

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

**Formerly Australian Executor Trustees Discretionary Grants Program*

Is your organisation creating positive social change by embedding climate resilience, First Nations self-determination, or gender equity into your work?

Our Community grants program is looking for organisations and programs:

- Rooted in **local knowledge and leadership**,
- actively **addressing barriers** to access, participation, and sustainability, and
- centring **self-determination and social justice** as pathways to systemic change.

We're backing diverse leaders to build communities with resilience, to ensure that community support networks are accessible and effective in the face of change. We want community leaders and social entrepreneurs to play their role in ensuring that emerging practice and solutions are seen and heard.



WE'RE INVESTING IN



Training and development



Backing social innovation



Elevating diverse leadership



Collaboration in local networks



Core organisation costs and improved operational effectiveness



Local knowledge & lived expertise



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible your organisation must:

- Have charitable status and be registered with the ACNC
- Be a small to medium sized organisation as defined by the [ACNC](#):
 - Small charities - those with annual revenue under \$500,000
 - Medium charities - those with annual revenue of \$500,000 or more, but under \$3 million
- Operate in Australia

No more than one application is to be submitted per organisation. Put your best foot forward.

Please note that Hospitals, Universities & Research Institutes are not considered eligible for funding in this round.

GRANT REQUESTS

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- 1 or 2 year grant requests
 - Up to \$50,000 p.a.
 - New or ongoing programs
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USE OF FUNDS

Funding can be used for:

- Discrete projects and initiatives
- Salaries and support
- Operational expenses (i.e., program delivery and overheads)
- Measurement and Evaluation

Funding cannot be used for:

- Private benefit
 - [Advocacy](#) (see ACNC for guidance)
 - Retrospective activities
 - Academic Research Projects
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KEY DATES

8 th September 2025	Applications Open via https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/CG2025
13 th October 2025	Applications close 5pm AEDT
1 st December 2025	Outcomes communicated to all applicants
31 st of December 2025	Successful grants paid

AVAILABLE FUNDING

We acknowledge that demand for funding in this round will exceed the capacity of the participating Trusts and Foundations. We anticipate being in a position to support approximately **6 to 8 applications**, though this may vary depending on the size, scale, and mix of applications received.

Equity Trustees is committed to reducing the administrative burden for applicants. We design our grant making processes to be as streamlined as possible and strive to match applying organisations with likeminded Trusts and Foundations under our management.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Read the guidelines.
2. Ensure organisation and program eligibility.
3. Apply via the application form, opening 8th September 2025.
 - Spend no more than 1-2 hours preparing your application, approximately 20 minutes is allocated to review each application so please be as clear and concise possible.
4. Submit application by no later than 5pm AEDT 13th October 2025.

If you are First Nations led organisation and would like to complete this application process in an alternative way, please get in touch with our team – we'd love to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any additional questions, please contact Equity Trustees via charities@eqt.com.au.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting	Strong	Moderate	Weak
Alignment to funding area	30%	<p>Proposal strongly aligns with intended outcome to strengthen community networks and support systems. Proposal has a strong understanding of how the initiative will contribute to the program goals.</p> <p>Proposal knows what success looks like for their organisations and how his will build others around them.</p>	<p>Proposal has some alignment to intended outcome to strengthen community networks and support systems. Proposal has some understanding about how the initiative will contribute to the program goals.</p> <p>Proposal has some idea of what success looks like for their own organisation.</p>	<p>Proposal has no or minimal alignment or objective to strengthen community networks and support systems.</p> <p>There is no understanding of what success looks like.</p>
Community Involvement	30%	<p>Proposal developed collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including those with lived experience, and shows strong community-led design.</p> <p>The proposal is led by and/or exclusively targets diverse community groups.</p>	<p>Proposal includes some input from community stakeholders but lacks a fully community-led approach.</p> <p>The proposal is not led by diverse leaders although may reach diverse communities through its proposed activities.</p>	<p>Proposal lacks input from intended beneficiaries or other stakeholders, limiting community engagement.</p> <p>The proposal is not led by or does not target a specific population group in need.</p>
Program Logic	20%	<p>Clear, logical explanation of how the proposed activities will support the capacity of the organisation and as a result strengthen network & community responses.</p> <p>The grant request is proportionate to the budget and any shortfall is appropriately managed for.</p>	<p>There is a good explanation of how the proposed activities should address the capacity or the organisation and as a result strengthen network & community responses however there are some gaps/questions.</p> <p>The grant request is proportionate to the budget but does not wholly account for shortfall.</p>	<p>It is unclear how the proposed activities will support the capacity of the organisation and has no reference to the networks or systems it's working in.</p> <p>The grant request is not proportionate to the budget and there is considerable shortfall.</p>
Context and Need	20%	<p>Organisation has a clear mission and vision relating to the issues it's working to address. Proposal clearly outlines need and is evidenced with supporting data (qualitative or quantitative).</p>	<p>Organisation has a vision and mission although it's relevance to the outlined proposal is not immediately clear. Type and level of need is described and evidenced with some data, but there are some gaps/questions.</p>	<p>Organisation does not demonstrate grasp the issues it aims to address or is working outside its scope. Type and level of need is not evidenced.</p>