2025-26 Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant Guidelines - Round 1

Grants of up to $20,000 (Tier 1) and $100,000 (Tier 2)

Opening: 11am 7 October 2025 - Closing: 1pm 14 November 2025

The Department of Human Services

At the Department of Human Services (DHS) our mission is to develop and implement modern, innovative, and relevant services across our entire community so all South Australians can be connected and included. Our programs and services aim to ensure South Australians are safe, empowered and connected in their communities.

The Department has three strategic priorities:

- increasing inclusion, independence, and shared decision-making for all
- supporting our communities when it matters most
- delivering modern services for our communities.

About the Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants

The Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant initiative is funded through the Home for the Incurables Trust.

The Julia Farr Centre, originally established in 1879 as the *Home for Incurables*, was founded by philanthropist Julia Farr in response to the lack of care for people with chronic illnesses or disabilities. With the support of Dr William Gosse, the institution began as a charitable, non-denominational home in Fullarton, providing shelter and care for those deemed "incurable". Over time, the facility expanded significantly, becoming one of the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Renamed the Julia Farr Centre in 1981, and then in 2006 named Highgate Park when the centre transitioned to the South Australian Government, the site continued to support people with disability until its closure in 2020. The legacy of Julia Farr's commitment to social welfare continues through this grant initiative, funded by the Home for the Incurables Trust (to be renamed), and administered by the Department of Human Services.

2025-2026 Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants

During the 2025-2026 Grant rounds, DHS is offering funding to eligible organisations for projects that foster **Inclusive Environments and Communities**. This initiative supports the vision of South Australia where all people with disability can participate as equal citizens and feel connected to their communities.

Available Funding

This funding opportunity offers a two-tiered approach to one-off grants, over two grant rounds within the 2025-2026 financial year:

- up to $20,000 for tier 1 delivered over 12 months
- up to $100,000 for tier 2 delivered over 24 months

Key Themes

Projects under this Grant round should align with one or more of the following themes:

- promoting active participation and inclusive communities
- promotion of inclusive behaviours and attitudes
- improving accessibility to natural and built environments
- enhancing accessibility of communication and information
- cultural and creative participation
- access to technology and digital inclusion.

The Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant funding aligns to the Department of Human Services:

- State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029; and
- SA Government's commitments under Closing the Gap - Priority Reform Two: To increase the amount of Government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Sector.

Priority Groups

Projects supporting priority groups who may face additional barriers to accessing services may be prioritised, such as:

- Aboriginal people with disability
- people from new and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities with disability
- children with disability
- women with disability
- LGBTQIA+ people with disability
- people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability; and
- people with disability who live in regional communities, including places where persistent and/or relative location-based disadvantage exists.

Funding Focus

This funding round is designed to support eligible organisations in delivering initiatives that improve the lives of South Australians living with disability. Funding will be prioritised for projects that:

- develop programs, activities, events or other support services that respond to community need, promote participation, accessibility and inclusion; and
- build, develop or strengthen partnerships or collaboration with other community organisations to deliver these initiatives.

Applications that demonstrate how they fill a service gap, particularly in regional and remote areas, will be viewed favourably.

In addition to meeting the above criteria, projects should align with key thematic areas that reflect the broader goals of the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. Funding will be focused on initiatives that support people and/or communities living with disability in the following areas:

Services and programs that enhance quality of life

These services aim to improve the daily living, independence, and wellbeing of people with disability, such as:

- mental health and wellbeing workshops tailored for neurodiverse individuals
- disability-friendly community gardens and recreational spaces
- accessible library services with sensory-friendly zones
- programs that integrate traditional healing with disability care.

Rehabilitation and Recreational Services

These services support recovery, physical and mental health, and social engagement through tailored rehabilitation and recreational activities, such as:

- traditional dance and movement programs adapted for accessibility
- inclusive recreation programs (e.g., wheelchair basketball, sensory playgroups)
- art and music therapy for people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Accessible and Inclusive Technologies

These initiatives promote digital inclusion and ensure people with disability can access and benefit from technology in everyday life, such as:

- smart city initiatives that include disability access features
- digital storytelling platforms for people with disability to share experiences
- digital literacy programs for people with cognitive or sensory impairments.

Community Support and Connection Services

These services reduce isolation and foster inclusion by helping people with disability build relationships and participate in community life, such as:

- social clubs and inclusive community events
- community transport services for people with mobility challenges
- intergenerational programs connecting Elders and Youth with disability.

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Capacity Building and Leadership Development

These programs empower people with disability through skill development, advocacy training, and leadership opportunities, such as:

- leadership and advocacy training for people with disability
- civic participation workshops for people with disability
- empowerment workshops for Aboriginal people with disability.

Please note: The descriptions above are designed to help applicants in understanding the types of projects that may align with round 1 of the objectives of the Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants. These examples are illustrative only and are intended to demonstrate the diversity of initiatives that could be considered. Inclusion in this list does not imply eligibility or guarantee funding. All applications will be assessed competitively against the published criteria and must demonstrate alignment with the grant guidelines.

Refer to the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 for more information on key themes.

This funding cannot be used for:

- core operating costs of applicant organisations i.e. rent, insurances, utilities, internet, phones and phone systems, video conferencing systems or core operational staff.
- purchase or lease of buildings and land
- lease of Information Technology equipment
- expenditure on items, services, or resources already paid for or purchased.
- areas of responsibility of other Federal or State Government Departments including sport and recreation, health, tourism, arts, education or other Government funded disability services
- religious, political, or animal welfare outcomes
- individual benefit, prizes, awards, gifts, trophies, sponsorships, donations, reimbursements, uniforms, food vouchers, pre-paid store cards, individual debt, or bill payments.

Opening and closing dates

This round is open from 11am, Tuesday 7 October 2025 and closes at 1pm on Friday 14 November 2025.

If you do not submit your application by the deadline, there is no guarantee your application will be accepted, however, if you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please contact us before the round closes for assistance. Assessment will occur after the closure of the round. Notification of the outcomes of all funding applications will take a minimum of 8 weeks after the closing date of the round.

To apply you must:

- read and understand these guidelines and the application requirements
- register and complete the online application form for funding via the SmartyGrants online portal, available via www.dhs.sa.gov.au/grantsSA
- be an authorised signatory (Chief Executive, President, Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary) or a recognised leader for the organisation that holds a formal governance role
- provide all information requested – detailed in the appendices
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria.

Before starting your application

Read the application requirements to ensure that you are eligible for this funding. The application requirements include key information explaining the application process, grant assessment processes, and contractual obligations.

Enquiries and feedback

If you have any questions about applying for a grant or wish to obtain support or feedback on an application, please contact:

Disability Policy and Reform team

Email: JuliaFarrDisabilityInclusionGrants@sa.gov.au

Phone: 1300 990 256

Requirements

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply, organisations **must be**:

- An organisation in South Australia, such as Voluntary, Non-Profit, Community Service or Faith-Based organisation that provides community support services to South Australians, and is:
  - incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, or the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, or have evidence of a comparable legal status, such as Australian Public Company limited by guarantee.

    or

  - Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

- An Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation that is governed by a board or committee and is:
    - incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, or the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006

        or

    - registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

        and

    - is connected to the community in which it intends to deliver the services.

- a Local Government entity in South Australia, that is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*

- eligible for *Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses* membership from Community Centres SA, or currently holding *Community Centres membership* and is:
    - incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, or the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, or have evidence of a comparable legal status, such as Australian Public Company limited by guarantee.

        or

    - owned or managed or *operating* under the auspice of a Local Government entity / created and operates as described under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA).*

Organisations **must also**:

- have an Australian bank account in the name of the legal entity
- have been operating for at least 12 months, and
- agree to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Ineligible Applicants

Applications will **not be accepted** from organisations or sponsored organisations that:

- previously have, or currently receive, disability related funding from Local, State or Federal Governments that relate to, or are part of, the proposed application
- have any outstanding contractual or financial obligations (including reports, acquittals, unpaid invoices) for any funded Department of Human Services projects/programs
- have licensed gaming machines in their facilities or hold a gaming machine license
- are educational institutions or related representative bodies. For example, schools and/or their parent or student associations, universities, colleges
- are family trusts
- are individuals, sole traders, or organisations applying on behalf of an individual

- are for-profit organisations or private companies unless a Social Traders certified Social Enterprise.

All applicants **must**:

- be currently operating within South Australia, and recipients of the program/service/initiative are residents of South Australia
- be currently registered with a valid and eligible Australian Business Number (ABN).

Applications

Applications must include project details aligned with the following assessment criteria. This information helps the assessment panel evaluate each submission fairly.

Note: The level of detail required under each Tier differs - Please refer to appendices 1 and 2 for details of specific application requirements.

1. Linkage to the Guidelines

Projects should align with the funding focus areas outlined in this guideline document. This includes demonstrating how the application supports one or more priority groups and how the project contributes to one or more of: enhancing quality of life, rehabilitation and recreation, accessible and inclusive technologies, community connection and/or capacity building and leadership.

2. Needs Assessment

Applications should describe the community or group that the project will support and include detail about the location, demographics and the specific challenges faced by people with disability in this context. Outline how the needs were identified eg. whether through consultation, data, or lived experience, and why change is needed. This section should help us understand the relevance of the proposed project.

3. Project Justification (Tier 2 only)

Projects should demonstrate why the proposed initiative is an appropriate and effective response to the identified needs. Applications should outline the expected outcomes for people with disability and explain how the project addresses existing barriers or service gaps. Where applicable, projects should describe how co-design or input from people with disability has shaped the approach, and how inclusivity will be embedded throughout delivery.

4. Impact or Benefit

Projects should identify the tangible and measurable outcomes that will be achieved for people with disability and the broader community. Applications should describe any partnerships with disability advocacy organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), local councils, or other stakeholders that will strengthen the impact. Plans for tracking and evaluating success may also be included.

5. Value for Money

Applications should provide a clear and detailed breakdown of how grant funding will be used. Budgets must reflect efficient use of resources to maximise impact, with costs supported by quotes. Contributions from the applicant or partners, whether financial or in-kind, should be included. Projects demonstrating co-contributions will be viewed favourably.

Funding Distribution

Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant funding is competitive and there may not be enough funds to support all applications. It is the intent of the program for equitable distribution of funding across both tiers to ensure smaller projects are given equal consideration to larger initiatives.

Application Budget

The submitted budget must demonstrate the items that the Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant funds will support if the application is successful. The budget must also include other sources of income for the project including other grants, government or organisational support or support in-kind.

The budget must be realistic and include quotes for items which are eligible as per these guidelines. This assists the Assessment Panel in understanding the size and scope of the project and how the funds will achieve positive and long-term benefits to South Australians with disability and the community as outlined in the application.

Assessment Panel and Criteria

The Assessment Panel comprises of DHS staff and representatives from the Disability Ministers Advisory Council.

The Assessment Panel assesses each application against the Assessment criteria in Appendices 1 and 2. The criteria includes questions to evaluate each application to establish the need and merit of the proposal against other applications and establish if the community and / or organisation has the leadership capability, skills, and resources to deliver the desired outcomes.

DHS may assist the Assessment Panel by contacting persons listed in your application for assessment purposes, such as referees, partners, supporters, or those nominated as persons of authority.

Assessors may also consider geographic distribution, demand-driven funding needs and areas of socio-economic disadvantage using the [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)](#), to support a diverse range of proposals and ensure equitable funding across South Australia.

The information included in your application is confidential, with staff and assessment panels bound by DHS policies and procedures.

Please ensure all attachments are included at the time of submission. Applications will be assessed on the documentation provided at the time of submission. Refer to appendix 1 for full application criteria.

Outcome Notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact Disability Policy and Reform for feedback on their application.

Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grant funding is very competitive and there may not be enough funds to support all applications submitted.

Successful applications

If your application is successful, you will receive an agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the funding provided. All applicants will be required to sign this agreement via DocuSign and comply with all conditions, which include requirements to:

- submit an online final report accounting for how the funding was spent (financial acquittal), including copies of all receipts for all purchases relating to the original application submitted
- measure and report on the outcomes from the funded project (project evaluation)
- have public liability insurance – a minimum of $1 million or as required in your agreement
- appropriately acknowledge the State Government of South Australia and the Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants as a funding source for the project.

Payment will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

Reporting Requirements

Upon completion of the project, you will be required to sign a declaration confirming that the allocated funds were spent in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement. As part of the acquittal process, you must also submit copies of all receipts for purchases made using funds from the Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants.

The acquittal report is completed online via the SmartyGrants portal. Once grant funds have been paid to the organisation, the registered user (person who submitted the application), will receive a link to the online portal.

A short summary about the difference the project made in achieving real outcomes for people with disability, communities, or your organisation, including a description of what you learned from implementing the project is also required as part of the acquittal process.

The following information is required for reporting purposes:

What did you do?

- How did funding address a need to South Australians with disability within your community?
- What impact (difference) did the project make to the people and the community?

What is the outcome your project achieved?

- How were South Australians with disability and / or the community better off from this project?

What did you learn and what would you do differently?

- Describe any learnings from the project or your organisation's experience during the project.

How was your experience with the grant application process?

- Summarise your experience and if you have any suggestions for improvement.

Communication

If spending of the grant is affected

You must inform DHS if anything is likely to affect the spending of the grant in accordance with the agreement.

If you want to vary the contract

You must also seek approval to vary the original contract from DHS. This includes any:

- changes to purchases (including change of supplier)
- timeframes
- business activities, particularly if they affect the ability to complete the activities stated in the grant.

If your contact or banking details change

You must also inform us, via email, of any changes to your:

- organisation name
- nominated contact details of key contacts
- addresses (including emails)
- bank account details.

DHS Acknowledgement

The State Government of South Australia may be appropriately acknowledged as a funding source for the project.

You must not make, or permit to be made, a public announcement or media release about any aspect of the grant agreement without first giving reasonable notice, in writing, together with a summary of the proposed public announcement or copy of the media release, to the Minister through DHS staff.

Links to Policy

Links to DHS objectives, principles and recommendations in South Australian Government strategies, policies, and funded programs can be found here:

- Department of Human Services Strategic Plan 2022–2024: https://dhs.sa.gov.au/about-us/strategic-plan
- Department of Human Services Social Impact Framework: https://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/community-services/social-impact-framework
- Closing the Gap: https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation/closing-the-gap
- State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029: https://inclusive.sa.gov.au/our-work/state-disability-inclusion-plan

Appendix 1 – Tier 1 Application criteria

Up to $20,000 - Supporting smaller scale initiatives over 12 months.

All applications are to be received via SmartyGrants and address the criteria below:

Application Requirements

Project Summary

- A brief description of the initiative, including objectives, timeline and target beneficiaries.

Assessment criteria - *Refer to the Assessment Criteria below in your application. Tier 1 applications are assessed against these four areas:*

Linkage to published guidelines (30%)

- Indicate the funding focus area(s) and priority group(s) the project supports.

Needs Assessment (30%)

- What is the need being addressed and how was it identified?

Impact or benefit (30%)

- What are the anticipated benefits for people with disability?

Value for money (10%)

- How does the budget reflect efficient use of resources to maximise impact for people with disability?

Provide other details / attachments to support your application:

Required:

- budget with quotes.

Optional:

- letters of support, evidence of community consultation, data to support application.

Appendix 2 – Tier 2 Application criteria

Up to $100,000 – Supporting larger, more complex initiatives over 24 months.

All applications are to be received via SmartyGrants and must provide detailed documentation to support the criteria below:

Application Requirements

Project Plan

- include objectives, timeline, milestones, and delivery strategy.

Assessment criteria - *Refer to the Assessment Criteria below in your application. Tier 2 applications are assessed against these five areas:*

Linkage to published guidelines (20%)

- how well does the application link to the funding focus?
- Does the application support the program's priority groups?

Needs Assessment (20%)

- What is the location and demographic of the community being supported?
- What specific needs or challenges are faced by people with disability in this context?
- How was the need identified and validated (e.g. Consultation, data, lived experience)?
- What change or improvement is needed and why?

Project Justification (20%)

- What will be achieved for people with disability through this project?
- How will the project address identified barriers or gaps in service delivery?
- In what ways has the project been co-designed or meaningfully informed by people with disability?

Impact or benefit (20%)

- What measurable outcomes will be delivered for people with disability and the broader community?
- Are there partnerships with disability organisations, ACCOs, Councils, or other stakeholders that will strengthen the impact?
- Will the funding help expand inclusive services or programs?
- How will success be tracked or evaluated?

Value for money (20%)

- Does the budget reflect efficient use of resources to maximise impact for people with disability?
- Applications must contain reasonable and realistic costs as outlined in attached quotes.

Provide other details to support your application:

Required:

- Budget with quotes: Provide a detailed budget with quotes for all items. Include any co-contributions.

Optional:

- Organisational capacity: demonstrate ability to deliver the project (e.g., experience, staff capability).
- Partnerships: detail any collaborations with other organisations.
- Co-design evidence: describe how people with disability were involved in shaping the project.

Provide attachments to support your application (optional):

- evaluation framework
- risk assessment
- letters of support
- data to support application.