

Guide to NSW Government Community Grants

Part One: Community Project Grants – Examples of NSW Government Agency Funders

The *Guide to NSW Government Community Grants* is part of a suite of resources and important links available through the NSW Government Web Portal - www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au. *The Guide* and other resources on the Portal are intended to complement existing information already available on government agencies' websites and through the communitybuilders website – www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au.

The Guide is intended to assist small to medium sized community organisations access information on grants programs and other funds available for community participation and volunteering projects. *The Guide* is divided into two parts:

Part One is a directory of information on government grants held by government agencies on their websites that lists examples of the most commonly accessed NSW Government agency links to community project grants. Many of the sites also link to Commonwealth and other non-government organisations grants information.

As changes in Government funding priorities occur and agencies amend their funding programs, updates on grants programs are provided on the communitybuilders website <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/>.

Part Two contains general principles on the purpose of government grants, information regarding the administration of government grants and a summary of the types of grants and community funding programs available to community organisations.

Directory of information on Government Grants

NSW Government Agency Funders Listed in Community Builders	Links to community builders.nsw Yes/No	Categories of Grants Funding eg arts & culture, older people, housing	Agency Website Links
Community Relations Commission for a multi-cultural NSW	Yes	Funding priority areas: Emerging or small ethnic communities Geographically or socially isolated communities Promotion of community harmony and mutual understanding Development of community networks and structures	www.crc.nsw.gov.au/services/grants

		Projects addressing critical diversity issues at a local level	
Department of Aboriginal Affairs		Provides a number of useful links to grants programs offered by government and non government agencies.	www.daa.nsw.gov.au
Department of Ageing Disability & Homecare	Yes only NSW Seniors week grants and NSW Seniors week Achievement awards are listed	Ageing Program Home and Community Care Program Disability Services Program Other grants and subsidies eg Seniors week grants	www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au www.nswseniorsweek.com.au
Department of Community Services	Yes	The Area Assistance Scheme focuses on community capacity building via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Communities through Partnerships • Building community leadership and capacity • Promoting safe communities 	www.community.nsw.gov.au www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au
Department of Corrective Services	Yes	Community Funding Program Victims of Violent Crime Grants Program	www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/offender_management/community_engagement/community_funding_program.asp
Department of	Yes	Aboriginal People	www.det.nsw.edu.au/eas/

Education and Training	No	<p>Children and families</p> <p>Education and training</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Multicultural</p> <p>People with a disability</p> <p>Young people</p> <p>Contributions to specific education related NGOs</p>	Not Applicable
Department of Water and Energy	Yes	Water and Energy Savings Funds provide grants to implement projects which will save water or energy.	www.dwe.nsw.gov.au
Department of Environment & Climate Change	Yes – See Environmental Trust below	Environment and heritage	www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding/index.htm
Natural Resources Advisory Council	No	<p>The <i>Forging Partnerships Program</i> is a joint initiative of the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) and the NSW Government.</p> <p>It promotes partnerships for the sustainable management of natural resources – the land and water, the native animals, trees and vegetation and the landscapes of NSW.</p>	www.nrac.nsw.gov.au/about_us.htm
Environmental Trust	Yes	Environment and	www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/

NSW		heritage	envtrust.htm
Department of Juvenile Justice	Yes	<p>The department's community funding program (CFP) aims to support and assist young people by reducing the likelihood of their re-offending. It has six categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation Support • Bail Accommodation Support • Alcohol and Other Drug Programs including Residential Rural Rehabilitation Programs • Employment Skilling Program (ESP) • Local Offender Program (LOP) • Post Release Support Program (PRSP) 	www.djj.nsw.gov.au/communityorganisations.htm
Department of Planning	Yes	Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan	www.planning.nsw.gov.au/programservices/improvement.asp
• Heritage Office NSW	Yes (separate)	Community strategic projects	www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/02_subnav_01_2008_org.htm
Housing NSW	Yes	<p>Community Development and Resourcing grants</p> <p>Community Development and Resourcing Grants- Public Housing</p> <p>Eco wise Community Grants</p>	www.housing.nsw.gov.au/About%2BU s/Programs%2Band%2BGrants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Liquor Racing and Gaming State Library of NSW NSW Film and Television Office 	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Organisations providing opportunities for people with disabilities</p> <p>Problem gambling counselling and related services</p> <p>Research, education and awareness activities</p> <p>Arts and culture (public libraries)</p> <p>Arts and Culture(film and television)</p>	<p>http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/rgf_home.asp</p> <p>www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/public_libraries/funding/index.html</p> <p>www.fto.nsw.gov.au/poa.asp</p>
<p>Department of Commerce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Office of Fair Trading Office of Industrial Relations 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Commerce's main grants programs are operated by the Office of Fair Trading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program the Financial Counselling Services Program Aged Care Supported Accommodation Co-operatives Development Home Building Grants Programs. Property Services Grants Program No Interest Loans Scheme Program. <p>The Office of Industrial Relations website may assist in identifying research and related grants information.</p>	<p>www.commerce.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/About_us/Grants.html</p> <p>www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>women</p>	<p>(Use search button for grants)_</p> <p>www.women.nsw.gov.au</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office for Women's Policy 			
<p>Department of Primary Industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries NSW Forests NSW Agriculture NSW Minerals and Petroleum 	No	<p>Natural resource management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving recreational fishing - Noxious weed control 	<p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/apply-for-funds</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/your-fees/small-grants-program</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture</p>
<p>NSW Rural Assistance Authority</p>	No	<p>Farmers or Small business affected by drought or natural disasters</p> <p>Sporting clubs, churches and not for profit organisations partial grants and loans eg following natural disaster declarations</p>	<p>(Use search button for grants)</p> <p>www.raa.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Roads and Traffic Authority</p>	No	<p>Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program (RYDA) - a one day driver education excursion for year 11 students targeting road safety.</p> <p>Pedestrian Council of Australia Walk Safely to School Day- encourages parents and carers to reinforce key pedestrian road safety messages as they walk their children to school on the day.</p> <p>Community and Road Education Scheme (CARES) - Five CARES Centres and six regional bicycle centres promote road</p>	<p>http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au</p>

		safety messages about safe cycling and bicycle helmet use.	
		The RTA funded local councils to deliver Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Driver workshops and log book book run activities in local government areas. These activities promote on-road driving experiences involving parents and supervisors of learner drivers.	
		Aboriginal Road Safety programs	
Department of Planning	Yes	Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program provides funding to for environment, heritage and recreational projects.	http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour/sydney_access.asp
	No	Metropolitan Greenspace Program provides funding to Councils within the Sydney Metropolitan area for recreation trails and regional park facilities.	http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/programservices/met.asp
	No	NSW Coastline Cycleway Grants Program offers grants to non metropolitan coastal councils to implement the coastline cycleway route.	http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/programservices/coastal_cycleway.asp
• Heritage Office NSW	Yes (separate)	Community strategic projects	http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/02_subnav_01_2008_org.htm

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Part Two: Principles of Grants Programs and Grants Administration

1. Purpose of Grants Programs and Principles for Grants Administration

NSW Government agencies provide grants to local government councils and a range of non government, non profit organisations for the purpose of providing a service to the community or undertaking a project of benefit to the community. More details are available on www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/grants_administration/policy

Grants Assessment Criteria

Government agency guidelines for grants programs are required by the Grants Administration Guidelines to ensure that the assessment process is objective, transparent and fair (See www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/grants_administration).

Other principles related to the funding and working relationship between Government and grants recipients are relevant to the Grants assessment phase. Principles for the funding relationship as endorsed by the NSW Government and non Government organisations include:

- Value for money
- Fairness, Integrity and Transparency
- Cooperation between Government agencies and funded organisations
- Recognition of diversity in the community
- Consistency of Grants administration procedures across government agencies
- Better alignment of planning, program design and service delivery within and across both Government, non government organisations and local government.
- Probity ie. integrity, honesty and scrutiny.

Managing Grants

The Grants Administration Guidelines document (See Department of Premier and Cabinet website www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/grants_administration) provides information on management of grants when approved. Some key aspects of this process relevant to smaller one off grants are as follows.

- Stage 1: Offer Grants and Enter in to Funding Agreement
- Stage 2: Monitor and Acquit Grants. This includes monitoring against all requirements set out in the funding agreement, establishing a standard of quality and performance and establishing performance measures and benchmarks for each grants program and for individual grants, if appropriate. (For small one-off projects, a report on achievements against objectives and financial acquittal when the project is completed would generally be sufficient).
- Stage 3: Evaluate the Program. Evaluation is a systematic review process of assessing, on the basis of evidence, how well a grants program is doing. Information will only be required from funding recipients if the agency considers that it will inform decisions about the effectiveness of the program.

2. Areas Funded

A wide range of categories of grants and other funding are provided by the NSW Government and other funders. Details of these funding programs are provided at:
www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs/ .

Browsing options include viewing by Funder, Funding Program and by Category.

3. Who Can Apply

To apply, with limited exceptions, for any type of NSW Government funding, the applicant must be an organisation incorporated in Australia. If the applicant organisation is not incorporated, it is required to be sponsored by an organisation that is incorporated. The term '**auspice**' is normally given to the sponsoring organisation. The auspice organisation becomes the applicant for funding purposes.

The main recipient organisations of NSW Government funding are non government organisations and local government councils. Non-government organisations make a significant contribution to the delivery and management of services to the community and a significant contribution to the development of policy and of local communities. Grants are also provided to local government councils to support their delivery of a range of services, capital works and community projects or programs.

4. Where to Apply

Grants applicants should contact grant giving agencies for the appropriate application form. Application details will be provided on communitybuilders.nsw website
www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs/ or on the relevant agency's web page.

5. Types of Grants

NSW Government agencies provide grants to non profit, non-government organisations and to local councils to undertake a range of community projects and to provide services to the community. The NSW Government's grants programs can broadly be divided into two categories described below. The *Guide to NSW Government Grants* focuses largely on the first category.

Grants for community projects:

These grants programs support projects undertaken by community groups ranging from the conduct of local events, artistic pursuits, educational and cultural activities to contributing to the development and maintenance of sporting facilities. The grants programs distribute small amounts of money to a large number of community groups. Typically programs in this category would provide one off grants for a very specific activity or piece of research within a specified timeframe.

Grants for service delivery:

Most often called 'funding programs', these are the major programs through which the Government makes payments to non government organisations and local government councils to deliver a range of essential frontline services to the community. Each contract or service agreement specifies the services to be delivered, results to be achieved against agreed levels of performance.

6. Who Can Help

Since February 1999, the Government has provided a single point of electronic access to information about NSW Government community grants programs through <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/>.

The site is designed to assist non government organisations and community groups to plan a project, help find potential funding sources and then apply for them. It contains information on all the NSW Government grants programs together with Commonwealth Government, institutions and corporate philanthropic programs.

A comprehensive search engine allows users to search for programs using key word, subject or grant giving agency name. Each grants program includes a program summary, whether the program is open or closed, key dates, who can apply, what will be funded and how much funding is available. Hyperlink access is also provided to each grant giving agency's website to download more detailed information.

Site users can join a free email list to receive a monthly email update of funding and awards programs closing in the next 90 days. *Agency grants managers* are provided with login and password access to the site to enter and maintain their grants program information.

communitybuilders.nsw is a clearing house for funding information and does not replace the information about funding programs provided on agency websites. Agency websites will remain the most comprehensive and up to date source of information. The information on *communitybuilders.nsw* leads people to information on agency websites. The site is maintained by the Communities Division of the Department of Community Services with a small annual fee is charged to participating agencies to cover web administration costs. Contact: webkeeper@communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

The *Communitybuilders.nsw* website is currently being redeveloped to provide a more up to date resource for the non government sector.

7. Government and Non Government Organisation Relationships and Responsibilities

The *Working Together for NSW* Agreement provides the key framework for consultation and negotiation between the Government and NSW non-government human services organisations. The Department of Community Services, Communities Division, oversees the implementation of the Agreement.

The Agreement aims to build on existing partnerships and to continue to strive to improve the way the Government and non government sectors work together. It underpins grants administration and other Government service funding to non government organisations.

A copy of the Agreement may be downloaded from the *communitybuilders* portal website as follows www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/site/govinfo/150.html

Government agency and non government agency responsibilities in relation to grants and funding processes are articulated in the *Working Together for NSW* Agreement.

The responsibilities articulated in this Agreement aim to promote stronger relationships between the Government and non-government organisations, in the interests of disadvantaged people and communities at a state, regional and local level.

Examples of outcomes intended include enhancement of the capacities of non-government organisations through improved Government agency funding practices and non government agencies

working towards delivering community development programs with a focus on continuous improvement.

8. Contacts by Area of Funding; by Government Department; by Web links

Assistance in finding sources of funding for community projects may be found on the communitybuilders website www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs. Options for browsing include date of closure, in alphabetical order, by category (eg drugs & alcohol) and by funder. NSW Government grants are listed under *Browse by funder*.

See Part One of this Guide for examples of the most commonly accessed NSW Government agency links to community project grants.

9. Examples of Grants and Funding Approved

Grants approved may help individuals in need, protect communities during emergencies and natural disasters, rehabilitating and tending to our natural environment and wildlife, supporting families, hospitals and schools, organising sporting and cultural activities, helping victims of crime or assisting the police. Funding for NGO activities that support volunteering and community development are approved through Government agency grants schemes which have clearly articulated objectives to assist NGOs to make applications and make the process of assessment transparent.

10. Other Funding Sources

Other sources of funding such as federal and local government and private organisations are provided together with links on communitybuilders website at www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs/ under *Browse by Funder*. Click on *Other Funders*.

Some examples of federal government funders are Department of Health and Ageing and Department of Family Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Department of Immigration and Citizenship while local government funders include City of Sydney and the Local Government and Shires Association. Examples of other non government funders include the Myer Foundation, the Benevolent Society, Clubs NSW and the Centre for Volunteering.

GrantsLINK website is a Federal Government grants scheme. It is also a useful resource to help find funding available under a variety of grant programmes for individuals, businesses and communities to develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship. www.grantslink.gov.au/