



Community Grants

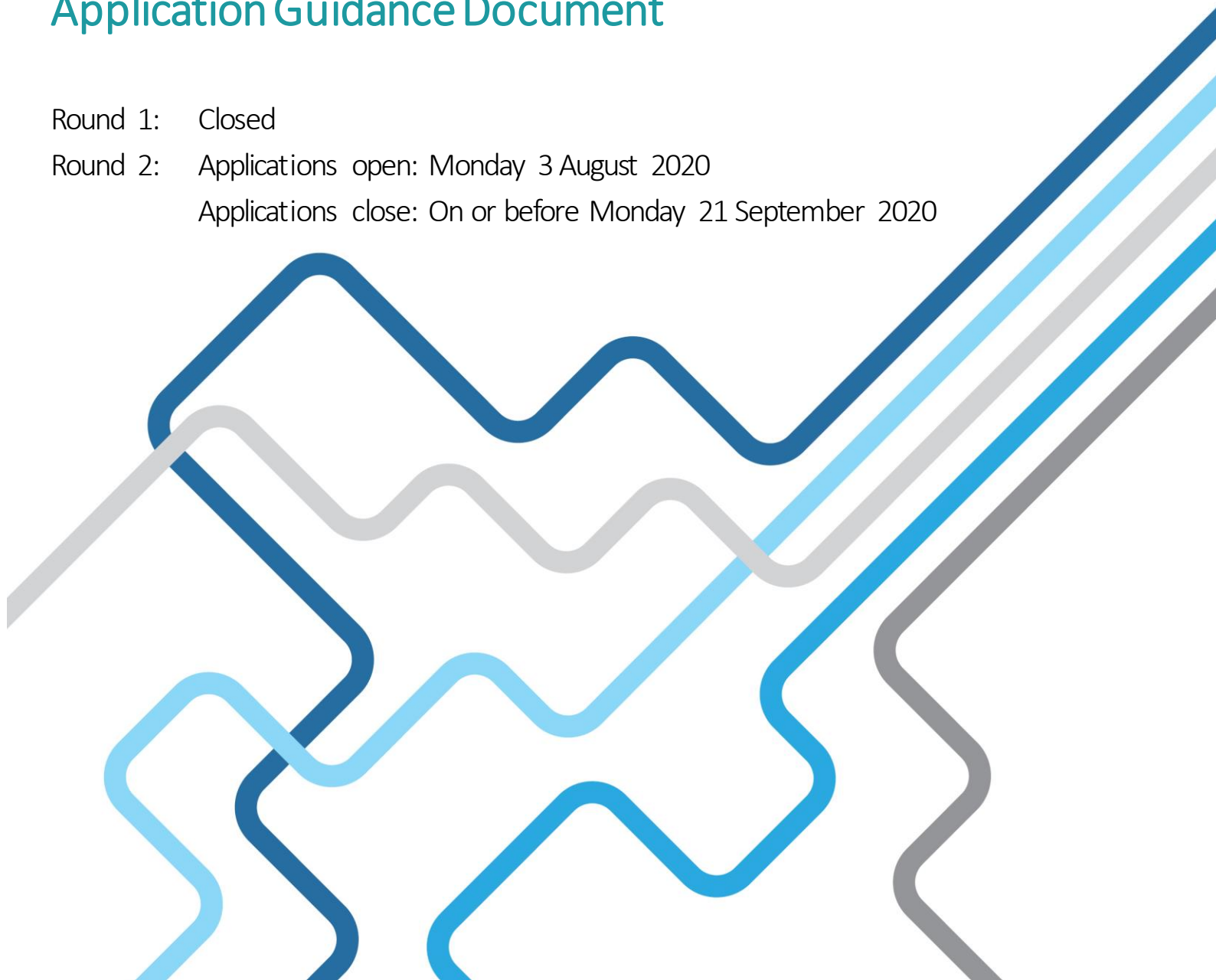
National Psychosocial Support Strengthening Local Communities

Application Guidance Document

Round 1: Closed

Round 2: Applications open: Monday 3 August 2020

Applications close: On or before Monday 21 September 2020



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Introduction

COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network

COORDINARE – SENSW PHN was established in July 2015. It is one of 31 PHNs established across Australia and one of 10 PHNs in NSW. The PHN spans two Local Health Districts (LHDs) – Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD and Southern NSW LHD and supports and strengthens general practice and primary health care services for more than 611,000 people across 11 Local Government Areas and one Commonwealth Territory (Jervis Bay). SENSW PHN works directly with General Practitioners (GPs), primary and secondary health care providers and hospitals to improve and better coordinate care for people in South Eastern NSW.

More information about COORDINARE can be found on our [website](#).

The National Psychosocial Support (NPS) Measure

The National Psychosocial Support (NPS) measure is a commonwealth funded initiative aimed at providing psychosocial support services to assist people with reduced psychosocial functional capacity who are not eligible for assistance through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network (SENSW PHN) have allocated a portion of this funding to support a community grants program and invites local community organisations to apply for grant funding for group based activities that will promote community resilience and enhance community wellbeing whilst delivering mental health and wellbeing benefits to individuals.

Who can apply?

Organisations and community groups who are based within the South Eastern NSW PHN region are eligible to apply. Organisations in receipt of NPS Measure or Transition funding cannot apply.

Background

Strengthening Local Communities grants

The *Strengthening Local Communities* grants evolved following widespread consultations with mental health consumers, carers, local providers, health professionals and local health district staff within the South Eastern NSW region. A key theme across all consultations was the need to strengthen the capacity of communities to support active engagement. If supported appropriately, community groups/organisations could be well placed to provide psychosocial support that would increase the feelings of connectedness for people with mental health needs and provide opportunities for participation.

Purpose and Objectives

These grants aim to promote community participation, inclusion and cohesion for people with complex mental health needs. Funding is available for small to medium community groups/organisations to provide community led psychosocial support that will:

- increase accessibility and awareness of people with complex mental health needs and decrease stigma
- improve social connectedness, relationships and isolation for people with complex mental health needs.

What the grant money can be used for

This funding is for group focused health and wellbeing initiatives, types of activities that will be considered include:

- education for non-mental health community groups to become mental health inclusive

- projects that support social skills, connectedness and friendships through group activities
- new initiatives that are recovery focused and aim to build on an individual's ability and skills to manage their mental illness, improve relationships with families and others, as well as increasing social and economic participations within the community.

What the grant money cannot be used for

Projects which are not eligible for this funding include:

- activities / services which duplicate existing
- construction of new community infrastructure
- refurbishment, repair and maintenance of existing community infrastructure
- purchasing of assets (i.e. buildings or vehicles)

Community connections in the time of COVID-19

All applicants must ensure that their activities comply with [government COVID-19 restrictions](#) relating to public gatherings, including limits that may apply on participant numbers at events and venues.

Applications with activities that may be unable to proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions are not likely to be successful.

Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about how they might engage safely with their communities.

Many vulnerable and hard-to-reach people have no access to 'virtual' communications technology

This does not necessarily mean relying on technological solutions such as video conferencing, webinars, telehealth or social media. While these technologies have a valuable place in connecting with friends, family and workplaces, they are often out of reach for many vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups. It is important to remember that some sections of the community have no access to computers or smartphones or live in areas where stable access to the internet is limited or non-existent.

We are also keen to avoid the experiences of some of our Round 1 grant recipients who are finding it challenging to proceed due to current restrictions, such as where activities involve large numbers of participants attending a single community event. As government limits on large participant numbers may not be lifted in the foreseeable future, it may be advisable to avoid proposing large scale community gatherings, so that Round 2 activities can commence as soon as possible.

Activities to engage communities, build resilience and connect with one another don't have to be elaborate, as demonstrated by the examples in these pages or by 2020's ANZAC Day commemorations from driveways and streets all over Australia.

Round 2 priorities

Priority will be given in Round 2 for activities that focus on engaging with vulnerable high needs groups, isolated people and under-serviced communities. Where appropriate, we also want to encourage collaboration and integration with community centres and volunteers, including promotion of clear referral pathways to support services.

High needs groups and under-serviced communities: Priority will be given to applications from communities containing a lack of services for people with complex mental health needs. Priority will be given to communities that received no grant funding in Round 1. We seek community groups in under-serviced and heavily impacted communities to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of grant funds across identified high needs groups and communities.

Builds skills and community capacity: We want to encourage more focus in Round 2 on building community capacity, developing skills and knowledge, and promoting access to services for people with complex mental health needs. Priority will be given to applications that:

- Promote the development of personal skills and knowledge amongst members of the community, especially in supporting and identifying distressed people, e.g. Community Suicide Prevention training (e.g. QPR, ASSIST), Accidental Counsellor, and Mental Health First Aid; Roses in the Ocean and Hearing Voices, Intentional Peer Support etc.
- Promote the availability of support services, including how to access services and clear referral pathways – e.g. to complex mental health services and other supports operational throughout SE NSW.

Grant funding available

Grant amounts of between \$5,000 and \$30,000 are available to small to medium community/organisations operating within the South Eastern NSW region. The total funding available in Round 2 through this grant program is \$130,000. Please note applicants are only able to receive funding once.

Grant funding timelines

There are two rounds of funding available:

Round 1 (2019)

- Closed

Round 2 (2020)

- Applications open – Monday 3 August 2020
- Applications close – On or before Monday 21 September 2020
- Applicants notified of outcomes – 23 October 2020

Anticipated key dates

The following table outlines the anticipated timelines for Round 2 of the Bushfire Recovery grants program.

Milestone	Anticipated Dates
Round 2 applications open	Monday 3 August 2020
Round 2 applications close	Monday 21 September 2020
Assessment and decision	Mid October 2020
Applicants notified and Grant agreements offered	Late October 2020
Grant activities commence	From November 2020
A summary report on expenditure and activities will be required as per contract.	

Desired outcomes

The outcomes of the *Strengthening Local Communities* grants are to increase accessibility for and awareness of people with complex mental health needs and decrease stigma within local communities. The grants will improve social connectedness, relationships and isolation for people with mental health needs.

Applicants will be expected to complete a summary report which includes outcomes.

Program Criteria

Applications will be scored and ranked by the assessment panel against the following program criteria:

- understanding the complex mental health needs of the local community
- capacity to deliver the program
- benefit to local community.

How to apply

To apply for a South Eastern NSW PHN Community Grant head to www.coordinare.org.au/slcgrants where you can download the application form. Completed forms can be emailed to slcgrants@coordinare.org.au.

Successful applications will be selected through a competitive process. Funding will be paid direct to the bank account provided on your application following the return of the signed grant agreement documents.

Round 2 applications must be submitted on or before Monday 21 September 2020 through SENSWPHN.

Applicants will be notified of outcomes by 23 October 2020.

Further Information

For further information contact Alan Beadnell, Complex Mental Health Coordinator on 02 4225 4375 or email: slcgrants@coordinare.org.au

Important note:

Any advice or assistance provided during the application process should not be considered binding in any way on COORDINARE, nor should any assistance received be assumed to be advantageous in any way. All applications will be independently assessed on their merit by an assessment panel after the closing date.

Conditions of this grant process

General	Applicants should familiarise themselves with this document and application form and ensure that their proposal complies with the requirements set out in these documents. Applicants are deemed to have examined statutory requirements and satisfied themselves that they are not participating in any anti-competitive, collusive, deceptive or misleading practices in structuring and submitting the proposal.
Acceptance	Non-complying or incomplete applications may be rejected. COORDINARE may not accept the proposal.
Explanations	Verbal explanations or instructions given prior to acceptance of a proposal shall not bind COORDINARE.
Assessment	COORDINARE reserves the right to engage a third party to carry out assessments of an applicants' financial, technical, planning and other resource capability.
Legal entity	COORDINARE will only enter into a contract with an organisation as specified with established legal status (e.g. under Corporations Law, Health Services Act, Trustee Act), and represented by a natural person at least 18 years of age with mental capacity to understand the agreement.
ABN/Taxation requirements	COORDINARE will only deal with applicants who have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
Expenses	All expenses and costs incurred by an applicant in connection with this grant process including (without limitation) preparing and lodging an application, providing COORDINARE with further information, attending interviews and participating in any subsequent negotiations, are the sole responsibility of the applicant. If the application is successful, any over-expenditure on the approved activity is the responsibility of the grant recipient.
Additional information	If additional information to that requested in this document is required by COORDINARE when proposals are being considered, written information and/or interviews may be requested to obtain such information at no cost to COORDINARE. COORDINARE may also provide additional information or clarification.
Process	COORDINARE reserves the right to withdraw from, or alter, the grant process described in this document for whatever reason, prior to the signing of any agreement/contract with any party.
Negotiation	COORDINARE reserves the right to negotiate with short-listed applicants after the applicant closing time and allow any application to alter its application. Contract negotiations are strictly confidential and not to be disclosed to third parties.
Part applications	COORDINARE reserves the right to accept applications in relation to some and not all of the scope of activity described, or contract with one, more than one or no applicant on the basis of the proposals received.
Conflicts of interest	Applicants must declare to COORDINARE any matter or issue which is or may be perceived to be or may lead to a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in the grant process, or in the event their proposal is successful.
Ownership	All applications become the property of COORDINARE once lodged. COORDINARE may copy, or otherwise deal with all or any part of an application for the purpose of conducting assessment of proposals.
Notification of Probity Breach	Should any supplier feel that it has been unfairly excluded from responding or unfairly disadvantaged by the process, the supplier is invited to write to COORDINARE at commissioning@coordinare.org.au
Lobbying to influence outcome	Any attempt by any applicant to exert influence on the outcome of the assessment process by lobbying COORDINARE staff, directly or indirectly, will be grounds for disqualification of the proposal from further consideration.
No contract	Nothing in this grant process should be construed to give rise to any contractual obligations or rights, express or implied, by the issue of this grant application or the lodgment of a proposal in response to it. No contract will exist unless and until a formal written grant agreement is executed between COORDINARE and the Applicant. Applicants will not be considered approved until a final grant agreement is in place.