



ADDENDUM

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IMPORTANT

By submitting an Application, a Respondent will be deemed to have reviewed and understood this Addendum.

Addendum Advice

Following the non-mandatory briefing session held from 10am on Tuesday 1 September 2026, and Addenda 1 issued on 8/09/2026, Department of Communities can provide further clarifications and information which is in addition to the advertised Grant Program Guidelines:

1. How children who may (or may not) still have access to the NDIS, are able to be included in Thriving Kids

- Thriving Kids is intended to support children aged 0-8 with developmental delay and/or autism with mild to moderate supports needs and their families.
- Children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs will not be eligible for the NDIS from 1 January 2028.
- Children who enter the NDIS before 1 January 2028 will remain under current arrangements until they turn nine years of age.
- This Grant Program will provide time-limited funding for initiatives that strengthen family capability, participation and connection, enabling children to participate more fully at home and in their everyday lives

2. What is the intended meaning/definition of 'developmental delay'?

- Thriving Kids is intended to support children aged 0-8 with developmental delay and/or autism with mild to moderate supports needs and their families.
- The National Agreement on Foundational Supports defines developmental delay as “A term used to describe differences in the pace of developing physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and/or communication skills in comparison with their peers.”

3. Does Thriving Kids exclude children with Down syndrome (or other diagnoses)?

- Thriving Kids funding has been allocated to provide additional support to children aged 0-8 years with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs, and their families, carers and kin. These children are the Thriving Kids cohort.
- Children do not require a diagnosis to access Thriving Kids, and any assessment of need will be based on functional need.
- The NDIS will still be available for children to access while Thriving Kids is rolling out, and families should continue to test their eligibility where they believe NDIS type support is appropriate.
- From 1 January 2028 children in the Thriving Kids cohort will no longer be able to access the NDIS.
- Children who access the NDIS prior to 1 January 2028 will continue in the scheme under the current eligibility arrangements until they turn 9, when they will be assessed against the eligibility criteria at that time.
- Even after 1 January 2028 children of all ages with higher level needs, or with a permanent and significant disability will still be able to access supports under the NDIS.

- Thriving Kids and the NDIS will need to work closely together to make sure children and their families receive connected support, and no one falls through the gaps.
- 4. Are low-cost equipment and resources required to operate the service, available for use by multiple families throughout the project, for example sensory regulation resources used by families in everyday community settings on a trial or evaluation basis, considered eligible resource materials able to be funded under the Grants Program as they are specifically part of the program service design and delivery?**
- Low cost equipment or resources may be provided to families through the program on a trial basis (such as a resource library), where this contributes to family and children's capacity building.
 - Applicants should clearly demonstrate how the proposed approach contributes to the objectives and intended outcomes of the initiative.
 - Communities will assess proposed expenditure on a case by case basis, considering the purpose of the expenditure, relationship to delivery of the funded activities, and the extent it contributes to Program outcomes.
 - Applicants should ensure any proposed resources are reasonable, clearly justified, and appropriately described within the service model and budget.
- 5. Can you please clarify whether there is an intention that there will be future commissioning opportunities to be made available to broader organisations?**
- The Western Australian State Budget includes \$361 million in joint Commonwealth/State funding over five years for Thriving Kids' family-focused early intervention services delivered in a range of community settings.
 - Implementation will be progressive, with the recently announced Thriving Kids Family and Children Support Program being the first commissioning activity for WA with up to \$52 million available over two years.
 - Information regarding commissioning intentions for Thriving Kids in WA has been outlined during recent sector briefings. You can watch these sessions or read the transcript here: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/thriving-kids-engagement>
 - We are unable to share more detailed information on commissioning approaches and timeframes until publicly announced. To stay up to date with future opportunities, organisations may consider:
 - Subscribing 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>
 - Registering with Tenders WA and setting up an email alert to be advised of public tenders: <https://www.tenders.wa.gov.au>. Tenders WA contains a range of functions to make the tendering process for Western Australian Government contracts transparent and efficient; and is the central source of information on Western Australian public sector requests and awarded contracts, including sole source purchases.
 - Registering with SmartyGrants via <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/departments-of-communities-grants-programs> to be alerted of any competitive grant programs released by the Department of Communities
- 6. Can creche costs be funded where they are required to enable participation in eligible activities and/or where the creche component contributes to family capacity-building, child observation and early identification of support needs?**
- The Grant Guidelines list childcare as a non-eligible expenditure.
 - Creche costs may be considered an eligible project expense where they are directly related to enabling participation in funded Program activities, such as workshops, information sessions or peer support groups for parents, carers and kin.

- Applicants should clearly demonstrate why the proposed approach is necessary, how it supports participation and accessibility, and how it contributes to the objectives and intended outcomes of the initiative.
- Applicants might also propose a model that does more than provide creche supervision. i.e., appropriately skilled staff may support interactions, observe children's strengths and support needs, and contribute insights that help build parent, carer or facilitator understanding and capability. In this case, applicants should clearly explain how these elements support the objectives of the initiative and contribute to family capacity building and support outcomes.
- Communities will assess proposed expenditure on a case by case basis, considering the purpose of the expenditure, relationship to delivery of the funded activities, and the extent it contributes to Program outcomes.
- Applicants should ensure any proposed creche arrangements are reasonable, clearly justified, and appropriately described within the service model and budget

7. Can you provide more detail on the General and Autism stream?

- **General Stream:** for family-based capacity building supports for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism and their families.
- Children with autism are eligible to access supports delivered through the General Stream where the proposed initiative aligns with the objectives and requirements of that stream.
- **Autism-specific Stream:** for supports specifically designed for children with autism (diagnosed or imputed) and their families.
- This stream is intended to support service models specifically tailored to the needs of children with autism and their families while continuing to build family capability and support children's participation and wellbeing in everyday settings.
- Both streams support the overall objectives of building family capability and supporting early childhood intervention. Eligible organisations may apply for the General Stream, the Autism-specific Stream, or both streams through a single integrated application.
- Applicants must clearly identify which funding stream(s) they are applying for and are required to include details of sub-contractors, partners or consortium members in their application

8. How will Thriving Kids support children where the parent or carer has substantial or persistent functional impairment and cannot reliably implement these strategies? For example, some parents may themselves have disability, significant executive-function or memory impairment, severe carer burnout, significant mental-health difficulties, multiple caring responsibilities or periods of acute distress.

- Funded services are expected to be accessible and responsive to families with additional complexity and may provide targeted, short-term individual family support and capacity building to address barriers to participation and engagement. Where a family's needs cannot be met within the scope of the funded service, providers are expected to facilitate timely and coordinated referrals to appropriate services and supports. Collaborative partnerships and strong referral pathways are encouraged to support families to access the broader assistance they may require.

9. Are additional venue costs eligible where they are necessary to make a program genuinely accessible and safe?

- Yes. Reasonable venue costs are eligible where they are necessary to support safe, accessible and effective delivery of the project. Applicants should clearly outline why the proposed venue costs are reasonable and necessary and how they support participant access and inclusion.

10. Can grant funding be used to address transport barriers for participating children and parents/carers, for example through community transport, taxi or rideshare costs, or another transport-assistance model?

- No. Eligible transport expenditure is limited to staff travel and project delivery costs. Transport costs for participants, including community transport, taxis and rideshare services, are not eligible.

11. Can funded programs routinely operate during evenings and weekends?

- Yes. Funded programs may be delivered during evenings and weekends where this supports participant access, engagement and project outcomes.

12. What population estimates or datasets does Communities expect applicants to use when demonstrating local need?

- Communities does not prescribe a specific dataset. Applicants should use the most relevant and reliable evidence available to demonstrate local need. This may include publicly available datasets such as AEDC, NCCD, SDAC and NDIS data, as well as other relevant population, service, community or local evidence sources that support the rationale for the proposed project.

13. Can grant funding also be used to employ or contract parents/carers with relevant lived experience as project staff, peer facilitators or consultants, including where they do not hold an allied health qualification?

- Yes. Grant funding may be used to employ or engage parents, carers and other people with relevant lived experience as project staff, peer facilitators, advisors or consultants, where this supports delivery of the project. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate paid lived experience and peer workforce roles into their project design where appropriate. Allied health qualifications are not required for these roles unless they are necessary for the specific functions being undertaken.

14. Would the regular hire or lease of rooms used specifically to deliver the funded initiative be eligible where those premises costs are directly attributable to the project?

- Yes

15. Is Australian citizenship or permanent residency required, or can children ordinarily living in WA participate regardless of citizenship or visa status?

- This Grant Program is focused on supporting children in Western Australia aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/ or autism with low to moderate support needs and their families, carers and kin.
- Evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency is not required to participate in the program.