



Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grants Program

DOCG202539810

Guidelines

**Closing Time: 3:00 pm, Friday, 17 October 2025, Perth,
Western Australia**

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Guidelines

About the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 Program

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 Program 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 align with the priority areas of Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality (Stronger Together) which are: health and wellbeing; safety and justice; economic independence and leadership.

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 Program consists of two separate grant application opportunities:

1. **Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grants Program – DOCG202539810.** Grants valued at up to \$10,000 (exc. GST) for one-off initiatives, targeting one or more of the four Stronger Together priority areas. This grant program will open for applications on 15 September 2025 and close at 3pm on 17 October 2025.
2. **Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 – Safety and Justice Grants Program – DOCG202540117.** Grants valued at up to \$150,000 (exc. GST) to fund projects that work towards the primary prevention of violence against women, with a focus on sexual violence and aligning with the Safety and Justice priority area of Stronger Together. This grant program will open for applications on 1 September 2025 and close at 3pm on 3 October 2025.

Eligible organisations are allowed to submit one application per separate Grants Program (i.e.: one application in the Annual Grants program and one application in the Safety and Justice Grants Program). If, following evaluation of all applications, your organisation is shortlisted for funding under both grants programs, funding will only be offered under the Safety and Justice Grants Program.

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.

About the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 – Annual Grants Program DOCG202539810

These Guidelines relate to the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 – Annual Grants Program DOCG202539810 only.

Background Information

The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grants Program 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.

Women still face significant barriers to fully participate as equals in all aspects of their lives and in our community. Western Australia faces the nation's biggest gender pay gap of 19.6 per cent (compared to 11.5 per cent nationally¹), with women often being overlooked for leadership roles, and bearing most of the domestic work. These factors contribute to progressively limiting women and girls' participation in economic and social life, which can have long term, negative impacts on life outcomes.

The Western Australian Government is committed to addressing gender inequality and leading the way to create a better future for everyone, and through this program you are encouraged to proactively develop a project plan for funding.

You should note that the priority areas of this grants program have been designed to align with the priorities in Stronger Together, in order to provide a strong framework for current and future projects and action.

Women's Grants for a Stronger Future will help fund community projects that support and empower women - whether it is through retraining, upskilling, mentoring or improving financial literacy or business skills. Your project initiatives are welcomed, as projects funded under Women's Grants for a Stronger Future will contribute to women and girls reaching their full potential in all aspects of life: at school, in the workplace, in retirement and in their homes and communities.

How this program is informing government strategies

In March 2020, the Minister for Women's Interests launched [Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality](#). Stronger Together is a road map for government, businesses, communities and individuals to advance gender equality over the next 10 years and build a better, fairer and more equitable community in Western Australia. Stronger Together, (along with the latest Action Plan Two and Stronger Together Progress Report 2023), are available at the above link.

Stronger Together's priority areas, along with Action Plan Two initiatives, form the priority areas around which you will apply to the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 – Annual Grants Program.

¹ [Gender Pay Gap Data | WGEA](#)

Priority Areas

As part of your application to the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future- Annual Grants Program, you must align to any one or more of the following priority areas.

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

You should note that the priority areas of this grants program have been designed to align with the priorities in [Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality](#), in order to provide a strong framework for current and future projects and action.

The following information relates to the four program priority areas. Please consider how your project aligns with them. You may align with any number of the priority areas.



1. Safety and Justice

Goal: Women live safely and have appropriate access to adequate legal protections.

Women continue to experience unacceptable levels of family and domestic violence and abuse in their own homes, at the hands of their partners. There are substantial costs to the community in relation to family and domestic violence, but it is disproportionately women who bear the social and financial costs. Some of these costs include:

- increased risk of poverty and homelessness; and
- contribution to negative health outcomes.

Applicants are encouraged to refer [to Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality and the Second Action Plan](#) and consider projects that raise awareness and contribute to preventing gender-based violence in the community and the workplace.



2. Economic Independence

Goal: Women can be financially independent throughout all life stages.

A range of social and cultural factors contribute to many women having a more precarious financial situation than their male counterparts. This can mean that women's cumulative earning power is severely compromised throughout their working lives. The gender pay gap in Western Australia is the highest of all states and territories in Australia and has been for many years.

Contributing factors include:

- time taken out from work to care for children;
- broader caring responsibilities for ageing parents and relatives; and
- the gender pay gap and its effects on superannuation.

Applicants are encouraged to refer [to Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality and the Second Action Plan](#) and consider projects that raise awareness and contribute to women's economic independence.



3. Health and wellbeing

Goal: Women are healthy, active and lead fulfilled lives.

Gender is a social determinant which can have a negative impact on women's health and wellbeing outcomes. Risks include:

- women's participation in social and economic life is limited;
- women unable to prioritise their own health needs due to unequal share and responsibility for family caring roles and domestic work; and
- women and girls unable to manage mental health such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, attempted suicide and eating disorders.

Applicants are encouraged to refer [to Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality and the Second Action Plan](#) to consider projects that support women and girls to lead healthy, active and fulfilled lives.



4. Leadership

Goal: Women's skills, achievements and strengths are valued, enabling equal participation in the community, including at leadership levels.

Research demonstrates the economic benefits for organisations that have greater gender balance in leadership, including improved strategic decision making, better financial performance and client relationships. Despite this, many women are overlooked or face barriers to accepting leadership roles in the workplace. Some barriers include:

- inflexible workplaces;
- lack of access to support managing caring responsibilities;
- assumptions about women's capabilities, career ambitions and cultural norms;
- biases which undervalue women's experience and potential; and
- unconscious bias and affinity bias in the recruitment process resulting in hiring more of the same (gender).

Applicants are encouraged to refer [to Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality and the Second Action Plan](#) and consider projects that contribute to women gaining leadership opportunities and experience.

Grant Funding Available

A total grant funding pool of \$135,000 (exc. GST) is available for the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grant Program.

Eligible organisations can apply for grant funding of up to a maximum of \$10,000 (exc. GST) for projects based in Western Australia that align with the grant priority areas, and address advancing gender equality to build a better, fairer, and more equitable community.

Communities reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the total grant funding pool of the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future grant application opportunities if there is remaining unallocated budget.

Grant Period

Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 12 months in duration. For successful organisations, grant funding will be paid in full in financial year 2025-26 upon award, regardless of the length of project duration.

All proposed project start dates are required to be after 8 March 2026.

Who can apply for this Grant funding?

To be eligible to apply for a grant through the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grant Program, applicants must be:

- an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation operating within Western Australia; or
- a Western Australian local government authority; 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-11 for further information on how to proceed using an auspice organisation.

A group or organisation is not-for-profit if its governing documents prohibit distribution of profits to individual members while the organisation is operating and upon its wind-up.

Communities also welcomes applications from disability and LGBTQIA+ organisations, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Who cannot apply for this Grant funding?

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

- Commonwealth or State Government agencies;
- individuals;
- 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 a 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.

Items eligible for grant expenditure

A range of items associated with staging an event/activity or directly related to the delivery of the project such as:

- minor administration costs such as postage and phone calls;
- hire of equipment, transport and venue hire;
- publication costs of resources and material created through the project;
- resource materials, publicity, communications and marketing costs;
- food and non-alcoholic beverages for community engagement activities;
- project staff, facilitators and consultants, directly related to the project;
- intrastate travel;
- project evaluation; and
- childcare provided by qualified providers in an accredited setting for women participating in the project.

Items not eligible for grant expenditure

The below items are not eligible for grant funding:

- purchase of infrastructure and capital equipment;
- operating costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to project delivery;
- prizes and gifts, including cash;
- alcohol;
- interstate and overseas travel;
- 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 build upon an existing program may be considered);
- 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 the Communities.

Assessment Criteria

All proposed projects will need to demonstrate value for money, including provision of a clear, realistic budget that includes verified costs for activities that meet the Priority Areas.

Applications will be assessed on value for money, and against the below criteria:

- The project aligns with at least one of the priority areas identified in the State Government's [Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality](#) and the associated Second Action Plan 2021 – 2025. The priority areas are also listed in these guidelines.
- The project demonstrates community need through consultation, research and planning.
- The project demonstrates positive and long-lasting benefits for the women involved and the broader community, where applicable.
- Evidence of sound planning and ability to manage the project, including clearly defined project outcomes that address the program priority areas, and project evaluation to measure the effectiveness, feasibility and sustainability of the initiative.

All the above 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.

Applications submitted from universities will also be assessed to determine the demonstrated level of partnership and mentorship of a community organisation, from the application phase, through to project completion.

After meeting the above assessment criteria, Communities may also prioritise applications with consideration to the following:

- Ensuring funding is allocated evenly across Western Australia, based on geographic location;
- Ensuring a range of projects across Western Australia are supported;
- Funding a range of innovative projects to achieve the program's priority areas;
- Supporting projects that are delivered in collaboration with other organisations; and
- Recognising organisations who have not received Women's Grants for a Stronger Future funding in the past two years

Outcome notification

All organisations that apply for funding will be notified in writing of the outcome of their submission by 8 March 2026.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

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

Reporting will include the requirement to provide event photographs and approval for these to be used by Communities for media and promotional opportunities.

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

How to apply

1. Carefully read these Guidelines.
2. Complete the 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. Please check your SmartyGrants account as it is likely your application has not been fully submitted. However, if you have submitted and still not received confirmation, please contact Communities via email at grants@communities.wa.gov.au to confirm that your application has been successfully received.

Submitting an application

Closing Time: 3.00pm

Closing Date: Friday, 17 October 2025

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

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 organise completion of this document in sufficient time to ensure your application can be submitted before the Grant Program closing time and date.

Grant Program Assistance

If you have any Grant Program queries when completing the application form, please contact the Communities representative below. Please ensure all communication in relation to this Grants Program is directed to this representative only.

Ancy Rodrigues
Procurement Officer
Mobile: 0435 046 351 / 0403 990 103
Email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au

If contacting by email, please insert the following information in the email subject header: DOCG202539810 Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual Grants Program.

Grant Conditions

Grants provided through the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future 2025-26 - Annual 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 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 (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://childsafeforum.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.