

Frequently Asked Questions

Community grant program: Bushfire recovery - *Supporting Communities in Recovery*

- [What is the *Supporting Communities in Recovery* community grant program?](#)
- [Who is eligible to apply?](#)
- [What types of communities are eligible?](#)
- [I am a private health service provider – Can I apply for a grant?](#)
- [How much funding can I apply for?](#)
- [What kind of activities are eligible for funding?](#)
- [What things won't be eligible for funding?](#)
- [How can I apply for a grant?](#)
- [How long will my application take to process?](#)
- [Why do I need an ABN?](#)
- [What about COVID-19?](#)
- [How can I ensure that my activities comply with COVID-19 government regulations?](#)
- [How can I access professional mental health counselling or support?](#)
- [I have an idea for a project but need a bit of help to take it further](#)
- [Further information](#)

What is the *Supporting Communities in Recovery* community grant program?

The *Supporting Communities in Recovery* program provides grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to local not-for-profit organisations in bushfire affected communities for grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing and resilience, and assist communities to recover and heal.

Who is eligible to apply?

The program is open to not-for-profit community-based organisations with an ABN that are based in bushfire affected locations in the following local government areas across our region:

- Bega Valley
- Eurobodalla
- Goulburn-Mulwaree
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shoalhaven
- Snowy-Monaro
- Upper Lachlan Shire

What types of communities are eligible?

The critical requirement for funding is that the community organisation, target community and grant funded activities are located in a bushfire affected area. Otherwise, communities can be as broad as everyone in a given geographic area or defined to particular segments of the community (for example, young women, Aboriginal people, older people, playgroups, sporting clubs, animal welfare volunteers, firefighters, etc.). Please note that priority will be given in Round 2 to applications from communities representing specified high needs population groups and under-served bushfire-impacted areas, as listed on page 5 of the [Application Guidance Document](#).

I am a private health service provider – Can I apply for a grant?

Individual healthcare providers and other sole traders or for-profit businesses are ineligible unless the application has been co-designed with and in active partnership with a not-for-profit community-based organisation. Note that grants cannot be used to subsidise usual clinical or service costs. To be eligible, activities need to extend beyond 'usual business' to support communities in bushfire recovery. All funded activities need to be driven by the community and identified community needs, rather than provider driven. For more information on co-design, see [NSW Council of Social Service's Principles of Co-design](#).

How much funding can I apply for?

Grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) are available. There is no minimum amount.

What kind of activities are eligible for funding?

Activities must be grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing, and resilience and assist communities to recover and heal following the 2019-20 bushfires. Eligible activities should aim to promote any or all of:

- social cohesion, connectedness and supportive friendship and relationships;
- community wellbeing, resilience, mental health healing and post-trauma recovery;
- skills to identify and support struggling or distressed friends, peers or family members; and
- information about services and where to seek assistance when needed.

What things won't be eligible for funding?

Communities and organisations outside our region or were not impacted by 2019-20 bushfires, as well as activities that are difficult to link to bushfire recovery, are not eligible for funding. Other ineligible activities include those that: duplicate existing activities and services, are more appropriately funded under another program or funding source, would require ongoing funding, or subsidise business operational costs or commercial activities. Funding cannot be used for capital works, repairs or purchasing of assets, or for alcohol purchases at community or other events.

How can I apply for a grant?

You can download the application [form](#) and email the completed form to communitygrants@coordinare.org.au.

How long will my application take to process?

Applicants will not be notified until after assessment of all applications has occurred, some six to eight weeks after the closing date. Applicants should plan their activities accordingly, by anticipating a start date from late November 2020 onwards.

Why do I need an ABN?

Without an ABN, COORDINARE must deduct almost 50% of the contracted grant funds for payment to the Australian Taxation Office. This is why we ask all applicants to have an ABN in the organisation's name. Please ensure that your organisation has an appropriate ABN before submitting your grant application. Organisations without an ABN can [apply online here](#) and receive their ABN within minutes.

What about COVID-19?

Round 2 applications should propose activities that can comply with [government COVID-19 requirements](#) and restrictions relating to public gatherings, and be ready to start from late 2020. This may mean avoiding activities that involve, for example, large numbers of participants and one-off community events. Applications proposing activities that may be unable to proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions are not likely to be successful.

How can I ensure that my activities comply with COVID-19 government regulations?

Depending upon your proposed activities or events, you may need to consider aspects such as:

- Limiting participant numbers, putting in place physical distancing requirements, and thinking about how to manage the flow of people
- Visible signage and communications
- Sanitising common spaces, equipment and consumables
- The use of personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. masks, gloves
- Whether temperature checking is warranted
- Special considerations for vulnerable population groups
- Ensuring all participants are aware of safe practices
- Ensuring all participants are aware that they cannot attend if they feel unwell, have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 within 14 days of the event, or are subject to self-quarantine requirements (e.g. have recently visited a 'hot spot' area)
- How you might need to respond to emerging changes in government regulations

You should continue to monitor the [government COVID-19 requirements](#) in case of changes.

Depending on the type of community activity, some applicants may also need to develop their own COVID-19 safety plan (e.g. some sport and recreation activities, church-based activities or those involving specific businesses). If needed, a range of industry-specific resources and templates are available to help you develop your own COVID-19 safety plans, e.g. from [NSW Government](#) or [Safe Work Australia](#).

How can I access professional mental health counselling or support?

Anyone impacted by the bushfires can access free counselling. You do not need a mental health plan from a doctor or a diagnosed mental illness to access these services. For information about bushfire recovery support and resources in your community, see our [Bushfire support webpage](#).

I have an idea for a project but need a bit of help to take it further

COORDINARE also has Health Coordination Consultants (HCCs) across south-eastern NSW who may be able to assist you with information or put you in touch with bushfire support services or other useful contacts in your area. See page 8 of the [Application Guidance Document](#) for the contact person in your area.

You could also check out the [Grants Hub's fabulous website](#) for tips to help you develop your project and write your grant application.

Further information

For further information about the *Supporting Communities in Recovery* grants program, contact:

- **email:** communitygrants@coordinare.org.au
- **phone:** Tue-Thurs: Jennie Roe on 0407 218 792
Other days: 1300 069 002