



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

DOCG202624231

Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2026-27 - Annual Grants Program

Guidelines



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1 About the Grants Program

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program 2026-27 provides funding support for the community to develop projects based in Western Australia, that advance gender equality to build a better, fairer and more equitable community.

The focus of the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program is to support projects that advance gender equality by aligning with any of the priority areas of Stronger Together:

WA's Plan for Gender Equality (Stronger Together):

- Health and Wellbeing
- Safety and Justice
- Women in Leadership
- Women's Economic Independence

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program is targeting applications from grassroots organisations that are committed to directly delivering programs and initiatives to women.

For the purpose of this Grants Program, **Grassroots Organisations** are considered to be not-for-profit organisations with strong community connections and a sound understanding of diverse local issues, cohorts, needs, relations and contentious issues. They work directly with local people or particular cohorts of women and may be volunteer led, employ paid staff, or both. They serve their communities' needs through direct services, advocacy, community development, or social support. While their work is often locally focused, it may also have wider regional or national impact. Examples of Grassroots Organisations include but are not limited to:

- A community-run women's resource centre.
- An Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)
- A regional women's leadership collective.
- A community organisation providing mentoring, education or wellbeing programs for women and girls.

2 Background Information

Women still face significant barriers to fully participate in many aspects of their lives and in our community. Western Australia faces the nation's biggest gender pay gap of 18.23 per cent, compared to 11.3 per cent nationally.¹ The gender pay gap is due to socio-cultural reasons including gender stereotypes that expect women to do a higher share of unpaid domestic work, and workplace gender bias that sees women often being overlooked for leadership roles, even if more highly qualified and experienced.

Persistent challenges including access to the workforce, economic insecurity, risk of sexual violence and disproportionate family care responsibilities continue to impact women and girls across Australia. At the same time emerging trends are shaping contemporary experiences of gender inequality, including higher cost-of-living pressures and a growth in harmful misogynistic attitudes and beliefs that reinforce outdated gender stereotypes promoted by online misogyny and the influence of the manosphere. **Applications that respond to these current and emerging issues are strongly encouraged.**

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program also recognises that gender inequality is not experienced in the same way by all women. Examples of diverse groups that may experience multiple intersecting challenges include Aboriginal women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women who are living with disability and/or mental health challenges, women living in rural, regional or remote locations, younger and older women, women who have experience of gendered violence and women who identify as LGBTIQ+. Additionally, women who are carers, parents or experiencing economic vulnerability may face different opportunities and outcomes shaped by these factors.

How this program is aligned with government strategies

In March 2020, the Minister for Women launched [Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality](#), which is a 10-year road map for government, businesses, communities and individuals to advance gender equality. Stronger Together's [Third Action Plan](#) was released in March 2026 and will guide actions to drive gender equality until 2029. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with Stronger Together and the Third Action Plan.

Gender equality

Your application to this grants program must demonstrate an aim to advance gender equality by aligning with any of the overall goals of Stronger Together's priority areas listed on page 3 of these Guidelines. Further information on the priority areas can be found on Page 5 of [Stronger Together](#).

¹ ABS. 6302.0 Average Weekly Earnings, Full time, Ordinary time, Seasonally adj, released 13 Aug2026.

Current and emerging issues

Additionally, Department of Communities (Communities) **strongly encourages** applications for projects that align with one or more of the following important issues:

- Raising awareness of online misogyny and responding to its harms
- Driving women's economic empowerment and improving financial stability
- Addressing sexual violence in contexts other than family and domestic violence

Before submitting an application for a project that addresses the priority issue of sexual violence, please access the [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy 2025-2035: Addressing Sexual Violence Together](#), to ensure your project is in alignment. The Strategy provides a coordinated framework for action across four interconnected domains:

1. Prevention
2. Early Intervention
3. Responses
4. Recovery and Healing

Excluded

- **Please note** that projects focusing on the issue family and domestic violence will **not** be funded through the Women's Grants Program. From the year 2017, \$817.5 million has been committed towards initiatives to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence.

3 Funding Available

The competitive Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program 2026-27 has a total funding pool of \$485,000 (exc. GST).

Funding Category 1 – Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2026-27 – Annual Grants

A total of \$85,000 (exc. GST) is available. Eligible grassroots organisations may apply for:

- **Grants of up to \$10,000 (exc. GST)** for one-off initiatives delivered over a period up to 12 months, that aim to advance gender equality by aligning with any of the Stronger Together priority areas.

Funding Category 2 – Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2026-27 – Large Grants

A total of \$400,000 (exc. GST) is available. Eligible grassroots organisations may apply for:

- **Grants of up to \$100,000 (exc. GST)** for larger strategic projects that will be delivered over a period between 12 and 24 months and aim to advance gender equality by aligning with any of the Stronger Together priority areas.

Communities reserve the right to make minor adjustments to the total grant funding pool for the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program.

3.1 Application Limits and Multiple Applications

3.1.1 Number of Applications

Eligible grassroots organisations may submit one grant application only per funding category (maximum two applications per organisation to the Program). However, funding will not be awarded to the same organisation under both categories. If, after the assessment of all applications, an organisation is shortlisted for funding in both funding categories, it will only be offered funding under Funding Category 2.

- If your organisation intends to apply for both funding categories, a separate application must be submitted for each category, with each application assessed on its own merit considering value for money.
- Organisations acting as an **auspice for unincorporated groups** may still submit **applications for their own organisation** and may auspice **multiple applications** for unincorporated organisations.
 - Please refer to [Section 5: Auspice Arrangements \(Unincorporated Groups\)](#) on page 8.

4 Who Can Apply

To be eligible to apply for a grant under the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program 2026-27, eligible organisations **must** be operating within Western Australia **and** be:

- an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.
 - An organisation is considered not-for-profit where its governing documents prohibit the distribution of profits or assets to individual members, both while the organisation is operating and upon its wind-up.
- an unincorporated organisation or community group applying through an eligible incorporated not-for-profit organisation.

Unincorporated groups must apply through an **incorporated not-for-profit organisation** acting as the auspice. The auspice organisation will:

- accept and adhere to all terms and conditions of the grant;
- assume responsibility for financial management of the grant;
- ensure the unincorporated group maintains financial records and meets reporting requirements; and
- receive and administer the grant funds on behalf of the unincorporated.

For further information on auspice arrangements, please refer to [Section 6: Auspice Arrangements \(Unincorporated Groups\)](#).

5 Who Cannot Apply

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

- Commonwealth or State Government agencies;
- Local Government entities;
- individuals and 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 which 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 your organisation's acquittal status.

6 Auspice Arrangements (Unincorporated Groups)

If your group is **unincorporated**, you must apply to the Grants Program through an eligible incorporated not-for-profit organisation acting as your auspice.

As part of your application, you will be required to upload a **signed and dated auspice arrangement letter** in your SmartyGrants application form. To ensure all required information is included, please complete the 'Auspice Letter Template' available via the download link below:

- **Download:** [Auspice Letter Template](#)

Please allow sufficient time to complete this document so your application can be submitted before the program closing date and time.

7 Eligible Use of Grant Funding

All expenses must be **directly related to the delivery of the funded project or event**. Grant funding may be used for:

Event Delivery and Operations

- Transport
- Equipment and venue hire
- Facilitator and consultant fees directly related to the event
- Wages directly related to the project

Materials and Resources

- Consumable items
- Purchase of minor equipment
- Resources created through the project

Marketing and Communications

- Publicity, advertising, communications and marketing

Catering

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages

Administration (Minor Costs Only)

- Minor administration costs such as postage, phone, stationery, etc.

Project Evaluation

- Costs associated with project evaluation.

Childcare

- Childcare provided by qualified providers in an accredited setting to support women participating in the project.

8 Ineligible Expenses

Grant funding cannot be used for the following:

Capital and Infrastructure

- Infrastructure and capital equipment

Organisational and Ongoing Costs

- Ordinary operational staff wages and other ongoing organisational costs
- Costs not directly related to the funded project or event

Prizes, Gifts, and Fundraising

- Prizes and gifts, including cash
- Fundraising activities, unless funds raised are used to deliver additional activities that directly support the project.

Travel

- Interstate and overseas travel

Retrospective Funding

- Costs incurred before a grant has been awarded

Duplicate or Otherwise Funded Activities

- Projects that duplicate an existing or similar project or service within the community (projects that build upon an existing program may be considered).
- Projects that could be delivered through an existing service agreement or grant agreement the organisation has with Communities.

9 Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed on value for money, including provision of a clear, realistic budget that includes verified costs for activities that meet the Priority Areas and against the following criteria:

- The proposed project aims to advance gender equality by aligning with any of the Priority Areas identified in the State Government's [Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality](#) and the associated Third Action Plan. (The priority areas are also listed in these Guidelines).
- The project demonstrates how it will engage and support a diverse range of women, particularly those who experience additional barriers or disadvantage.
- The project demonstrates community need through consultation, research and planning. The project has been informed by the voices and experiences of women through co-design, and/or lived experience, and clearly responds to identified needs.
- Evidence of sound planning and ability to manage the project, including clearly defined project outcomes that address the program priority area/s, and project evaluation to measure the effectiveness, feasibility and sustainability of the initiative.
- The project demonstrates positive and long-lasting benefits for the women involved and the broader community, where applicable.

The assessment criteria have equal weighting, and the application will be assessed on its merit in its entirety.

All information provided in the Application Form, and any supporting attachments, will be reviewed by an independent evaluation panel against the assessment criteria outlined above.

After meeting the above assessment criteria, Communities will also prioritise applications on the below basis:

- funding **grassroots organisations** that are committed to directly delivering programs and initiatives to women.
- projects which focus on one or more of the following priority issues;
 - online misogyny,
 - economic empowerment and
 - sexual violence.
- ensuring funding is allocated broadly across Western Australia, based on geographic location.
- ensuring a wide range of diverse projects across Western Australia are supported.
- supporting projects that are delivered in collaboration with other organisations; and
- supporting organisations that have not recently been funded under this Program within the last two financial years.

10 How to Apply

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

11 Closing Date and Time

Closing Time: 3.00pm (AWST).

Closing Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026.

Applications **must** be submitted on **SmartyGrants** by the advertised closing date and time above to be eligible for assessment.

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 a confirmation email shortly after submitting your application, please check your junk or spam folder.

If you still cannot locate the confirmation of receipt, please contact Communities via email at grants@communities.wa.gov.au to confirm that your application has been successfully received.

12 Outcome Notification

All applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application by 8 March 2027.

13 Successful Applicants

All Category 1 Funding will be awarded via a Grant Award Letter under the [Grant Conditions](#) detailed from pages 13-15 of these Guidelines.

Communities will develop a Grant Agreement with the Preferred Respondents for all Category 2 Funding. An example grant Agreement template has been provided in SmartyGrants, which includes the relevant terms and conditions.

13.1 For Category 1 Funding (up to \$10,000)

Successful applicants are required to:

- provide a report on completion of the project which will include a statement of income and expenditure for the funded project.

Reporting will also include the option of:

- submission of event photographs; and
- granting permission for Communities to use these photographs for media and promotional purposes.

Once the project is completed, the **Acquittal Report** must be submitted via SmartyGrants **within two months of the project end date** to meet the Grant Conditions.

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

13.2 For Category 2 grants (up to \$100,000)

Communities will engage with the Preferred Respondents to develop a full Grant Agreement.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- enter into a Grant Agreement with Communities;
- meet any additional reporting or coordination requirements during the grant agreement term as specified. This may include but is not limited to:
 - a six monthly project progress report on activities, participants, partners, challenges, and outcomes achieved and a final project report including project summary, findings, evaluation and recommendations submitted to the Contract Manager;
 - A financial acquittal report submitted via SmartyGrants upon project completion.

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

14 Program Assistance

If you have any questions about the Grants Program or require assistance when completing your application, please contact:

Ancy Rodrigues
Procurement Officer
Mobile: 0435 046 351
Email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au

If contacting us by email, please include **“DOCG202624231 - Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2026-27 - Annual Grants Program”** in the subject line.

15 Grant Conditions

Category 1 grants valued at \$10,000 or under provided through the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program 2026-27 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.

16 Special Conditions of Grant

1. If the Project involves working with children, the Organisation must ensure that all employees and volunteers comply with the *Working with Children (Screening) 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.