

Small Grants for regional NSW 2022

# NSW Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative



Guidelines



# Overview

<b>Name</b>	Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative Program – Small Grants for Regional NSW
<b>Type of assistance and who will receive support</b>	Program funding to a range of organisations to deliver small projects that support wellbeing initiatives and social inclusion for children and young people in regional NSW.
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The objective of the program is to support the wellbeing of children and young people living in regional NSW and promote social inclusion and community connections. This program is funded by the NSW Government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.</p> <p><b>Funding recipients can be government or non-government organisations such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local councils</li> <li>community groups</li> <li>not-for-profit organisations</li> <li>Local Aboriginal Land Council</li> <li>schools</li> <li>neighbourhood centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eligible programs must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be delivered in a regional Local Government Areas (LGAs) with a significant need for wellbeing and social inclusion activities that support recovery and resilience of children and young people</li> <li>focus on children and/or young people aged 0-24 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Programs that may be eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community events and social activities</li> <li>sport and recreational programs</li> <li>youth mental health training</li> <li>cultural and community connection programs</li> <li>healing initiatives to support Aboriginal children, vulnerable children and young people affected by adverse events</li> <li>peer support programs, mentoring and training for children and young people</li> <li>digital communications and resources.</li> </ul>

Up to \$10,000 will be available to groups through this program. Groups will apply online with proposals assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- delivers new or enhanced existing programs, activities or services
- coordinates and works together with existing services, does not duplicate existing programs
- promotes community cohesion and wellbeing to improve recovery from adverse events and builds resilience of children and young people
- supported by the community and meets community need
- proposal can be delivered by the 30 June 2023
- inclusive and accessible for children and young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Funding is available for eligible recipients within regional NSW. This includes all Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW with the exception of the metropolitan areas of Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Programs may cover more than one LGA.

A minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$10,000 will be available for each proposal. A maximum of \$50,000 will be allocated to each LGA to ensure funding is dispersed across regional communities.

<b>Eligible locations</b>	LGAs within regional NSW. This includes all of NSW with the exception of the metropolitan areas of Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.
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<b>Administering agency</b>	Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.
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## Purpose

In the last 24 months, communities in regional NSW have endured multiple adverse events, including natural disasters and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resilience of young people has been tested. The compounding impacts of these events have increased mental health issues among children and young people and increased the need for additional support. Research shows that adverse events significantly affect young people. Since 2019, there has been a marked increase in access to mental health support among children and young people. The experiences of children and young people are unique and different to adults and they require additional and targeted recovery support.

The Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative will fund projects in Regional NSW communities to:

- improve access to programs and services to improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- provide programs and resources to improve recovery and resilience of children and young people to respond to the impacts of adverse events
- strengthen community networks and connection to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- build community capacity and capability to support children and young people to recover post adverse events.

The program will be delivered by the Office of Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.

Regional communities often have great ideas to support people within their communities but have limited opportunities to apply for funding to implement these ideas. This small grant program will address this issue. Community groups may also use funding within this small grant program to trial a project before developing a larger proposal for future funding.

# Eligibility criteria

## Who is eligible for funding?

Government and non-government organisations in Local Government Areas within regional NSW, including:

- local councils
- community groups
- not-for-profit organisation
- schools
- Local Aboriginal Land Council
- neighbourhood centres.

### To be eligible, program funding recipients must:

- ✓ hold an Australian Business Number (ABN), Australian Company Number (ACN) or be registered with NSW Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009
- ✓ have or be able and willing to purchase at least \$20 million in public liability insurance.

### To be eligible programs for funding must:

- ✓ be delivered in LGAs within Regional NSW with a demonstrated community need and significant wellbeing and mental health issues of children and young people arising from adverse events
- ✓ focus on children and young people aged 0-24 years.

### Eligible activities and programs for funding include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ community events and social activities to support children, young people and community recovery
- ✓ sport and recreational programs to improve wellbeing, strengthen community engagement and connectedness
- ✓ youth mental health training
- ✓ cultural and community connection programs
- ✓ healing initiatives to support Aboriginal children and young people
- ✓ peer support programs, mentoring and training for children and young people
- ✓ digital communications and resources.

### The following activities and costs are not eligible for funding under the program:

- ✗ costs associated with existing ongoing staff
- ✗ purchase of plant, equipment, laptops, mobile phones and other capital items. In exceptional cases, equipment essential to project delivery as part of larger projects may be approved by the administering agency
- ✗ requests for ongoing program funding
- ✗ projects and/or activities that are not related to wellbeing of young people and communities in regional areas impacted by adverse events
- ✗ requests to recover costs for existing debts and/or budget deficits.





## Funding

\$1.5 million is available within this Program for eligible LGAs. \$750,000 will be allocated in 2021-22 and \$750,000 in 2022-23. A minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$10,000 will be available to each eligible proposal. A maximum of \$50,000 will be allocated to each LGA to ensure funding is dispersed across regional communities. There may be some LGA's that do not receive funding through this program.

Co-contributions and cooperative program delivery are strongly encouraged. This may include in-kind support and/or funding from other sources. Evidence of co-contribution is required as part of the proposal for funding where relevant.

Groups interested in applying for funding will submit an application online. These applications will be assessed against funding criteria developed by the Department of Regional NSW and the assessment process will be overseen by an independent Probity Advisor, as outlined in the assessment methodology. An outcome of the assessment will be provided to the applicants within 20 working days of receiving the application.



## Key dates

This program has been funded under Regional Recovery Strategy, with funding up to 30 June 2023. The programs and activities funded under this program must be completed before this date.

### Key dates:

- program commencement: 24 January 2022
- proposals considered as they are submitted from 24 January 2022 to 30 March 2023 (or until funds expended)
- a list of approved proposals provided to the Ministers office each month for information
- proposals announced and commenced: ongoing
- all funding allocated by: 30 June 2023.

## Funding proposal process

Groups interested in applying for funding will be provided with information about the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative and the three programs available to fund proposals.

If groups are interested in the small grant program for proposals under \$10,000 in value, groups can complete an application form online. These applications will be assessed following the assessment methodology and criteria listed in these guidelines. If groups are unable to complete the application form online, they will be able to contact an Office for Regional Youth staff member who can assist them.

If groups decide that their project requires more than \$10,000 in funding they can complete a Request for Support to access the larger grants also available through the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative.

Groups will be notified of the outcome of the assessment in writing. If a proposal is unsuccessful, feedback will be provided to the group. Groups will then have the opportunity to re-submit their proposal.

# Assessment and approval process

A funding deed and milestones will be created, within program requirements. If successful, you will be advised of this information.

## Proposals will be assessed against the eligibility requirements and the following assessment criteria:

- delivers new or enhanced existing programs, activities or services
- coordinates and works together with existing services, does not duplicate existing services
- promotes community cohesion to improve community recovery from adverse events and resilience of children and young people
- supported by the community and meets community need
- focuses on vulnerable children and young people
- proposals can be delivered by the 30 June 2023
- inclusive and accessible for children and young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Proposals will be assessed by the Department of Regional NSW to determine if they meet all the funding criteria. Once the assessment has been completed, the list of recommended projects will be provided to the Deputy Director, Office for Regional Youth for review and final approval.



## Reporting

The Office for Regional Youth will prepare monthly reports, including activity delivery, dates and expenditure. Program progress reports will be used to identify appropriate program milestones and opportunities for proposal announcements. Monthly reports will be used by the Office for Regional Youth to monitor the program and funding allocated as part of the larger Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery initiative.

Monthly reports will contribute to quarterly reports that need to be prepared by the Department of Regional NSW on all programs funded through the Regional Recovery Strategy.

**Groups receiving funding will be required to complete a project report on completion. A reporting template will be provided to groups, but the report will need to provide the following information:**

- location of proposal including LGA
- participant numbers including the number and age range of participants
- participant feedback
- brief description of the proposal and the outcome
- photos of the proposal.

Projects will be monitored for compliance and progress throughout the project delivery period in accordance with Department of Regional NSW requirements.



## Assurance and acquittal

Assurance and acquittal will be in accordance with existing requirements established under the funding agreement.

The details of the funding agreement and payment schedule will be negotiated with the applicant. The preference is for funds to be reimbursed on submission of a tax invoice or receipt. However, upfront payment for small community groups that require funding to implement a project will be considered on a case by case basis. In this case the proponent will need to provide full details of expenditure and documentation for acquittal.



## Public acknowledgement

Successful funding recipients must seek approval from the Department of Regional NSW to issue program announcements, promotional material or other publicity materials relating to funding measures. NSW Government support must be acknowledged in all promotional material as per the NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines available at [nsw.gov.au/branding/funding-acknowledgement-guidelines](https://nsw.gov.au/branding/funding-acknowledgement-guidelines)



NSW Children and Young People  
Wellbeing Recovery Initiative

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the program will be undertaken by the Department of Regional NSW. Monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis and evaluation will be undertaken and reported after 12 months and at the end of the program.

### Evaluation measures may include:

- improved access to programs and services to improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people following adverse events
- improved mental health and wellbeing of children and young people arising from adverse events
- increased number of programs and resources to improve recovery and resilience of children and young people to respond to the impacts of adverse events
- improved community networks and connection to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- increased community capacity and capability to support children and young people to recover post adverse events.



# Contact

For more information, please contact  
[youthcommunity@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:youthcommunity@regional.nsw.gov.au)

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