



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

# Thriving Kids Family and Children Support Program Grants 2027-2029

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Tuesday 1 September 2026  
10am – 11:30am



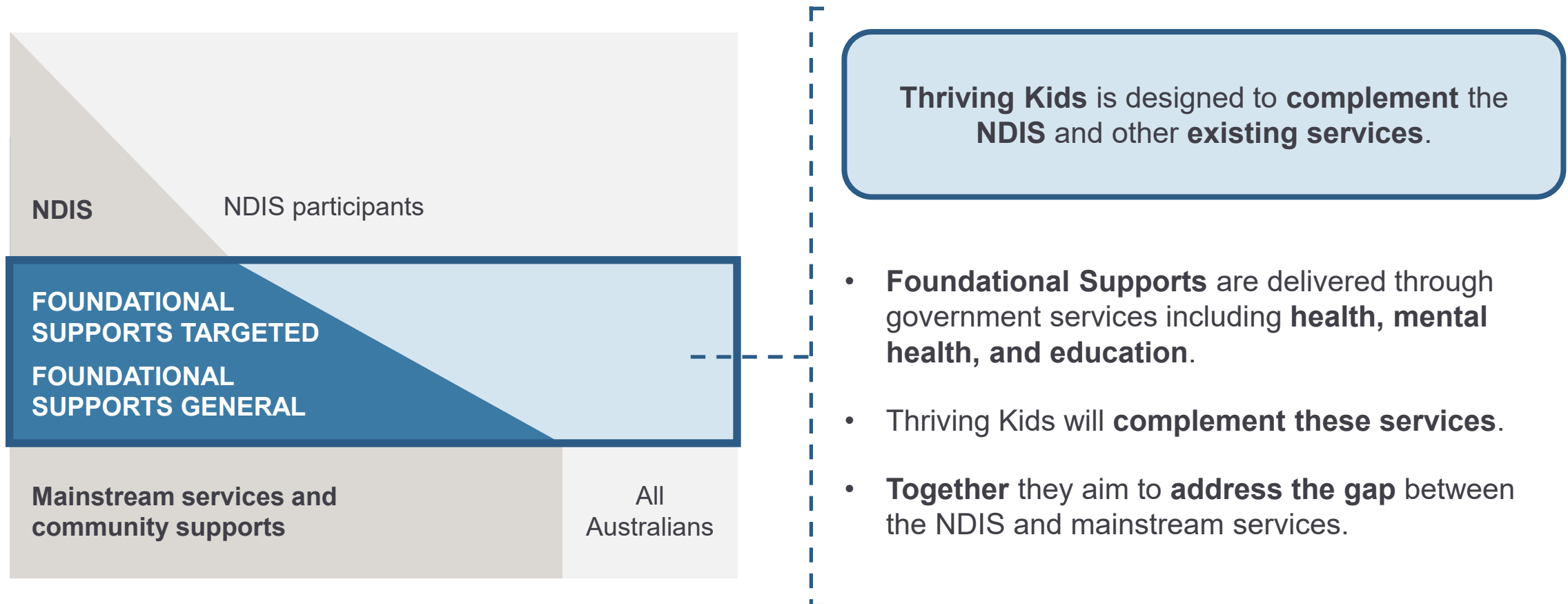
# Acknowledgement of Country

# Session Overview

- Overview of Thriving Kids in WA
- Program objectives and priorities
- Eligibility and assessment requirements
- Application process and expectations
- Questions

# Thriving Kids Model for WA children and families

# Thriving Kids is one part of a larger system of foundational supports for children and families



It focuses on children aged 0 to 8 with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs and their families



#### WHO IS THRIVING KIDS FOR?

Children **aged 0 to 8** with **developmental delay and/or autism** with **low to moderate** support needs, and their **families, carers and kin**. Thriving Kids is **not diagnosis dependent**.



#### WHAT IS THRIVING KIDS?

**Information, supports and services** aimed at building on the strengths of children and families to **participate more fully** in their everyday lives.



#### HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED?

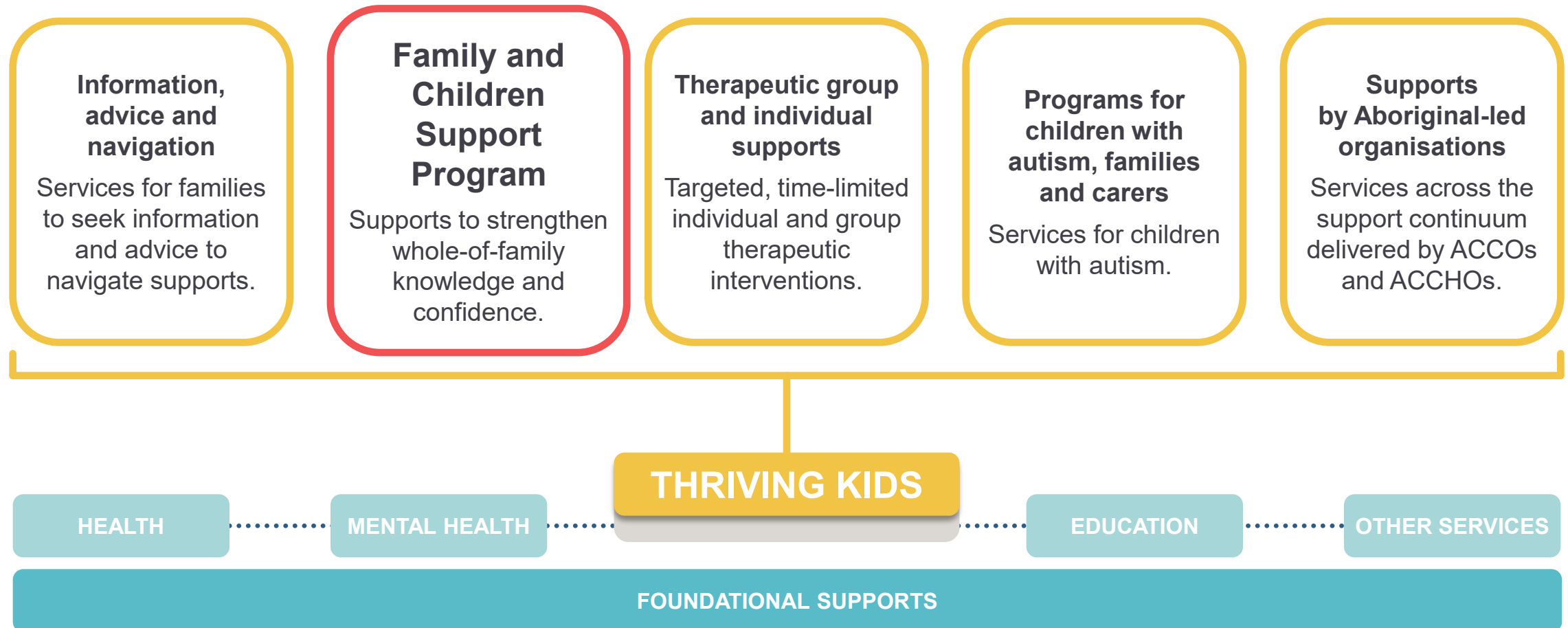
Commonwealth, State and Territory governments will **block fund up to \$4 billion** of supports and services **over 5 years**.



#### WHERE WILL IT BE DELIVERED?

**Natural, everyday settings** where children live, learn and play. **Delivery will be progressive**, commencing 1 October 2026, with full rollout by January 2028.

And aims to help identify and support children with additional developmental needs as early as possible



# Thriving Kids Family and Children Support Program

# Grants Program Overview

- One-off grants for initiatives supporting children aged 8 and under with developmental concern, delay and/or autism, and their families, carers and kin
- **Focus is on supporting children and families to build skills, confidence and social connections to support child development, participation and wellbeing in everyday settings.**
- Supports should build on the child and family's strengths, and improve access to high-quality, culturally safe early childhood intervention.
- Projects delivered over two years
- Place-based, community-led approaches encouraged
- Partnerships and consortia arrangements encouraged
- \$250,000 (minimum) to \$2 million (maximum) per initiative, paid in two equal instalments across 2026-27 and 2027-28

# Program Aim and Outcomes

- **The Aim:** to fund early, preventive and community-based initiatives that strengthen the knowledge, skills, confidence and social connections of families, carers and kin of children aged 8 and under with developmental concern and/or autism.
- **Intended outcomes include:**
  - *Individuals:* families are confident and equipped to support their child's development; families feel less isolated and more connected
  - *Services:* activities delivered in line with ECI best practice; families can access culturally safe, responsive supports
  - *Community and system:* equitable access across WA including regional and remote areas; evidence generated to inform future commissioning
- Full list of outcomes are available in the Guidelines. Not every initiative is expected to address every outcome. Your proposal may contribute to one or more.

# Target groups and priority cohorts

- This Grant Program is focused on supporting children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs and their families, carers and kin
- A diagnosis is not required to access supports funded through this Grant Program.
- Priority cohorts within the target group include:
  - Aboriginal children and families
  - Culturally and linguistically diverse children and families
  - Children in contact with the child protection system
  - Families with additional complexity
  - Children and families experiencing socioeconomic disadvantages, including those living in communities with higher levels of developmental vulnerability and reduced access to support

# Funded Activities

- All proposals must align to one or more of the following activities:
  - Workshops and information sessions for parents, carers and kin
  - Peer support and groups for parents carers and kin
  - Group sessions for younger children (0-4 years)
  - Group sessions for older children (5-8 years)
  - Individual family support and capacity building
- Delivery may be in-person, online or hybrid
- Activities must align with Thriving Kids Service Principles and reflect core principles of ECI best practice

# What ECI best practice looks like

**Your application should demonstrate a strong focus on Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) best practice, as set out in the National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention**

- Family-centred and strengths-based practice
- Delivery in everyday and community settings, supporting children's participation in natural environments, everyday routines and activities
- Building the capability of families as the primary agents of change
- Cultural safety and responsiveness, including ACCO-led and community-controlled approaches
- Collaboration across services
- Participation and functional outcomes that matter to children and families, rather than diagnosis or impairment-based goals

For further guidance, [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au) has practice guidance and factsheets for each principle

# Funding

# Grant Funding Available

- A total Grant funding pool of up to \$52 million over two years
- There are two funding streams available within this Grant Program:
  - **General stream**, for supports for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism and their families
  - **Autism-specific stream**, for supports specifically designed for children with autism and their families.
- Department of Communities reserves the right to reduce the total funding pool based on outcomes of the competitive process, finalisation of other parts of the WA Thriving Kids Service Model and/or any direct market approaches.

# Grant Funding Available

- Eligible organisations can apply for \$250,000 to \$2 million (excl. GST) across two years
- Capacity building funding: up to 10% of the total budget request per initiative, to strengthen organisational capacity to deliver proposed initiatives in line with the National Best Practice Framework for ECI.
- One application per organisation
- Organisations acting as an auspice for unincorporated groups may still submit one application for their own organisation and may auspice multiple applications for different unincorporated organisations.

# What can and can't be funded

## **Eligible expenditure include items directly related to the delivery of initiatives, such as:**

- Staff wages, salaries and allowances directly related to the project
- Equipment, transport and venue hire
- Publication and resource costs
- Publicity, communications and marketing
- Capacity building activities
- Intrastate travel
- Interpreter services
- Project evaluation

## **Items not eligible for grant expenditure:**

- Diagnostic services or assessments
- Ongoing therapeutic or clinical interventions
- Long-term individual support models
- Purchase of infrastructure and capital equipment
- Operational staff wages, not directly related to the project/initiative
- Interstate and overseas travel
- Ongoing operating costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to the project
- Retrospective costs

Note: the eligible list is indicative, costs directly related to delivery may be included even if not listed above.

# Eligibility

# Who can apply?

- Eligible groups and organisations must be:
  - Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations.
  - Local government authorities.
  - Unincorporated organisations or community groups, via eligible auspicing organisation.
  - Operating in Western Australia.

## Who cannot apply

- Entities not eligible to apply for funding include:
  - Commonwealth or State Government agencies.
  - Individuals and sole traders
  - Commercial, for-profit organisations.
  - Unincorporated, community sector organisations (unless applying through an incorporated body or a local government authority).
  - Organisations located in the Indian Ocean Territories.
  - Organisations not operating in WA

## How can I apply through an Auspice?

- An unincorporated organisation or community group can apply for the Program through the auspice of a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation or a local government authority
- The auspice needs to provide a signed and dated auspice arrangement letter using the template provide in the Grant Guidelines, uploaded into SmartyGrants
- 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.

## How can I apply as a consortium or partnership arrangement?

- **Collaborative arrangements are especially encouraged where they strengthen existing place-based approaches, delivery capability, accessibility, cultural responsiveness and/or regional reach.**
- Sub-contracting is permitted, and arrangements will be assessed
- Details of all sub-contractors, partners and consortium members must be provided in the application
- Governance arrangements must be articulated in the project description, and are assessed under organisational capability

# How to apply

- Read the Guidelines.
- Attend the non-mandatory Briefing Session.
- Submit your application via SmartyGrants.
- Upload the required documentation.
- Submit the application before closing time, **3pm 30 September 2026 (AWST)**.

# How will applications be assessed?

# Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

- Value for money
- Service model alignment with:
  - Grant Program aims and target outcomes
  - ECI best practice
  - Thriving Kids Service Principles
- Partnerships and Cultural Safety
- Organisation skills and capacity
- Capacity building (if applicable)

## Additional considerations

- After meeting the core criteria, Communities may prioritise applications to ensure consideration of:
  - Geographic spread across metropolitan, regional and remote WA
  - Priority Cohorts
  - A balance in investment across the five service types

## Key dates

- Applications close at 3.00pm (AWST) on Wednesday 30 September 2026
- Evaluation process will run from October – February
- Outcomes are expected in March 2027

# Questions

- Do you have any questions about the Thriving Kids Family and Children Support Program?
- Do you have any questions about the Grants Process?
- You can ask questions via the Q&A function

## Further Information

- If you require further information about the Grants process or guidelines, please contact: [grants@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:grants@communities.wa.gov.au)
- Subscribe to the mailing list to receive updates on the progress of Thriving Kids in WA via:  
<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/thriving-kids>
- If you have any questions or other feedback you would like to share, please email: [FoundationalSupportsWA@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:FoundationalSupportsWA@communities.wa.gov.au)

# Look out for further communications on upcoming opportunities

**Thriving Kids  
website**

For all Thriving Kids  
**updates and  
opportunities**

**TendersWA**

For **procurement  
opportunities**

**SmartyGrants**

For **grant  
opportunities**

Thank you