



2025-26 Social Impact Round Two Funding Guidelines

Tier 1 Grants up to \$10,000 Tier 2 Grants up to \$30,000

Open date: 30 April 2026

Close date: 3pm 11 June 2026



The Department of Human Services

At the Department of Human Services, we partner with people, communities and organisations to empower and build the capability and capacity of South Australians, challenging systems to address disadvantage and exclusion.

Our vision is to support a future of equity, wellbeing and quality of life for all South Australians. This vision speaks to our belief that lasting change comes from the ground up, and that centering community and committing to tangible progress, we can help create a more equitable, inclusive, and thriving South Australia for generations to come.

This Social Impact Round aligns with DHS Strategic Plan Priority Outcomes¹:

- Building Capability and supporting communities
 - Priority Outcome 2, Equity and opportunity for all
 - Priority Outcome 3, Empowered and resilient communities
- Leading, advocating and partnering for impact
 - Priority Outcome 1, Substantial progress on Closing the Gap
 - Priority Outcome 2, Building the Aboriginal community-controlled sector

¹ https://dhs.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/187328/Department-of-Human-Services-Strategic-Plan-2025-2026.pdf

Priority focus groups

Funding is prioritised for applications that support people and/or communities experiencing historical and structural disadvantages and who may face additional barriers to wellbeing including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- People from new and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
- People with disability and/neurodivergence who are not supported through NDIS.
- LGBTIQ+ community.
- Young People
- Women experiencing vulnerability
- Carers
- financially disadvantaged (for example unemployed, in receipt of government support payments, health care card).
- places where persistent and/or relative location-based disadvantage exists (including rural/remote). Areas of disadvantage as identified by the Socio- Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA Index²).

2025-26 Social Impact Round Two - Key dates

This round is open between **30 April 2026 and 3pm 11 June 2026**

Notification of outcome will be after **1 October 2026**

Grant agreement period will start **1 November 2026** and end as follows:

Tier 1 projects – **31 October 2027**

Tier 2 projects – **30 April 2028**

Enquiries and feedback

If you have any questions about applying for this grant or you wish to discuss a potential project for an application, please contact:

DHS Grants Team

Phone: 1300 650 985

Email: DHSGrants@sa.gov.au

Website: <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants>

²[IRSD | Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia 2021](#)

Eligibility Requirements

Who can Apply?

To align with the *Charitable and Social Welfare Fund*, this round can only award funds to the following eligible organisation types:

- Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCO), or
- Not-for-profit organisations³, or
- Social Enterprises certified by Social Traders⁴

ACCOs and Not for Profit organisations must be incorporated under the South Australian Associations Incorporation Act, the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, or have evidence of a comparable legal status, such as an Australian Public Company limited by guarantee.

Unless you are Social Enterprise, you **may not apply** if you are an individual, sole trader, a for-profit organisation, a private company, or a trust (except fixed trusts operating for charitable purposes).

Organisations must:

- Be registered with a valid and eligible Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Have an Australian bank account in the name of the legal entity.
- Have been operating or established as a legal entity for more than 12 months.
- Be currently operating within South Australia and delivering programs, services, or initiatives to residents of South Australia.
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Organisations must not:

- Have any outstanding contractual or financial obligations (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.
- Be educational institutions or related representative bodies (e.g., schools and/or their parent or student associations, universities, colleges).
- Be Government agencies (Commonwealth or State Departments and Local Government Agencies). Local Government Agencies can only function as sponsors for community organisations.

³ SA.gov.au www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/community-organisations/types/not-for-profit-organisations.

⁴ Social Traders certification - <https://www.socialtraders.com.au>

Organisations can submit more than one application in Social Impact Round Two but will only be successful for one application in this round.

Sponsoring an organisation to apply (Auspicing)

Not for profit, community organisations that are not incorporated and/or do not have an ABN can be sponsored by an eligible organisation or a local Council.

A sponsorship agreement [form](#) is to be completed and signed by both organisations to confirm their sponsoring relationship and is to be uploaded in the application form.

The sponsoring organisation is responsible for:

- submitting the grant application online.
- entering into the grant agreement and accepts legal and financial responsibility for the grant.
- all aspects of the management of the grant including the grant acquittal

Funding Opportunities for this Grant Round

The Social Impact Round has been designed to offer funding to eligible organisations for short-term projects, resources, materials and programs that encourage, and support community led initiatives. Proposals must align with one or more outcomes for people living and working in South Australia, that:

- grow community capacity.
- build social capital⁵ (the connections, trust and cooperation between people); and
- enhance equity and wellbeing.

Tier 1: Equipment and Resources

Grants up to **\$10,000** are available to support:

Purchase equipment and resources to:

- **support your community to engage, participate, connect, and volunteer.**
Examples: resources to host a community event or new activity, external training to upskill volunteers.
- **enhance indoor and outdoor community spaces.**
Examples: catering equipment, furniture, shelving, storage, hard or soft furnishings, garden equipment, raised garden beds, BBQ's
- **build digital connectivity, access, and capability.**
Examples: IT equipment, digital skills training.

Tier 2: Infrastructure and Short-term Community Development Programs

Grants of up to **\$30,000** are available to support:

- **upgrades to infrastructure to increase and promote culturally safe, welcoming and accessible community spaces.**
Example: community food garden, creation or modification of an outdoor or indoor meeting spaces, a community sensory room and accessibility upgrades to engage DHS priority groups.
- **delivery of community driven projects or short-term programs to grow community capacity and enhance equity and wellbeing.**
Example: employing a project officer or another provider to coordinate or deliver a new short-term program, workshops, mentoring; equipment required for the program.

Lower priority will be given to applications for projects that are aligned with the areas of responsibility of other Federal, State or Local Government Departments: e.g. Sport and Recreation, Health, Tourism, Arts, Multicultural events and Education.

⁵ [Resilient-Ready-Sociabli-Social-Capital-Descriptor.pdf](#)

Ineligible Items and Projects

The following items are ineligible. If these items are included in the application budget, they will be removed from the funding request:

- Core business costs i.e. operational staff wages, rent, insurances, utilities, internet, websites, phones, phone systems and video conferencing, purchase or lease of buildings, land, vehicles, or lease of IT equipment. Payment of volunteers, Boards or committee members (including honorariums).
- Marketing and administration costs above 10% of the total project value.
- Retrospective funding for items, services, or resources already paid for or purchased.
- Items bought for and distributed to individuals including prizes, awards, gifts, trophies, sponsorships, donations, reimbursements, uniforms, and costumes.
- Emergency and food relief (e.g., food hampers, food vouchers, pre-paid store cards, individual debt, or bill payments).
- First aid or emergency equipment, including defibrillators and first aid kits.
- Grants writer, auspice, audit fees, research projects, feasibility studies, Council and/or building approvals.
- Purely sport and/or recreational activities. Applications from sporting clubs must demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the broader local community and [Priority focus groups](#). (refer page 3).
- Projects that focus on Religious, political, or animal welfare outcomes
- Projects previously funded by Department of Human Services are not eligible for top-up funding for project shortfalls.

Applying for this Grant round

Applications are submitted using the online application form within the SmartyGrants portal. This link is available via <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants/available-grants>

The application must be endorsed by two authorised signatories for the organisation (that is, Chief Executive, President, Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary).

When completing your application, it is recommended you consider:

- The [assessment criteria](#) that are used to evaluate the need and merit of your proposal against other applications (refer Table 1, page 11).
- Allowing enough time to complete and upload required documents, including obtaining quotes for goods and services.
- That your Budget clearly identifies the items this round will support if the application is successful. The budget request for the project must be realistic and quotes must be uploaded.
- Including other sources of income for the project in your budget: other grants, government or organisational contribution or in-kind support.
- Providing letters of support or confirmation from any partner organisations of their commitment to the project.
- Uploading photos, particularly to support projects for infrastructure upgrades.

Required Documentation

Tier 2 Infrastructure Projects must provide:

- Evidence of freehold ownership, OR
- If the building/land is owned by another entity, evidence of minimum three-year leasehold arrangements and written consent by the land/building owner for the works.
- Where relevant, copies of site plans or photos can be uploaded with the application to assist the Panel assessing applications.

Tier 2 Community Development Projects requesting funding for wages must upload:

- A completed Role Description [form](#) outlining the role and responsibilities of the project officer / employee engaged for the project, consistent with the activities scheduled in your project plan. Please note that if you are expanding an existing employee's role, the difference between their current role and the proposed project role must be clearly identified.

Applications must be submitted before 3pm on 11 June 2026.

We encourage you to complete and submit your application at least **one hour before the round closes** to avoid any unforeseen system issues that may impact your submission.

If you foresee difficulty meeting the deadline due to documents not being received in time or are experiencing technical issues, please contact us before the round closes for assistance. If you do not submit your application by the deadline, your application will not be accepted.

Assessment Panel and Criteria

The Assessment Panel consists of external community members with relevant specialist expertise. The information included in your application is confidential, with staff and assessment panels bound by DHS policies and procedures.

The Assessment Panel assesses each application against the **Assessment Criteria in Table 1**. These criteria, and other documents submitted within the application, assist the Panel in their assessment and ranking of all applications submitted.

The matrix questions guide evaluation of each application. Along with the required application attachments the panel will rank each proposal according to their merit.

We may need to contact people listed in your application for assessment purposes, such as referees, partners, supporters, or those nominated as persons of authority.

Assessors may also take into consideration the geographic or demand-driven funding distribution to ensure a range of proposals are supported and a fair distribution of funding throughout South Australia.

Social Impact funding is highly competitive and there will not be enough funds to support all applications submitted.

Table 1 Assessment Criteria Matrix

Linkage to the published Guidelines 30%	<p>How well does the application align with the Social Impact Round outcomes - Growing community capacity, Build social capital and Enhance equity and wellbeing.</p> <p>How well does the application outline support for one or more of the priority groups?</p>
Community Need 30%	<p>What community need is being addressed?</p> <p>How did the community identify the need for this project?</p> <p>How will this project address the community need?</p>
Direct Community Impact 30%	<p>The extent of the impact or benefit of the project for the identified beneficiaries and DHS priority groups.</p> <p>Tier 2 Projects –must provide a project plan including timeframes, resources, capacity of personnel or contractors involved and a schedule of activities.</p>
Value for Money 10%	<p>The value for money given the number of people who will benefit and the potential cost of delivery in the identified region.</p> <p>Applications must include reasonable and realistic costs as outlined in attached quotes.</p>

Outcome Notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email **after 1 October 2026**. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact the DHS Grants team for feedback on their application.

Successful applications

Successful grant recipients will have their organisation name, Project title and funding allocation published on the [DHS website](#).

You will receive an agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the funding provided. All applicants must sign this agreement and adhere to all conditions, which include requirements to:

- submit an online final report accounting for how the funding was spent (financial acquittal).
- measure and report on the outcomes from the funded project (project evaluation)
- have public liability insurance – a minimum of \$1 million or as required by your agreement.

- appropriately acknowledge the State Government of South Australia as a funding source for the project

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

Reporting Requirements

Tier 2 grant recipients must complete a six-month Progress report via the Smarty Grants portal.

On project completion, all grant recipients must submit an acquittal report via the DHS SmartyGrants portal including a signed declaration confirming the allocated funds were spent in accordance with terms of the agreement. Copies of receipts for all purchases funded through this grant must be included in the budget acquittal.

You are required to complete a short report covering:

What did you do?	Please describe the activities undertaken by this funded project.
What is the outcome your project achieved?	What was the outcome achieved by your funded project? How did this make a difference to the priority focus groups identified in the application?
	How many people directly benefited from this project? Photos, articles or other documentation can be included to describe the project's outcomes.
What did you learn and what would you do differently?	Describe any learnings from the project or your organisation's experience during the project.

When you should communicate with the DHS Grants Team:

If spending of the grant is affected

You must inform DHS Grants Team if anything is likely to affect the completion of the grant agreement (contract).

If you want to vary the contract

You must seek approval to vary the grant agreement(contract) from DHS Grants Team. This includes any:

- Changes to purchases (including change of supplier).
- Timeframes.
- Proposed 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, through the Department of Human Services must 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 Grants Team.

Links to Policy

This round links to the aims, principles and recommendations in South Australian Government strategies and policies:

- 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>
- Department of Human Services – Outcomes Framework:
https://dhs.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/178541/DHS-outcomes-framework.pdf

Other Grants to consider:

- Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants
<https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants/available-grants/julia-farr-disability-inclusion-grant-2025>
- Department of Primary Industries and Regions
<https://pir.sa.gov.au/regions-and-support/programs-and-initiatives/thriving-regions-fund>

- Multicultural SA
<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/grants>
- Create SA
<https://www.create.sa.gov.au/funding-and-grants>
- Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing
<https://www.orsr.sa.gov.au/grants>
- Green Adelaide
<https://www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/grants/grassroots-grants>
- Office for Small and Family Business
<https://business.sa.gov.au/programs/grant-programs>
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
<https://frrr.org.au/funding/>