evidence that could be used for addressing selection criteria as well as guidance on what strong evidence looks like.

Further individualised feedback will not be offered for the 2014-15 Community Development and Participation – Community Capacity Building funding round due to the one-off project nature of these grants. The [DSS Feedback Policy](#) on the DSS website outlines the department's approach to providing feedback to funding applicants and supporting the sector to prepare strong proposals.

Criteria 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity in the chosen community and/or target group.

Strong applicants demonstrated key strengths in relation to Criteria 1, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant identified and demonstrated a good understanding of a target community and those in the community with the greatest needs.	The proposal provided detailed information on the specific needs of the local community.
The applicant was familiar with the services available to the local community as well as potential service gaps.	Services available were listed and service gaps identified. Relevant reports, studies and other evidence were referenced particularly for target groups such as Indigenous populations.
The applicant provided comprehensive supporting evidence and documentation relevant to the local target community.	Statistical evidence was provided on the impact of the unmet need on the wellbeing of those in the target community.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 1 in a number of ways:

- demonstrating their understanding of the identified target community, service gap, and objectives of the funding round
- supporting their application with specific and relevant data (e.g. census, survey, academic or other research)
- ensuring supporting evidence and data is specifically relevant to the local community rather than to, for example, the Australian population as a whole.

Criteria 2: Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the grant funding.

Strong applicants demonstrated key strengths in relation to Criteria 2, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant provided a clear plan for the implementation of the activity.	Proposal provided an implementation plan including methods to overcome potential risks.
The applicant convincingly explained how the activity would fill the identified service gap.	Description of the expected outcomes of the activity and their relevance to the identified service gap.
The applicant demonstrated the potential sustainability of the activity in the absence of a Community Development and Participation – Community Capacity Building grant.	Evidence of alternative sources of funding, current or prospective.
The proposal represented value for money.	Proposal detailed how the applicant will leverage off other funding sources to efficiently deliver services.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 2 in a number of ways:

- describing the connection between programme activities and expected outcomes
- clarifying whether the activity is ongoing or time-limited and, if the activity is ongoing, how it would continue to provide benefits to the community without being reliant on continued Government funding
- demonstrating value for money through detailing how the services would efficiently address the funding outcomes
- Demonstrating how the one-off, time limited project/programme aimed to address and provide a solution to an identified need within a community.

Criteria 3: Demonstrate your experience in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring activities to achieve the activity objectives for all stakeholders.

Strong applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criteria 3, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant demonstrated strong links to, and experience of, conducting activities in the target community.	Examples of previous community development and participation activities in the target community.
The applicant had previously received and effectively administered government funding in the past.	Details of funding previously received and outcomes achieved, demonstrating capacity to meet reporting and funding requirements.
The applicant demonstrated strong experience of monitoring and continuous improvement.	Details of experiences of reporting, measurement, evaluation systems and quality assurance were included.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 3 in a number of ways:

- demonstrating outcomes of similar activities delivered to similar communities
- providing specific examples of government funding received and administered in the past
- describing monitoring and reporting systems already in place for other activities.

Criteria 4: Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the activity’s objectives in the chosen community and/or target group.

Strong applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criteria 4, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The organisation’s structure will support delivery of the activity.	Inclusion of a detailed organisational chart highlighting capabilities.
The applicant provided relevant information on staff skills and experience.	Detailed descriptions of key positions and their roles in ensuring the effective delivery of community development and participation activities.
The applicant had strong governance processes for the activity.	Deliverables and outcomes were clearly specified, with a robust and established governance structure in place.
The applicant had a strategy to market and promote the activity in the target community.	Detailed description of a marketing strategy to encourage involvement in community development and participation activities.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 4 in a number of ways:

- explaining how staff skills and experience translate to service delivery
- providing information on the resources and infrastructure available to support the delivery of services
- demonstrating capacity to involve the target community in the development and implementation of the activity.

Criteria 5: Describe how your proposal will provide services that contribute to increased social participation by assisting disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals, families and communities, including the engagement of volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Strong applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criteria 5, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant demonstrated that the proposed activity will contribute to increased social participation.	Identification of strong links between the expected outcomes of the proposed project and increases in social participation.
The applicant provided convincing evidence of the link between the proposed activity and the issue of social participation.	Evidence of positive impact in the priority area(s) of similar projects conducted by the organisation itself or another organisation.
The organisation demonstrated its capacity to engage, manage and support volunteers, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds.	Evidence of previous experience engaging, managing and supporting volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 5 in a number of ways:

- demonstrating an understanding of the issue of social participation
- explicitly describing how the activity will increase social participation, rather than assuming this can be inferred from responses to other criteria
- clearly identifying the issues of social disadvantage and vulnerability that exist in the identified target community.