Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program

Funding Information Paper
2019-20

For the age-friendly domains of:

1. Communication and information
2. Social participation
1 About this grants program

The Queensland: an age-friendly Strategic Direction Statement and Action Plan were released in 2016 to support seniors using an age-friendly approach. An age-friendly community is where older people are valued, respected and actively engaged in their community.

The Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program is a key initiative of the Action Plan. The grants program provides seed funding of $1 million per year (excluding GST) for three years from 2017–18 through open funding rounds for innovative age-friendly projects involving partnerships between local government, community and other organisations.

Successful projects will be co-designed with input from a range of partners including, but not limited to, community, not for profit, government, research and private sectors. The projects aim to demonstrate how cross-sectoral partnerships can be innovative in establishing age-friendly communities with the ability to be replicated across Queensland communities. One-off funding will help deliver projects with the potential to attract additional funding from other partners.

Examples around Australia and the world have shown that effective age-friendly plans are proactive, and rely on a number of success factors, including:

- local community-based approaches that build on existing resources, and are supported by a shared vision, high-level strategies and policies, and government leadership
- engagement from local community members, policy makers, researchers and local champions
- building local capacity and opportunities to influence change at the local level
- approaches that reflect the diversity of older people and respond to the real concerns and issues of community members
- changing attitudes towards the perception of ageing to a positive view.

Advance Queensland

The Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program adds to the comprehensive suite of programs available under Advance Queensland. Based on international evidence of 'what works', Advance Queensland projects are designed to create knowledge-based jobs of the future, and will drive innovation, support community initiatives, and help raise Queensland’s profile as an attractive investment destination.

2 Funding priorities for 2019-20

Each year the age-friendly community grants program focus on different age-friendly domains identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as important to making cities and communities more age-friendly.

The focus of the 2019-20 age-friendly domains include:

- Communication and information
- Social participation

For further information on an age-friendly approach and age-friendly domains, please refer to the following websites: Queensland: an age-friendly community and WHO Towards an age-friendly world.
Applications are invited from eligible organisations to fund projects between $25,000 and $100,000 (excluding GST). Successful projects will seek funds for one-off, non-recurrent seed funding to co-develop, implement and promote new, innovative age-friendly community projects that meet the goals outlined in the Queensland: an age-friendly community Strategic Direction Statement and Action Plan.

Applications must demonstrate a strong correlation between their project and benefits to older people. The higher the amount of funding an applicant seeks, the higher the expectation is for the project to provide:
- stronger evidence of partnerships and collaboration
- rigorous supporting documents, including support research and development
- clear evidence of broader scope, application and impact.

3 Eligibility for funding

Are you eligible?

The following types of organisations can apply for funding under the Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program:

- Community groups, local government, non-government organisations, research bodies and for-profit organisations within the private sector.
- Groups and organisations:
  - with no outstanding financial liability, service delivery or performance issues for funding previously and currently provided by the Queensland Government
  - who hold the appropriate public liability insurance required to undertake their project and all related activities, consisting of a minimum value of $10 million
  - with a registered Australian Business Number (ABN)
  - must be based in Queensland.

Please refer to the Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program application form on SmartyGrants for further eligibility requirements.

4 Funding categories

In 2019-20 seed funds will be available for successful projects targeting the age-friendly domains of: Communication and information, and Social participation.

Please refer to the Action Plan and age-friendly resources for more detailed information about these age-friendly domains to help inform development of project applications at: www.qld.gov.au/agefriendlycommunity.

Communication and information

Seniors access information they need in a variety of formats to stay informed and connected with their communities, families and friends.

It is important for older Queenslanders to be able to connect with others and access timely, practical information in a way that they are able to use and understand. Online use by seniors is increasing and many older Queenslanders regularly use a computer or mobile device.
Access to information in other ways is also important, such as brochures, radio, local newspapers, call centres, and libraries. Age-friendly formats and design includes larger text size, clear visual material and use of plain language. Relevant information that is readily accessible to older people with varying capacities is vital for active ageing.

Innovative projects funded under this age-friendly domain could include:

- Development of information resources for local communities, based upon needs identified by seniors
- Delivery of new models of building online capability for seniors in local communities which are ‘fit for purpose’
- Initiatives which build seniors’ capability in online safety, data security and privacy
- Development of online Queensland seniors’ communities of interest, as identified by seniors
- Support for seniors who live independently to access information and connect with others
- Initiatives that support lifelong learning by older people

** Please note that grant funding to purchase technology (hardware, devices and software including, but not limited to, laptops, hard drives, desktop computers, mobile devices, software licenses, applications, and online platform costs) is restricted to $1,000 total per project. Any purchase of technology equipment, software, applications, etc. must be part of the delivery of projects which enable an innovative age-friendly approach as outlined above. Costs related to telecommunications, Wi-Fi or broadband connectivity are excluded. Purchase of equipment required for operational requirements of existing programs will not be funded. Please refer to the Queensland Government Grants Finder (www.grants.services.qld.gov.au) or Australian Government Grant Connect (www.grants.gov.au) for information about grants available to purchase equipment.

**Social participation**

*Seniors are supported to be active in their community, doing the things they enjoy.*

An important part of ageing well is to be active and connected to others. Overcoming social isolation and connecting with seniors to engage and participate in a range of accessible and affordable activities helps to improve wellbeing and quality of life.

Innovative projects funded under this age-friendly domain could include:

- Development of new ways for seniors to connect socially (not one-off events or activities) sustainable beyond grant funding, for example, activity programs which inform, educate, enable and build capacity of seniors to be active, connected and create/build their social networks
- Initiatives which reduce social isolation by integrating generations, cultures and communities, informed by the identified needs of seniors
- Delivery of programs to support seniors to actively participate in arts and cultural activities designed specifically for seniors and informed by their needs
- Development of new ‘fit-for-purpose’ programs co-designed with seniors to support them to be physically active and connected with their local community
- Use of existing infrastructure and facilities in a new, innovative way by seniors, for example, a new seniors walking netball program.
- Initiatives which enable seniors to volunteer in their communities, for example, in tourism opportunities.
Funding exclusions

Funding will not be provided for:

- Capital works or upgrades to existing infrastructure
- Wi-Fi, broadband or telecommunications connectivity (note restrictions** above)
- Expansion of existing programs, projects, products or services
- Recurrent or retrospective funds – this includes enhancements to existing work or programs, the reimbursement of costs already incurred or expended, and any projects or activities that have taken place prior to the application being approved. No component of the project, or related activities, that take place prior to receiving funding approval will be eligible for funding
- Salaries or wages for permanent or existing staff
- Recurring maintenance or operational costs of existing programs or facilities
- Interstate and overseas travel
- Professional development activities for staff members
- Activities that involve commercial ventures for personal gain or fundraising activities
- Purchase of vehicles or similar depreciable assets
- General operational expenses
- Subsidies for participants to attend events/activities
- Funding solely for the purposes of design/planning work or concept plans/feasibility studies
- Projects that are funded by or duplicate an existing government program or service
- Projects delivered in aged care and retirement village settings

Projects must not replicate or replace those that are currently funded, for example, through Queensland State Government agencies, Local Government, My Aged Care, or Australian Government programs. Applicants are expected to undertake their own due diligence on appropriate funding sources for proposed projects, but can make inquiries through grantqueries@communities.qld.gov.au

5 Key information

Key contact – grantqueries@communities.qld.gov.au

Applications

- Funding submissions under the 2019-20 grants round must be made on a 2019-20 application form.
- Organisations may only be in receipt of one active age-friendly project grant per round.
- Applicants must have no outstanding financial accountability, service delivery or performance issues for funding previously provided by the Queensland Government.
- Any outstanding Acquittal Reports must be submitted before any new funding will be provided.

Submitting applications

Online applications are preferred. Prior to submitting an application, applicants must register their organisation with SmartyGrants. Please refer to our website for more information, including access to the application form, guidelines and contact information at: www.qld.gov.au/agefriendlygrants
A hard copy of the application can be requested in certain circumstances. Hard copy applications can be emailed (grantqueries@communities.qld.gov.au) or posted to:

Grants Officer, Community Services and Seniors
Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
GPO Box 806
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Closing date
A completed online application form OR a completed and signed hard copy application form must be received by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) with all required documents by 5pm EST Monday 10 June 2019.

Late applications
An application submitted after the closing date will be considered a late application. Late applications may not be accepted at the discretion of the Assessment Panel. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

6 Assessment of applications
Applications will be assessed in a competitive, merit based process against the program’s assessment criteria. Assessment will be conducted by a panel, and will be subject to strict assessment and eligibility criteria. Successful applications will support the development of innovative, fit-for-purpose solutions that will assist Queensland to become an age-friendly community.

Assessment criteria

1. Project provides innovative, age-friendly solutions to one of the following domains for the 2019-20 round:
   - Communication and information
   - Social participation

2. Project responds to a clear community need and will contribute to developing a local age-friendly community.

3. Project features strong partnerships or alliances and clear collaboration with local government, not for profit, community and for profit organisations, for example neighbourhood and community centres.

4. The applicant organisation has a demonstrated capacity to manage grant funding and deliver the project deliverables within a 12 month timeframe.

5. Project is financially feasible, delivers value for money and demonstrates a clear social return or outcome on the investment.

6. Evidence of additional funding available to the project to support further development (if required) and longer term sustainability.

7. Project demonstrates comprehensive and sound planning including evidence of strong engagement with older people, and needs analysis/research.

8. Project complies with the Funding Exclusions noted above.
The Assessment Panel’s recommendations will be used to support funding decisions, and will consider how strongly each application addresses the program objectives, funding priorities and funding criteria. The panel will consider the local needs, emerging community issues, geographical spread of available funds, and how the proposed projects support the development and promotion of age-friendly communities across Queensland.

It is anticipated that successful grant applications of the 2019-20 round of the Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program will be announced in August 2019.

7 Successful applicants

Successful applications will be advertised in Queensland Government publications and websites, and will be announced by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors.

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement with DCDSS, outlining the obligations of both parties, including, but not limited to, funding and payment details, reporting requirements, agreed outcomes and acquittal conditions. The panel may decline certain components of an application, or limit the amount of funds approved for individual items.

All successful applicants will be bound to the grant agreement, and to the short form contractual terms and conditions. Additional individual conditions may be specified at the time of approval. If necessary, a revised project plan may be negotiated.

Unsuccessful applicants will be given the opportunity to seek feedback by emailing a request to grantqueries@communities.qld.gov.au.

8 Project completion

Project spending must be concluded within 12 months from the date of approval nominated on the grant agreement. Organisations are required to submit a final acquittal report to DCDSS within 28 days from the date of project conclusion nominated on the grant agreement. Any unspent grant funds, or grant funds not expended in accordance with the grant agreement/conditions, may be requested to be returned to DCDSS.

The acquittal report will:

- provide an outline of the activities undertaken
- outline the outcomes achieved in relation to the agreed project plan and key milestones
- indicate the total number of people impacted by the project, and how they benefited
- allow provision of support material as attachments such as media coverage, reviews, testimonials or resources developed as evidence of project achievements
- include a Director’s Certification relating to the project’s income and expenditure

Grant recipients will need to provide their final project acquittal on the relevant milestone report template. Time extensions may be granted in extenuating circumstances.

9 Further information

Please direct enquiries about the grants program, including matters such as funding criteria, late applications and feedback on funding decisions, to: grantqueries@communities.qld.gov.au