Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

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WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2026-27

Guidelines

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Guidelines

All applications for the WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2026-27 must be submitted through SmartyGrants by the advertised closing date and time below to be eligible for assessment.

Applications received after the closing time/date will not be accepted. Applicants will be advised the outcome of their application by mid-April 2027.

Submitting an Application

Closing Time: 3:00pm

Closing Date: 10 November 2026

Late applications will not be accepted, as the SmartyGrants portal will automatically close at the advertised closing time. We strongly recommend submitting your application well before the deadline to avoid any last-minute issues.

Applications **must** be submitted on **SmartyGrants**.

Once your application has been submitted through SmartyGrants, you will receive an automated email confirmation acknowledging receipt. This email will include a copy of your submitted application and a reference number for future correspondence. If you do not receive this confirmation email within a short time after submission, please check your junk or spam folder. If no confirmation is received, please contact Department of Communities as it is likely your application has not been fully submitted.

About the Program

The WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2026-27 provides grants for local government authorities, community service organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to implement projects in Western Australia that engage young people (aged 10-25 years) in creative ways and help to achieve positive outcomes for young people in the community.

A youth-friendly community is one where young people are treated with respect and where they feel safe, welcome, and included. It is a community that encourages and recognises the participation and contributions of young people, supports youth development, and provides youth-friendly services, facilities, and programs. Young people, community groups and government agencies need to work in partnership to support young people's participation in decision making, planning and services to meet their diverse needs.

Communities has ten key principles guiding the development of youth-friendly communities:

1. Local government
2. Partnership in the community
3. Relationships with young people
4. Consider young people's views in community strategic planning
5. Ownership and leadership by young people
6. Diversity of young people
7. Consult young people about a wide range of issues
8. Flexible approach to consulting young people
9. Fun and innovative
10. Evaluation and feedback

Further information about the ten key principles is available at https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/youth-friendly-communities.

Applications submitted for the WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2027 must follow the ten principles of developing youth-friendly communities.

Program Objectives

Criteria

To be eligible for funding, proposed projects and initiatives must align with the following Priority Areas of the WA Youth Action Plan 2024-2027 Koorlangka Bidi:

- **Amplifying Young Voices**

  Ensure young people have a voice that is heard, shaping their world, while feeling valued, recognised and celebrated for their invaluable contributions.

- **Embracing Diversity**

  Support the engagement of diverse groups of young people, including but not limited to: culturally and linguistically diverse young people; young carers; young people living with disability; neurodivergent young people; young people in regional, rural or remote Western Australia; Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander young people; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual and other diverse sex, sexuality, and gender (LGBTIQA+) young people.

To be eligible applications must contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

1. **Establish and implement a Youth Advisory Council**

   For example, projects may propose to:

   - Undertake a consultation process that engages a diverse group of young people on their views and ideas to inform the development of a Youth Advisory Council.
   - Support the engagement of new Youth Advisory Council members, particularly where this will ensure membership reflects the diversity of the local community.
   - Deliver community events and activities to support the promotion of a Youth Advisory Council and increase young people's interest in applying for membership.
   - Support Youth Advisory Council led projects and initiatives, such as community events, community engagement projects and activities for local young people.
   - Provide opportunities for Youth Advisory Council members to share their voice in the community as well as represent and promote a Youth advisory Council.

2. **Develop and/or implement a local youth strategy and/or action plan**

   For example, projects may propose to:

   - Undertake a consultation process that engages a diverse group of young people on their views and ideas to inform the development of a youth strategy and/or action plan.
   - Engage young people in the co-design of a youth strategy and/or action plan.
   - Establish a steering committee of young people from diverse backgrounds to guide the development and/or implementation of a youth strategy and/or action plan.
   - Deliver actions identified within existing local youth strategies and/or action plans.

Whilst not a requirement, Communities welcomes grant applications that consider the long-term capacity of organisations to engage meaningfully with young people and develop pathways for young people's voices to be included, amplified, and elevated beyond the term of the grant agreement.

Any applicant proposing a partnership or sub-contracting arrangement for delivery or evaluation of their project, must detail this arrangement in full in their application under the section for project description.

Grant Funding Available

The WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2026-27 has a total funding pool of $220,000 (exc. GST).

Grants of up to $5,000 (ex GST) are available for short-term, one-off activities or initiatives (up to 6 months).

For example: a project that involves young people in the planning and delivery of a specific community activity that relates to establishing a Youth Action Plan or Youth Advisory Council.

Grants of up to $10,000 (ex GST) are available for longer term (6-12 months), community-wide, strategic initiatives.

For example: developing community-wide, multi-organisation youth service plans, a youth engagement conference or planning for youth-friendly communities.

Organisations are only allowed to submit one application to the Grants Program per year. If your organisation is an auspice on behalf of an unincorporated organisation, you are still able to also submit an application for your own organisation and be an auspice for multiple unincorporated organisations.

Funding may be used for:

- transport;
- equipment and venue hire;
- food and non-alcoholic beverages;
- minor administration costs such as postage, phone, stationery, etc.;
- purchase of minor equipment;
- publication costs of resources and material created through the project;
- consumable items;
- publicity, communications, and marketing costs;
- consultants and facilitators; and
- wages directly related to the project.

What is not covered by the grant:

- infrastructure and capital equipment;
- operational staff wages;
- prizes and gifts, including cash;
- interstate and overseas travel;
- ongoing operating costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to project;
- retrospective costs (any money spent before a grant is approved);

- projects involving fundraising, unless the funds raised are expended on the project;
- projects that duplicate an existing or similar project or service within the community;
- projects that are traditionally funded through other sources (e.g., school activities or sporting/cultural events); and
- projects that could be delivered through an existing service agreement or grant agreement the organisation has with Communities.

Assessment criteria

All proposed projects will need to demonstrate value for money. Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The project will benefit young people aged between 10 and 25 years of age.
- The project addresses one or more of the Program Objectives (see above).
- Young people are actively involved in the design, development, and implementation of the project. Further guidance to involve young people is available in Communities' Youth Participation Kit, online at: https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/youth-participation-kit.
- The project demonstrates community need through evidenced consultations and/or research.
- Evidence of sound planning and ability to manage the project, including clearly defined aims, project outcomes and evaluation measures to determine the effectiveness, feasibility, and sustainability of the initiative.
- The project is likely to provide ongoing benefits for young people following completion of the project.

After meeting the above criteria, to ensure funding is allocated evenly across Western Australia, allocation of grants may be prioritised based on geographic location.

Priority may be given to projects that address underserved communities or diversities or are delivered in regional and remote areas and to events and organisations that have not previously been funded through the Grants Program.

Who can apply:

Eligible groups and organisations must be operating fully within Western Australia, and be:

- incorporated not-for-profit community organisations (including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations); or
- local government authorities; or
- an unincorporated organisation or community group, applying through the auspice of an incorporated body or a local government authority. The auspice organisation will assume administrative responsibility and accept and adhere to all terms and conditions of the grant, maintain financial records and provide reporting information for successful applications. Grant funds will be paid to the auspice organisation, please refer to page 9 for further information on how to proceed using an auspice organisation.

Who cannot apply:

Entities not eligible to apply for funding through this program include:

- Commonwealth or State Government agencies

- Individuals or sole traders
- commercial, for-profit organisations
- organisations that do not have an established service delivery presence within Western Australia;
- unincorporated, community sector organisations (unless applying through an auspice who is an incorporated body or a local government authority); and
- organisations located in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Organisations that have outstanding acquittal or evaluation requirements from previous Communities' grant or program funding are ineligible to apply until the required documentation has been submitted. Please contact Communities if there are any queries about an organisation's acquittal status.

How to apply

1. Carefully read the Guidelines.
2. Complete online Application Form on SmartyGrants.
3. Upload any supporting documents, if required.
4. Ensure the application is reviewed and approved by the authorised delegate of the organisation.
5. Submit the application on SmartyGrants.

Late applications will not be accepted, as the SmartyGrants portal will automatically close at the advertised closing time. We strongly recommend submitting your application well before the deadline to avoid any last-minute issues.

Once your application has been submitted through SmartyGrants, you will receive an automated email confirmation acknowledging receipt. This email will include a copy of your submitted application and a reference number for future correspondence.

If you do not receive this confirmation email within a short time after submission please check your junk or spam folder.

If you still have not received confirmation, please contact Communities via email at grants@communities.wa.gov.au to confirm that your application has been successfully received.

Instructions for Unincorporated Groups Applying with an Auspicing Organisation

If your group is unincorporated, you must apply to the Grants Program auspiced by an eligible incorporated not for profit organisation or local government authority. You will be required to upload a signed and dated document provided by the auspice confirming the arrangement into the Application Form on SmartyGrants. This may include a letter, agreement, or declaration signed by both parties, that clearly confirms approval for the auspice arrangement signed by their organisations Delegated Authority.

Please ensure you complete this document with sufficient time to allow your application to be submitted before the Grant Program closing date and time.

Assessment and notification

Applicants will be advised the outcome of their application by mid-April 2027.

All applications will be reviewed against the assessment criteria outlined above. All organisations that apply for funding will receive written notification regarding the outcome of their submission.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to report on the activities undertaken, participants and partners, lessons learned, evaluation of effectiveness, outcomes achieved, and a certified statement of income and expenditure for the funded project. Once the project is completed, the acquittal report must be submitted to meet the requirements, which will be specified once the grant is approved.

Any unspent grant funds, or grant funds not expended in accordance with the grant program, must be returned to Communities.

Grant Program Assistance

For assistance completing the application form, please contact:

Dave Cunningham

Grants Team

Email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au

Mobile: 0432 833 899

Grant conditions

Grants provided through the WA Youth Engagement Grants Program are subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The grant is to be used solely for the specified purpose approved by the Department of Communities (Communities) during the funding period.
2. Written approval must be sought from Communities for any request to vary the approved purpose of the grant or seek an extension to the funding period.
3. Any part of the grant that is not used in accordance with Condition 1 must be repaid to Communities unless prior written approval is obtained.
4. Should the activities for which the grant was approved cease or should the grant agreement be terminated due to a breach of the any of these Conditions, then:
   (a) the balance of the grant, unspent in accordance with the approved purpose of the grant, must be repaid to Communities within ten business days; and
   (b) any property acquired with the grant must be transferred to another not-for-profit organisation with similar objectives and purposes to the recipient organisation, upon approval by Communities.
5. Providing a grant does not entitle a recipient organisation to be provided any further funding than that specified in the grant agreement.
6. Communities will not be held responsible for the success of the approved purpose for which the grant is provided or for any losses or additional costs incurred that are associated with the approved purpose.
7. Any documents or information relating to the grant, or the approved purpose must be provided to Communities within ten business days of the request.
8. All payment conditions and reporting requirements must be met, as specified by Communities.
9. The Auditor General for the State of Western Australia, or an authorised representative, must be granted access to, and be permitted to examine, records and information concerning this grant.
10. All Local, State and Commonwealth laws applicable to the approved purpose must be abided by and complied with at all times.
11. Any project that involves working with children must ensure that the recipient organisation and all employees and volunteers comply with the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*. Please refer to the Working with Children Check website for further information www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au.
12. Communities is not liable for any accident or negligence resulting in any claim or damage arising from activities undertaken as part of the grant.
13. Recipient organisations are required to be appropriately incorporated and be responsible for ownership of the appropriate insurance policies. This includes, but is not limited to, Public Liability, Volunteer Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Professional Indemnity.
14. An acknowledgement of funding assistance provided by Communities must be included in any advertising and on any material relating to the project by using the words 'Supported by the Department of Communities'.
15. Any individuals involved with the project must not be exposed to significant promotions for alcohol or unhealthy food and drinks during the term of the project.

16. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

(a) For the purposes of Condition 16:

i. "GST" means the goods and services tax applicable to any taxable supplies, as determined by the GST Act;

ii. "GST Act" means A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth)

and includes all associated legislation and regulations; and

iii. The terms "supply", "tax invoice", "taxable supply", and "value" have the same meanings as in the GST Act.

(b) If the supply of anything through this agreement is a taxable supply under the GST Act, the grant shall be inclusive of GST.

(c) If the parties agree that Communities will issue the recipient organisation with a recipient-created tax invoice (RCTI), then the parties hereby agree that:

i. Communities will issue a RCTI in respect of GST payable on the supply of the project and the recipient organisation will not issue a tax invoice in respect of that supply;

ii. The recipient organisation warrants that it is registered for the purposes of GST and Communities will notify the organisation in writing if it ceases to be registered for the purposes of GST, or if it ceases to satisfy the requirements of the GST Act during the term of the agreement; and

iii. Communities will indemnify and keep indemnified the recipient organisation for GST and any related penalty that may arise from an understatement of the GST payable on the supply of the project for which Communities issues an RCTI under the grant agreement.

17. If any of the terms or conditions are breached by the recipient organisation, Communities may terminate the grant agreement at any time and without giving prior notice.

Special Conditions

1. If the Project involves working with children, the Organisation must ensure that all employees and volunteers comply with the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004. Please refer to this website for further information, at: https://workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au or contact the Grantor by email, at screeningunit@communities.wa.gov.au
2. If the Project involves Services that comprise or involve "child-related work" as defined in section 6 of the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA)), the Service Provider agrees to:

   i. implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles/downloadnational-principles);

   ii. provide training to ensure that all Associates are aware of and comply with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations; and

   iii. provide evidence of compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations to the State Party as and when required.
3. Organisations will commit, under the Disability Services Act 1993 (WA) and in alignment with the Western Australian Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Framework, to ensuring equitable access and full inclusion of people with disability in the funded Project.