

Community Recovery Bushfire Grants Program - Information Pack

Introduction

The Community Enterprise Foundation™, on behalf of Sandhurst Trustees Limited, established the National Bushfire Disaster Appeal and individual state appeals in response to the devastating bushfires which impacted communities across Australia in 2019/2020.

As we approach the anniversary of these bushfires and with communities still reeling from the additional impact of COVID-19, it's critical that we continue to support impacted communities while recognising that recovery is a marathon rather than a sprint. To aid this recovery process, the Foundation has established the Community Recovery Bushfire Grants Program.

The Foundation's focus is to assist in the continued relief, recovery and reconstruction of communities and people impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires over three key stages: short, medium, and long-term.

Grants Program

The Community Recovery Bushfire Grants Program will seek applications from eligible charitable organisations for funding of projects and programs from bushfire affected communities in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia.

This program will focus on the short term, community led recovery of communities that were impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/2020.

Funding will support the resilience, rebuilding and strengthening of the social fabric within communities, with priority given to community-led activities that promote: -

People

Supporting individual recovery and resilience building

Social

Supporting community connectedness and recovery of organisations

Economic

Supporting community initiatives that assist in the economic restoration of communities

Environmental

Supporting the conservation and re-establishment of the natural environment

Funding available

Applications can be made for grants **up to \$75,000**. Distribution is subject to the needs of fire affected communities.

Key dates

Grant programs open -	16 November 2020
Grant programs close -	11 December 2020
Funding to be distributed to organisations -	From mid-January 2021
Completion of projects -	By end of December 2021

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be a Deductible Gift Recipient Organisation with ITEM 1 status
- Projects that the grant program supports should be completed by the end of 2021
- The grant will only support projects that benefit bushfire impacted communities in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia
- All applications will be required to demonstrate operational and financial stability by providing the most recent profit and loss statement
- A full budget and quotes to support the amount requested are to be provided as part of the application
- Funding to be directed to community led recovery initiatives that support bushfire impacted communities across one or all the four pillars of People, Social, Economic and Environmental
- Funding sources/capacity to leverage resources from elsewhere is beneficial
- Program focus is on assisting bushfire impacted communities to continue their recovery following the Black Summer Bushfires.
- Geographic spread/location is a consideration for the Grants Advisory Committee. Projects must support bushfire Impacted communities that were affected following the 2019/2020 bushfires

Project examples

Short term funding may include:

Access to bushfire support services

- Crisis counselling
- Case management
- Family respite opportunities
- Suicide prevention
- Mental health emergency services
- Youth and children's counselling, helplines, and programs of support
- Mental health support initiatives
- Community and individual resilience planning and training
- Youth programs
- Survivor advocacy programs

Community preparedness initiatives

- Equipment for fire prevention
- Upgrades and supplies to community multipurpose/disaster evacuation facilities

Access to financial and business support services

- Financial counselling
- Rural aid counsellors
- Industry specialists for landholders

Community engagement projects and events

- Community wellbeing dinners
- Networking events
- Men's Sheds

Education workshops

- Bushfire preparedness information sessions

Education programs and initiatives

- Financial counselling and business management support
- Links to other communities and their recovery

Environmental and land management support

- Rehabilitation/replanting of native vegetation
- Fencing of properties and parks.

Tourism recovery support

- Local community events
- Festivals
- Agricultural shows

Exclusions

Grants will not be awarded for:

- Continuing operating costs (e.g. wages and electricity costs, although a once off grant for re-establishment may be eligible)
- Communities not impacted by the 2019/2020 bushfires
- Overseas projects
- Retrospective projects, past events, deficit, or arrears payments
- Sponsorship activities
- Organisations that have private benefits for members
- The funding of sport is not considered charitable under Australian law and cannot be funded in this grants program.
- Illegal activities
- Government responsibilities for project funding
- Political purposes
- Projects that do not (broadly) benefit the community
- Projects or funding without a connection to supporting the recovery of individuals and/or communities affected by the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires

Please note, due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application.

Application process

Applications will open Monday 16 November 2020 and close at 11.59pm AEST on Friday 11 December 2020. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application from mid-January 2021.

Frequently asked questions

How do I apply for a grant?

Applications can be made online directly to the Community Enterprise Foundation. Please ensure that you choose the relevant state-based program appropriate to your organisation and project.

To apply please click the [link](#)

When can I apply?

Applications are open from 11 November 2020 and will close 9 December 2020. Please allow sufficient time to complete your application as late applications may not be accepted.

What organisations are eligible to apply for funding?

The grants program can only fund Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations. If your organisation wishes to apply for a grant but isn't an Item 1 DGR, you will need to establish a relationship with an organisation (project partner) that has this status and work with them to deliver the project. The project partner will receive the funds on behalf of your organisation to be spent on the project. If you require assistance to identify a project partner, please contact the Foundation on 1300 304 541 or email Foundation.Mailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

What are the criteria for assessing applications?

The Community Recovery Bushfire Grants Program can only fund projects that are charitable and demonstrate meeting the needs of the community and their recovery.

All applications for funding must include quotes for your proposed project or program and a copy of your organisations most recent financials (profit and loss statement).

If you have any questions about eligibility to apply for funding, please contact the Foundation on 1300 304 541 or email Foundation.Mailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

How much can I apply for?

Applications can be submitted for projects **up to \$75,000**. Distribution is subject to the needs of fire affected communities.

When does my project need to be completed?

Projects need to be completed by December 2021

How long will it take for my application to be considered?

You will receive a final decision on your application from mid-January 2021 onwards. You may be contacted sooner by the Community Enterprise Foundation if they have any questions about your application.

Will I need to complete a report when my project is finished?

Successful applicants, upon the completion of their project, will need to log back into the Community Enterprise Foundation website and complete a project completion report (project acquittal). Please retain any invoices and photos as you will be required to attach these to your project acquittal.

To apply please click the [link](#)

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the program, including eligibility, project partner support or are having difficulties using the online application portal, please contact the Community Enterprise Foundation on 1300 304 541 or email Foundation.Mailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au