



Food Relief

Feedback summary

Overview

Food Relief grants are aimed at ensuring individuals and families in need have access to food items in times of financial crisis. They do this by improving Emergency Relief organisations' access to cost-effective supplies of food.

This approach aims to ensure food items are available across Australia for individuals and families who are badly in need of food support. This is by:

- receiving donated foods from farmers/manufacturers/retailers/other food redistribution services, and redistributing these foods to community organisations or other distribution centres where the food is needed
- sourcing and transporting essential foods on a basis where food donations are insufficient
- leading the development of local partnerships amongst food redistribution suppliers to improve access and distribution, especially in rural and remote communities.

DSS recognises and supports the work of civil society organisations in providing these services. In particular, for this funding round, Food Relief was separated from Emergency Relief to provide greater transparency in relation to arrangements for the two services and ensure that food relief providers are separately, and specifically supported.

Selection results

DSS received 30 applications for the Food Relief funding round which were of a very high quality. Proposals demonstrated the depth and breadth of civil society organisations in the sector.

Further details on strong proposals are provided for each of the selection criteria below.

Selection process

DSS conducted an open process, which considered each proposal against five equally weighted selection criteria as 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 such evidence. This included 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.

Criteria 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity in the chosen community/communities and/or target groups (national coverage required).

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

Strength	Example
The application demonstrated an understanding of geographical areas of need.	Applicant used Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to target existing service gaps.
The application articulated an understanding of changing needs.	Applicant cited data on existing waiting lists for services to show that demand is increasing.
There was an understanding of emergency relief organisations as the target group in the application.	Applicant had a service delivery model which works to support emergency relief organisations.

Areas for improvement

National coverage was an important aspect of this funding round and was assessed as part of Criteria 1. Many applicants did not meet this requirement.

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

- providing information to show an understanding of the emergency relief organisations target group
- providing information to show an understanding of the diversity of needs across different regions
- describing the role of food relief in the broader community services sector
- providing more detail on numbers of people in poverty likely to require services
- providing information to show greater understanding of the needs of emergency relief providers.

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 application was built on existing service delivery models.	Applicant cited examples of successful approaches in specific cities and regions.
The benefits for consumers were clearly articulated.	Expected impact on physical wellbeing and lower health care costs of recipients was detailed.
The benefits to community organisations were demonstrated.	Applicant analysed reduced spend on food expected for community organisations if their service was funded.
The application demonstrated benefits to food donors.	Applicant analysed the reduced disposal costs expected for food donors if their service was funded.
The application demonstrated benefits to government.	The cost per meal was provided and social return on investment analysis was included.
The service delivery models will be tailored to geographical areas.	Food storage warehouses will be used in metropolitan areas, volunteers transport food to emergency relief organisations in remote areas.
The organisation will help people to find employment if successful.	Applicant proposed that they will work with organisations to help people gain employment through formal qualifications in warehousing and logistics.

Areas for improvement

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

- linking the approach to holistic support for high-needs communities
- including information about greater use of existing fundraising sources to deliver value for money
- including greater clarity about the objectives and intended outcomes of the activity
- identifying benefits for all stakeholders involved.

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 organisation had experience providing similar services in a range of geographical areas.	Detail was provided about existing locations where services are provided.
The organisation had experience in measuring impact of services.	Approaches to measuring social, environmental and economic impacts were proposed, including specific key performance indicators.
The organisation had established infrastructure located across Australia.	The applicant provided details of existing storage and transport facilities.

Areas for improvement

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

- providing greater detail about the organisation’s infrastructure (e.g. storage facilities, transport options)
- providing greater evidence of how previous activities delivered outcomes for all stakeholders
- providing detail about the organisation’s experience at a national level.

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

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

Strength	Example
The application demonstrated good use of volunteers.	Proposed approach to expanding volunteer base was provided.
The organisation has good governance in place.	Details of staff structure and governance of the organisation were provided.
The organisation demonstrated experienced investment in research.	The applicant provided detail of investment in research to better contribute to reducing food insecurity.

Areas for improvement

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

- increasing their focus on managing risk
- increasing their focus on measuring outcomes
- providing details of how staff professional development will be promoted
- providing more detail on specific roles and responsibilities for volunteers
- providing a more detailed description of how funding would be prioritised.

Criteria 5: Describe and demonstrate a service delivery model that includes effective partnerships, linkages and referral pathways that directly contribute to the activity outcomes.

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

Strength	Example
The organisation has established partnerships.	The proposal included details of existing partnerships with food donors, emergency relief organisations, food redistributors, companies, government, individuals and other organisations.
The organisation will be able to create value for money by using its existing network.	The methodology demonstrated that the existing network offers maximum quantity of nutritious surplus food to be distributed to those in need.
The proposal indicated how engagement with the community will occur.	A programme of proposed community consultation was included.
The organisation is focused on up-skilling of their existing network.	The applicant proposed a ‘train the trainer’ programme to help local organisations deliver nutrition training.

Areas for improvement

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

- including more detail about building relationships with existing emergency relief providers in a range of locations
- providing more information about how to identify food donors and distributors
- including explicit descriptions of the roles and relationships of identified stakeholders.

Further Feedback

To register to receive further feedback, please email grants@dss.gov.au providing all of the following details:

- Organisation name, as used on the application for funding (legal name or trading name, if different from the legal name);
- The Application ID issued by DSS upon receipt of the application for which feedback is sought;
- The name of the funding round(s) as per the application pack materials and application form (feedback for more than one funding application can be requested in the one email);
- A contact name and telephone number; and
- A contact email address.

To be eligible to receive feedback for the Food Relief round you must register by **Friday 13 February 2015**.

The Department will undertake to provide individual feedback to organisations within 12 weeks of the closing date for registrations. Please refer to the [DSS Feedback Policy](#) for more information.