Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

DOCG202642877 LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Grants Program 2026-27

Grants Program Guidelines

Closing Time: 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 19 January 2027, Perth, Western Australia

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1. About the Grants Program

The LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Grants Program 2026-27 (Grants Program) provides funding opportunities for eligible organisations supporting implementation of Western Australia's (WA's) LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Strategy (Strategy) and initial five-year Action Plan. Pilots, projects and initiatives that advance better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people and communities towards building a safe and more inclusive WA will be considered for funding.

These guidelines provide information on funding available in the second year of the grants program to be released during the 2026-2027 financial year, with further grant application opportunities being made available each year to 2028-29.

The focus of the Grants Program is to support initiatives that align with the following priority areas of the Strategy:

- Belonging, connection and visibility
- Safety, equity and wellbeing
- Leadership, education and awareness

Focusing on these priority areas will help continue to build the foundations needed to deliver more complex work related to the Strategy's Services, systems and data priority area, creating greater equity and inclusion for LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.

2. Applicant Information Sessions

Two online non-mandatory briefing sessions for applicants will be hosted by the Department of Communities (Communities) using Microsoft Teams.

Information Session One

Date: Friday, 4 December 2026

Time: 12:30pm to 1:15pm

Information Session Two

Date: Tuesday, 8 December 2026

Time: 5:00pm to 5:45pm

Each information session will provide an overview of the Grants Program, including eligible activities, eligibility requirements, assessment criteria and the application process. Both sessions will include the same information.

Please confirm your organisation's attendance before 12:00pm on Wednesday 2 December 2026 by contacting Communities at lgbtiqa@communities.wa.gov.au. A Teams link will be sent to all registered attendees.

3. Background Information

Communities is seeking proposals to fund pilots, projects and initiatives that work towards creating better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people and communities that align with the three priority areas outlined above from the Strategy and implementation areas of the Action Plan.

The Strategy outcomes are aimed at supporting the health, wellbeing and full social and economic participation of LGBTIQA+ people and communities in WA.

LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities make valued contributions to WA and are building strong, connected and resilient lives. While many people experience positive outcomes, barriers such as discrimination, stigma and social exclusion continue to impact some members of LGBTIQA+ communities. These challenges can be further compounded for people with intersecting identities. Intersecting identities include but are not limited to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Intersex people
- Older LGBTI[1] people
- People with Disability
- Rainbow families
- Rainbow migrants
- Trans and Gender Diverse people
- Young people

Inclusive communities promote the conditions for everyone to thrive. For LGBTIQA+ people, this can mean greater self-determination and access to opportunities, improved wellbeing, stronger social connections and safer places and spaces to participate at work and in the community. Inclusion strengthens communities by ensuring everyone can contribute and belong.

4. Grant Program Aims

Focused on delivering better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people and communities, the aim of the Grants Program is to provide funding opportunities for incorporated not-for-profit community organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), local government authorities, or unincorporated organisations or community groups applying through the auspice of an incorporated body or a local government authority, that strengthen:

- **Community impact and inclusion** – supporting programs, pilots and community

[1]The Western Australian Government respectfully uses the acronym LGBTIQA+ to reflect the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual people and communities in Western Australia. Different terms or acronyms may be used when referring to specific communities or population groups. For example, Older LGBTI acknowledges the diverse genders, sexualities, sex characteristics and lived experiences of older people (aged 50 and over), recognising that some individuals may not identify with terms such as queer due to their historical use as a discriminatory slur.

initiatives that foster connection, belonging, visibility and participation for LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.

- **Organisations and partnerships** – building leadership, governance, workforce capability, organisational sustainability and collaborative partnerships to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the LGBTIQA+ and community sector.
- **LGBTIQA+ diversity inclusion and equity** – supporting targeted initiatives that address the unique strengths, experiences and needs of LGBTIQA+ people with intersecting identities and experiences, helping to advance inclusion, equity and community-led outcomes.

Together, investment for this Grants Program will strengthen community connections, support organisational growth and leadership, and help ensure that the diverse experiences of LGBTIQA+ people are recognised, valued and reflected in programs, services and community life.

5. Target Grant Program Outcomes

Successful grant recipients will contribute to the program's overall aim of fostering a more inclusive, connected and equitable Western Australia for LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities by:

- delivering initiatives that strengthen community participation
- building organisational and sector capability and fostering partnerships
- addressing the diverse and intersectional needs of LGBTIQA+ communities.

6. Funding Available

For 2026-27, the Grants Program has a total funding pool of $253,000 (exc. GST).

For successful organisations, grant funding will be paid in full in financial year 2026-27 upon execution of a Grant Agreement negotiated between both parties, regardless of the length of project duration. All proposed project start dates are required to be after 1 June 2027.

In addition to aligning to one or more of the three priority areas identified in Section 1: About the Grants Program, applications will also need to align to one of three distinct Outcome Focus Areas:

- Outcome Focus Area 1 - Regional Capacity Building (Total Funding Allocation of $95,000 (ex GST)
- Outcome Focus Area 2 - Capability and Partnerships (Total Funding Allocation of $95,000 (ex GST)
- Outcome Focus Area 3 - Supporting Diverse Communities (Total Funding Allocation of $63,000 (ex GST)

Each Outcome Focus Area has one or more funding tiers for you to select between, as detailed overpage.

Outcome Focus Area 1 – Regional Capacity Building

A total of $95,000 is allocated for **regionally based organisations** to build governance, partnerships and workforce capability to grow local leadership, strengthen community connections and support LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities to thrive across regional Western Australia.

This funding is for regionally owned and operated organisations.

Tier One

A total of $45,000 (exc. GST) is available for Tier One grants.

Eligible **regionally based** applicants may apply for:

Grants of up to $15,000 (exc. GST) to deliver one-off pilots, programs or initiatives that support better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people, including, but not limited to:

- Pilots that improve access to inclusive services and supports in regional WA.
- Workforce capability initiatives, including training, mentoring and peer learning opportunities based on local needs.
- Projects that strengthen partnerships, referral pathways and local networks.
- Governance and organisational development activities that build local leadership and sustainability.
- Community initiatives that enhance connection, visibility, belonging and participation.

Grant Period

Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 18 months.

Tier Two

A total of $50,000 (exc. GST) is available for Tier Two grants.

Eligible **regionally based** applicants may apply for:

Grants of up to $50,000 (exc. GST) to deliver one-off pilots, programs or initiatives using a consortium approach that support better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people, including, but not limited to:

- Capability-building projects that support regional LGBTIQA+ communities.
- Leadership and mentoring opportunities for staff, volunteers and community leaders.
- Community engagement to identify local priorities and opportunities.
- Inclusive practice resources, tools and frameworks.
- Initiatives that strengthen local partnerships and networks.

Grant Period

Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 30 months.

Outcome Focus Area 2 – Capability and Partnerships

A total of $95,000 is allocated for organisations to strengthen leadership, governance, workforce development and capability towards sustainable delivery of safe, capable and connected services and supports for LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.

Tier One

A total of $45,000 (exc. GST) is available for Tier One grants.

Eligible applicants may apply for:

Grants of up to $15,000 (exc. GST) to deliver one-off pilots, programs or initiatives that support better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people, including, but not limited to:

- Leadership development programs for employees, volunteers or emerging community leaders.
- Governance strengthening activities including board development, planning workshops or governance reviews.
- Workforce capability initiatives, including training, mentoring and peer learning opportunities.
- Strategic planning projects that support organisational growth, sustainability or future readiness.
- Development of policies, resources or tools that enhance inclusive practice and organisational effectiveness.

Grant Period

Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 18 months.

Tier Two

A total of $50,000 (exc. GST) is available for Tier Two grants.

Eligible applicants may apply for:

Grants up to $50,000 (exc. GST) to deliver one-off pilots, programs or initiatives using a consortium approach that supports better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people, including, but not limited to:

- Leadership and governance programs that strengthen organisational capability across multiple organisations or communities.
- Workforce development initiatives that build specialist knowledge, skills and inclusive practice across the sector.
- Partnership and collaboration projects that strengthen networks, knowledge sharing and collective impact.
- Organisational development projects that enhance strategic capability, sustainability and service readiness.
- Pilot initiatives that test new approaches to leadership, workforce capability, governance or sector development.

Grant Period

Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 30 months.

Outcome Focus Area 3 – Supporting Diverse Communities

A total of $63,000 is allocated for organisations to address the unique needs of LGBTIQA+ people with intersecting identities and experiences in recognition that some LGBTIQA+ people may experience additional barriers, inequities or discrimination as a result of overlapping factors including but not limited to age, disability, neurodivergence, Aboriginal identity, cultural background, religion, geographic location, and/or socioeconomic status.

There is only **one funding tier** available for grant applications under Outcome Focus Area 3. Projects will need to demonstrate how they respond to the unique strengths, experiences and needs of LGBTIQA+ people with intersecting identities and experiences.

A total of $63,000 (exc. GST) is available for Outcome Focus Area 3.

Eligible applicants may apply for:

Grants of up to $15,000 (exc. GST) to deliver one-off pilots, programs or initiatives that support better outcomes for LGBTIQA+ people, including, but not limited to:

- Peer support, wellbeing or connection initiatives for LGBTQIA+ people with shared lived experiences or identities.
- Community-led projects that strengthen inclusion, belonging and participation for underrepresented LGBTIQA+ people and communities.
- Programs that improve accessibility and inclusion for LGBTIQA+ people experiencing barriers to inclusion and participation.
- Projects that build awareness, understanding or capability to better support LGBTIQA+ people with intersecting identities or experiences.
- Initiatives that strengthen community leadership and representation among diverse LGBTIQA+ people and communities.

Grant Period
Grants will be awarded for projects expected to last up to a maximum of 24 months.

7. Application Limits and Multiple Applications

Number of Applications

- Eligible organisations may submit one application only per Outcome Focus Area.
- If considering applying for grant funding under multiple Outcome Focus Areas, a separate application form must be submitted per Outcome Focus Area.
- Where a grant Outcome Focus Area has two funding tiers, organisations may only apply for one funding tier.
- Incorporated organisations may auspice multiple unincorporated organisations and may still submit one application per Outcome Focus Area for their own organisation.

  For further information on auspice arrangements, please refer to Section 10: Auspice Arrangements (Unincorporated Groups).

Funding Outcome Limitation

- If an organisation's application is assessed as suitable under multiple Outcome Focus Areas, the organisation will only be offered funding for one of their proposed projects.

  Please specify in the application form your priority application for funding allocation.
- Organisations acting as an auspice for an unincorporated group that is found successful for award of a LGBTIQA+ grant, may still be found successful for award of a grant to their own organisation.

Redirection of Unallocated Funding

- If funding remains unallocated within any Outcome Focus Area and/or funding tiers, the remaining funding may be used to increase the total available budget for any other Outcomes Focus Area or funding tiers until the total funding pool is fully allocated.

8. Who can apply for this grant funding?

To be eligible to apply for a grant under the Grants Program, organisations **must** operate from within Western Australia **and** be:

- an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
  - 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.
- a local government authority; or
- an unincorporated organisation or community group applying through an eligible auspice organisation.

Unincorporated groups must apply through an **incorporated not-for-profit organisation or local government authority** 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 10: Auspice Arrangements (Unincorporated Groups).

NOTE: LGBTIQA+ community-led organisations are encouraged to apply for grant funding opportunities**.**

If your organisation is not an LGBTIQA+ community-led organisation, you will need to demonstrate a genuine partnership with an LGBTIQA+ community-led organisation to apply for grant opportunities through this Grants Program, regardless of Outcome Focus Area or funding tier.

For the purposes of the LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Grants Program:

An LGBTIQA+ community-led organisation is one that is established, governed and operated by LGBTIQA+ people to support and benefit LGBTIQA+ communities. It is embedded within the communities it serves and delivers inclusive, culturally safe and community-informed initiatives, services or supports that promote wellbeing, participation and empowerment. The organisation is also accountable to its members and the LGBTIQA+ communities it represents and serves.

LGBTIQA+ community-led organisations may support the broad LGBTIQA+ community or focus on particular groups within it. For example, some organisations may have a specific focus on populations such as people with innate variations of sex characteristics, transgender and gender diverse people, or other priority community groups.

9. Who cannot apply for this grant funding?

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

***A note to sole traders:**

Sole traders are not eligible to apply to this Grants Program either as an applicant or auspiced by an eligible incorporated not for profit organisation or local government authority.

If you are a sole trader and wish to be involved in relevant project delivery, you will need to be part of a consortia or partnership where the main applicant is an eligible applicant, as detailed in Section 8: Who can apply for this grant funding?

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.

10. 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.

11. 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 Program 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.

12. 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.

13. What types of projects might be Grant funded?

Outcome Focus Area 1 – Regional Capacity Building

- Governance development, strategic planning and organisational capability projects that strengthen the sustainability of regional organisations.
- Leadership programs, mentoring opportunities, workforce training and peer learning initiatives that build local skills and capability.
- Partnership development, consortium projects, referral pathway improvements and network-building activities that strengthen regional collaboration.
- Pilot programs, inclusive practice resources, service improvements and locally tailored initiatives that increase access to inclusive supports and opportunities.
- Community engagement activities, social connection programs, community-led events and participation initiatives that enhance visibility, belonging and wellbeing for LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.

Outcome Focus Area 2 – Capability and Partnerships

- Leadership development, mentoring and capacity-building initiatives for staff, volunteers and community leaders.
- Governance strengthening activities, including board development, governance reviews and organisational planning.
- Workforce development, training and peer learning opportunities that build inclusive practice and specialist expertise.
- Strategic planning and organisational development projects that support sustainability, growth and future readiness.
- Development of policies, resources, tools and frameworks that improve organisational effectiveness and inclusive practice.
- Partnership and collaboration initiatives that strengthen networks, knowledge sharing and collective impact across the sector.
- Pilot projects that test new approaches to leadership, governance, workforce capability or sector development

Outcome Focus Area 3 – Supporting Diverse Communities

- Peer support, wellbeing and social connection initiatives for LGBTIQA+ people with shared identities or lived experiences.
- Community-led projects that strengthen inclusion, belonging and participation among

underrepresented LGBTIQA+ communities.

- Accessibility and inclusion initiatives that reduce barriers to participation, services and community life.
- Education, awareness and capability-building activities that improve understanding of diverse LGBTIQA+ experiences and intersecting identities.
- Leadership development and representation initiatives that amplify the voices and participation of diverse LGBTIQA+ people and communities.

14. 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 Grant Program Aims and Target Program Outcomes.

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

1. The project aligns with at least one of the Outcomes Focus Areas and the selected funding tier criteria (see Section 6: Funding Available).
2. The project demonstrates positive and long-lasting benefits for LGBTIQA+ people and communities and the broader community, where applicable.
3. Evidence of sound project planning and the organisation's ability to manage the project, including clearly defined project outcomes that address the selected Outcomes Focus Area and funding tier.
4. Confirmation that the applicant organisation is an LGBTIQA+ organisation or demonstration of a genuine partnership with an LGBTIQA+ community-led organisation.

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. The evaluation panel will not review any information not contained within the application or attachments when making its assessment, for example if URL's are referenced in an application the evaluation panel **will not** access this external information when evaluating the application**.**

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

- Funding a range of organisations and projects across WA.
- Projects that demonstrate innovation, scalability or the potential to inform future practice and investment.
- The applicant's ability to leverage existing resources, partnerships or in-kind or co-contributions to maximise impact.

15. How to Apply

1. Thoroughly 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.

16. Closing Date and Time

Closing Time: 3.00pm
Closing Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2027

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 this confirmation email within a short time after submission, 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.

17. Outcome Notification

All organisations that apply for funding will be notified in writing of the outcome of their submission by 17 May 2027.

18. Successful Applicants

Communities will develop Grant Agreements with successful applicants. An example Grant Agreement, including relevant Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions has been provided.

Successful applicants will be required to report regularly during the grant agreement term. This may include but is not limited to:

- Six (6) monthly progress reports on project activities, participants, partners, challenges, and outcomes achieved and a final project report including project summary, findings and recommendations.

- A financial acquittal report upon project completion.

Reporting requirements, including performance measures and report templates, will be discussed and agreed with successful applicants prior to commencement of the grant agreement.

Successful applicants are required to notify Communities of any circumstances that may or have occurred which impact on the delivery or scope of the project as soon as it is known.

Where there are any unspent grant funds, Communities must be notified. Any unspent grant funding must be returned to Communities, unless agreed otherwise in writing by both parties.

19. 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.

Melinda Cunningham
A/ Senior Procurement Officer
Telephone: 0432 835 077
Email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au

If contacting by email, please insert the following information in the email subject header: DOCG202642877 LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Grants Program 2026-27.