# COVID-19
# Partnership Grants
## September 2021

GUIDELINES

# 1. ABOUT THE FUNDING

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The NSW Government COVID-19 Partnership Grants, September 2021, aims to distribute grant funding to Non-Government Organisations across the 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Greater Sydney, identified in the NSW Public Health Order's as LGAs of concern. They are:

- Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and some suburbs of Penrith.

The purpose of the grant funding is to:

- Support vulnerable people and diverse communities in the 12 LGAs of concern, including people required to isolate due to COVID-19.

- Provide additional funds to eligible service providers to increase the support they are already providing to vulnerable people in the community, in response to COVID-19.

The grants will contribute to the NSW Government's efforts in building resilience, and empowering community groups to deliver local services and emergency support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants will also support NSW Government efforts to:

- Decrease the transmission of COVID-19

- Increase the number of individuals testing for COVID-19

- Increase the vaccination rates in affected LGAs

- Reduce the movement of people in the community to help reduce the spread of COVID-19

- Encourage local communities and services to build resilience to the impacts of COVID-19.

## RATIONALE FOR COVID-19 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

The evidence is clear that families, young people and communities living in the 12 LGAs of concern in particular are experiencing increased pressure and hardship, as a result of COVID-19. Recent data shows vulnerable populations are being disproportionately affected by the economic and mental health impacts of the lockdown.

One-off payments are being offered to allow existing funded Non-Government Organisations, delivering services in the 12 LGA's, to enhance delivery of existing evidence informed services they are already providing to vulnerable people.

This grants round is designed to be streamlined, to avoid increased administrative burden on service providers that are focused on delivering services to vulnerable people in these affected communities.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

Eligible organisations are invited to register for a grant. Organisations are not required to nominate a funding amount when lodging their grant registration. Funding amounts for successful organisations will be determined once the grants round is closed, as some organisations will decline the offer.

All organisations who express their interest and are able to deliver the grant requirements outlined below will receive funding. There is no competitive process.

## RELEASE OF FUNDS

A simple process to register interest is available here. Organisations will be asked if they are able to meet each of the grant requirements outlined below. Given organisations will already be funded to deliver evidence informed services in the 12 LGA's to vulnerable people, no further evidence will be required.

Shortly after grant registrations close, DCJ will advise organisations of the funding amount available and will provide a Funding Deed.

Grant funds will be released via a one-off payment after the Funding Deed has been signed. The intention is for the grants funds to be expended by organisations by 31 December 2021. Extensions will not be supported.

## USE OF FUNDING - CONNECTING AND COORDINATING

The COVID-19 Partnership Grants are available to connect vulnerable people, young people and diverse communities in the 12 LGAs of concern (including people required to isolate due to COVID-19) to support services. The grant will fund the provision of information, advice, referral and brokerage for those people, and where required, the coordination of support services.

Grant recipients will need to connect people to, and coordinate if needed, the following types of supports:

- Family and parenting support

- Emotional and trauma support needs (i.e. mental health, drug and alcohol, family and domestic violence).

- Service coordination for people who are vulnerable and are required to isolate due to 'stay at home' requirements of the Public Health Order. This may include accessing accommodation.

- Financial support information.

- Brokerage of material aid to meet immediate needs, including but not limited to essential items, hygiene, data plans, and care packages.

Service delivery is primarily expected to be delivered by telephone, telepractice or online.

Partnership approaches to grant applications will be supported.

Organisations will accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers, and local referral networks.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must:

- Be a Non-Government Organisation currently receiving funding from NSW Department of Communities and Justice or have received funding from Multicultural NSW.

- Already be providing evidence informed support services, as outlined above, to vulnerable families and communities in the 12 LGAs of concern.

- Have the capacity to scale up existing service delivery to deliver information, advice, referral and brokerage to meet increased demand, and expend the grants funds by 31 December 2021. Scaling up service delivery may involve existing workforce, additional staff or volunteers, or brokered services.

- Have the capacity and capability to provide culturally responsive services and programs to diverse populations in the 12 LGAs of concern.

- Accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers, and local referral networks for people who are required to isolate due to COVID-19

- Be willing to participate in a one-hour weekly group conversation with NSW Department of Communities and Justice and Resilience NSW  to provide feedback, problem solve and receive updates.

- Provide weekly reporting on the total number of services delivered by LGA

- Be prepared to supply information about their service offerings, including provision of support to people required to isolate owing to COVID, to the Service Seeker database, or update existing information on that database. This is to enable quick searching and referral.

# 2. HOW TO REGISTER

Eligible organisations will be directly invited by DCJ to participate.

Registrations open on Thursday 9 September 2021 and **close at 5pm (AEST) on Thursday 16 September 2021**. The closing date and time has a strict deadline. No extensions to the deadline will be permitted.

This grants process will be accessible through the online program SmartyGrants, via this link: https://dcj.smartygrants.com.au/COVID-19-Partnership-Grants-Sep2021

Instructions to complete a simple registration process will be available on SmartyGrants.

Organisations will need to submit the necessary information for DCJ to create a funding deed. The registration process confirms organisations are able to meet the eligibility criteria and reporting requirements.

Organisations are not required to submit any additional information such as a proposals or budgets.

All queries during the application must be submitted in writing, via email to: COVID-19PartnershipGrant@facs.nsw.gov.au

# 3. CRITERIA – WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The following criteria are used in the consideration of grant applications.

## APPLICANT MEETS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must:

- Be a Non-Government Organisation currently receiving funding from NSW Department of Communities and Justice or have received funding from Multicultural NSW.

- Already be providing evidence informed support services, as outlined above, to vulnerable families and communities in the 12 LGAs of concern.

- Have the capacity to scale up existing service delivery to deliver information, advice, referral and brokerage to meet increased demand, and expend the grants funds by 31 December 2021. Scaling up service delivery may involve existing workforce, additional staff or volunteers, or brokered services.

- Have the capacity and capability to provide culturally responsive services and

programs to diverse populations in the 12 LGAs of concern.

- Accept referrals from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers and local referral networks for people who are required to isolate due to COVID-19.

- Be willing to participate in a one-hour weekly group conversation with NSW Department of Communities and Justice and Resilience NSW to provide feedback, problem solve and receive updates.

- Provide weekly reporting on the total number of services delivered by LGA.

- Be prepared to supply information about their service offerings, including provision of support to people required to isolate owing to COVID, to the Service Seeker database, or update existing information on that database. This is to enable quick searching and referral.

Registrations from ineligible organisations will not be considered.

## REGISTRATION FORM IS COMPLETE AND SUBMITTED ON TIME

Registrations that are not submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal before the closing date with all required aspects of the application form completed will not be considered.

## REGISTRATION DEMONSTRATES HOW ORGANISATIONS WILL MEET GRANT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the grant funding is to:

- Support vulnerable people and diverse communities in the 12 LGAs of concern, including people required to isolate due to COVID-19.

- Provide additional funds to eligible service providers to increase the support they are already providing to vulnerable people in the community, in response to COVID-19.

The 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Greater Sydney, identified in the Public Health Order as LGAs of concern. They are:

- Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and some suburbs of Penrith.

The grant funding will connect vulnerable people, young people and diverse communities in the 12 LGAs of concern (including people required to isolate due to COVID-19) to support services.

The grant will enable services to establish linker support (ie through existing workforce and/or additional staff or volunteers) for the provision of information, advice, referral and brokerage for vulnerable people, and where required, the coordination of support services.

The types of supports the grant will be required to connect people to, and coordinate if required, include but are not limited to:

- Family and parenting support.

- Emotional and trauma support needs (i.e. mental health, drug and alcohol, family and domestic violence).

- Service coordination for people who are vulnerable and are required to isolate due to 'stay at home' requirements of the Public Health Order. This may include accessing accommodation.

- Financial support information.

- Brokerage of material aid to meet immediate needs, including but not limited to essential items, hygiene, data plans, and care packages.

Service delivery is primarily expected to be delivered by telephone, telepractice or online.

Organisations will accept referral's from Service NSW, NSW Health, Family Connect and Support service providers and local referral networks.

# 4. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

All grant registrations will be reviewed by NSW Department of Communities and Justice to ensure all necessary information is complete and organisations have confirmed they meet the eligibility criteria.

Organisations will be informed whether NSW Department of Communities and Justice has accepted their registration, or not.

# 5. FUNDING DEED

All successful applicants (organisations) will be required to comply with the grant requirements outlined above, in addition to the standard terms of the Funding Deed.

The grant term will be from the date the Funding Deed is signed to 31 December 2021.

Any extension of the grant term will require approval from NSW Department of Communities and Justice as specified in the Funding Deed.

## REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision high-level weekly data reporting are a condition of funding.

Grant reporting will include:

- How many occasions of service were provided in the past 7 days by LGA

One month after the end of the grant term, by 31 January 2022, successful applicants will be required to acquit the grant via SmartyGrants.

Organisations will be required to specify the amounts expended on the following items:

- Staff costs (additional staff on boarded)

- Brokerage

- Additional expenditure relevant to the delivery of the program