



Frequently Asked Questions – regional Precincts and Partnership Program (rPPP)

This document has been developed to assist applicants to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Grant Opportunities Guidelines and other supporting information available on the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts website](#).

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Co-contributions

Are applicants required to provide a financial contribution? Is there a percentage of the proposal cost that must be contributed?

No, there is no defined percentage of the proposal cost that must be contributed. However, each stream does require applicants to demonstrate their commitment to the proposal, so while there is no defined percentage contribution, applicants are required to show what they can do monetarily or otherwise to ensure the success of a proposal.

Do the organisations that form part of the partnership also have to be co-contributing or co-funding partners?

No, there may be organisations in the partnership that do not make financial or other co-contributions to the proposal.

Does co-contribution have to be cash?

No, this program across both streams will accept in-kind contributions, such as land or resources as well as cash contributions.

What evidence can applicants provide to demonstrate cash co-contributions and in-kind co-contributions?

Examples of the types of evidence applicants can provide to demonstrate cash co-contributions can include, but are not limited to: loan approvals and agreements, letters of offer from financial institutions, letters of commitment from funding partners, grant funding confirmation letters or agreements, etc.

Examples of the types of evidence applicants can provide to demonstrate in-kind co-contributions can include, but are not limited to: land lease agreements, letters or agreements to outline service to be provided, such as labour or donated goods.

Can the project have other Commonwealth funding?

No, other Commonwealth funding cannot be used for your project proposal. However, for stream two, applications may have other parts of the broader precinct (that is not the applicant's proposal itself) that can be Commonwealth funded.

Funding

How much federal funding is committed to the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program?

The Australian Government is providing \$400 million over 3 years for the program.

- \$100 million will be available for 2023-24.
- \$150 million will be available for both 2024-25 and 2025-26.

What grant amounts are available?

The program guidelines provide in detail the funding available across the two streams, but in summary:

- Stream One: Precinct development and planning. Grants between \$500,000 and \$5 million.
- Stream Two: Precinct delivery. Grants between \$5 million and \$50 million.

What kind of projects will be eligible for funding?

For Stream One (precinct development and planning), eligible activities include:

- scoping, planning, design and consultation activities of the proposed precinct
- development and formalisation of partnership relationships and responsibilities
- business cases and feasibility studies.

For Stream Two (precinct delivery), eligible activities include:

- Investment ready projects that will develop or improve a regional precinct such as construction, upgrade or extension of existing or shovel ready infrastructure which supports a precinct
- procurement of suitable equipment and infrastructure.

Expenditure

Can you provide guidance on contingency costs that are covered? For example, amounts, eligibility etc?

Applicants are encouraged to invest time in writing their applications and developing project budgets that are realistic and cater for contingencies such as potential increases to project costs and timeframes.

In terms of grant funding for successful projects, progress payments are usually made in arrears and we set aside at least 10 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when applicants submit a satisfactory end of project report demonstrating completed outstanding obligations for the project. We may need to adjust progress payments to align with available program funds across financial years and/or to ensure we retain a minimum 10 per cent of grant funding for the final payment.

Is digital infrastructure an eligible expenditure under the program?

The program is designed to fund hard infrastructure. Appendix B of the guidelines outlines that ongoing upgrades, updates and maintenance of existing ICT systems, the costs of ongoing subscription-based software, and IT support membership and warranties for purchases are ineligible expenditure. Additional examples of ineligible expenditure specific to investment ready projects include ICT equipment, including software or hardware that is not an integral part of the funding infrastructure. However, Appendix A of the guidelines includes ICT cabling as eligible material costs.

We would encourage applicants to contact the Business Grants Hub to discuss the specifics of the project including project eligibility, circumstances and activities. The Business Grants Hubs contact details are provided here [Stream one - business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/stream-one) and [Stream two - business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/stream-two)

Partnerships

Why is the Government taking a partnership approach? What is the purpose of a partnership?

The establishment of partnerships, that include local perspectives, will be critical to delivering place-based infrastructure supported by the community. The program allows governments and communities to establish long-term partnerships and jointly invest in genuine regional priorities.

Do all of the organisations in the partnership have to satisfy eligibility criteria in the guidelines?

No, only the applicant needs to meet the eligibility requirements.

Who can form part of the partnership?

Partnerships are intended to be varying conglomerates of eligible organisations as well as other local stakeholders, such as First Nations groups, Regional Development Australia committees, private enterprise, land owners, developers, designers, end-users, and community groups.

Is there a required number of organisations needed to form a partnership?

No, there is no required number of organisations needed to form a partnership. However, partnerships is a key design feature of this program, so applicants should focus on bringing together all relevant and interested parties to collaboratively plan or delivery precinct proposals.

Are there certain organisations that must form part of the partnership?

While there is not a particular organisation that must form part of the partnership, each set of guidelines outlines in detail the requirements for applicants to show that certain organisations, such as State or Territory and local government agency, relevant Regional Development Australia Committees, as well as First Nations Groups have been contacted to either form part of the partnership and/or support the precinct. In addition, the assessment criteria in each set of guidelines has a question specifically related to partnership/collaboration which is an opportunity for applicants to show how well their proposal meets the partnership element of the program.

Location

My proposal does not meet the geographic eligibility criteria as it is located within a Greater Capital City Statistical Area, why does this program use this definition?

The geographic boundaries applied under the program – the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics – provide on an up-to-date definition of the functional extent of each of the eight state and territory capital cities, using a consistent and evidence-based approach.

Projects located inside the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas will be geographically eligible for the urban Precincts and Partnership Program that is currently being designed.

The regional Precincts and Partnership Program and the urban Precincts and Partnership Program together will provide Australian Government funding for precincts across the nation.

Can a proposal which has multiple sites to form the precinct that spans across more than one jurisdiction (state or local government area) be funded under the program?

Yes, if a project proposal has multiple sites and spans across multiple jurisdictions, as long as they are still delineated as outside of the Greater Capital City Statistical Area, then they will be eligible. The applicant will also need to demonstrate that the project is part of a precinct, which spans across multiple jurisdictions.

For application purposes, one project site must be selected as the main project site, although the application form has the ability to record up to ten separate project sites.

Application

Can applicants submit multiple applications for different projects? Will this impact each other or will they be assessed individually? Could an applicant potentially be awarded multiple grants?

Yes, applicants can submit multiple applications for different projects. Each application will be assessed as a separate application. Potentially, the same applicant could receive more than one grant if their multiple applications were successful.

Can applicants apply for stream one and stream two?

Yes, an applicant can submit separate applications for stream one and stream two. Each application will be assessed separately.

Can a proposal that is approved for funding in stream one then apply for funding in stream two?

Yes, an applicant who has received funding under stream one to complete their precinct development and planning can then submit an application for stream two, subject to available funding. Part of the intention behind stream one is to support precinct plans to become investment ready. The application under stream two would form a whole new application and their previous answers to stream one would not be assessed.

Do applicants need to use their own budget template for applications?

Yes, applicants will need to use their own template as there is no standard template available on www.business.gov.au.

Assessment

Can a proposal that was deemed ineligible or assessed as not meritorious for funding be re-submitted?

Yes, an applicant may submit a new application for the same project while the grant opportunity remains open. If your application is found unsuccessful, there will be an opportunity to discuss the outcome with Business Grants Hub.

Is the assessment criteria the same for both streams?

No, each stream has its own set of guidelines with its own set of assessment criteria. Applicants should ensure that they are using the correct set of guidelines for their application.

How will applications be assessed? What does a non-competitive grants process mean?

An independent panel of three experts drawn from the recently established Urban Policy Forum will undertake the merit assessment, where applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Only proposals that have been deemed as meritorious in the assessment process will be provided to the Minister for final decision making. As part of the assessment package given to the Minister the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) will provide advice policy advice to the Minister based on policy considerations and funding envelope available.

The program's non-competitive grant process means that each application will be assessed against the assessment criteria, rather than in comparison to other applications.

How often will the expert panel meet to assess applications?

The panel is expected to meet at least twice per year to assess the proposals across both funding streams, however, this may vary depending on the volume of applications received.

Who will approve grants?

DITRDCA will recommend which meritorious proposals should be considered for funding. The Minister decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of DITRDCA, the availability of grant funds, and, where necessary, advice from relevant Minister/s for meritorious proposals relevant to their specific portfolio responsibilities.

Timeline

Is there a close date for the program? What is the timing for award of grants?

The program will run over three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26. During this period the program will be an always open grants process meaning applications can be submitted at any time once the program opens. Subject to the pace of application submission we expect that the first tranches of successful grants will be announced in early 2024.

Eligibility

What is a precinct?

Regional precincts or 'places of purpose' are user-defined geographic areas with a specific shared need or theme. Regional precincts may include business districts, neighbourhoods, activity centres, commercial hubs or community and recreational areas. The scale of regional precinct projects will vary depending on their location and objectives.

More information

For more information, please refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines or the webinar available on the website. If you have a query that remains unanswered please contact the Business Grants Hub at regionalprecincts@industry.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.