

Key Dates



NOTE - there are two tiers of funding available:

Projects funded up to **\$10,000** in this round must be undertaken between Sept 2026 and October 2027.

Larger leverage digital projects funded up to \$50,000 in this round must be undertaken between Sept 2026 and March 2028.

All applications close 5pm Victorian time (AEST).

About FRRR

FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) supports remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to be vibrant, resilient, empowered and sustainable. We work alongside communities to catalyse locally led solutions, especially in areas facing systemic challenges.

To do this, we connect resources, build enduring local skills and knowledge, and reshape how rural and remote Australia is seen, valued and supported.

Learn more: frrr.org.au.

Program Information

Program Purpose

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small and Vital stream (S&V) gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. There are two tiers of Small & Vital funding available:

Small grants up to **\$10,000** are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000). **The timeframe to deliver these projects is up to 12 months.**

Targeted larger leverage grants up to **\$50,000** are available for projects that focus on strengthening the **digital skills, confidence and safety of adults** enabling them to get online, build social connections, and access services, information, education and employment through training, as well as acquiring the digital and connectivity infrastructure where needed. **The timeframe to deliver these projects is up to 18 months.**

FRRR's S&V program supports thriving, resilient and sustainable remote, rural and regional communities across Australia. In particular, priority will be given to projects that:

- Invest in outback, remote and less-resourced communities;
- Support First Nations-led initiatives that strengthen culture, Country, economic participation and self-determination; and
- Support communities to implement generational transition.

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Types of Projects Supported

Projects funded must align with **one or more** of the following **charitable outcomes**:

- Bringing people and community organisations together to foster stronger, more resilient communities;
- Fostering and celebrating a sense of identity, diversity and cultural connection within the community;
- Supporting diverse groups within remote, rural and regional communities including, but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, those living with disability, and LGBTQIA+;
- Improving community health and social wellbeing;
- Enabling people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence to lead and contribute to the prosperity and renewal of their community;
- Building a sustainable volunteer base and/or supporting the wellbeing of volunteers;
- Celebrating and resourcing volunteer-led efforts;
- Increasing access and inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including remote communities;
- Enhancing places where communities gather;
- Promoting connection to place and enabling initiatives that champion a community's social, cultural or economic aspirations;
- Reducing the divide on access to digital technology and connectivity for remote, rural and regional communities; and
- Enabling locally-led responses within remote, rural and regional communities endeavouring to reduce the impacts of the changing climate within their community.

Funds Available & Priorities

These grants are available thanks to the generous support of the donors listed on the [Strengthening Rural Communities](#) program page.

This round, there are two tiers of funding available: small grants up to \$10,000; and targeted larger leverage grants up to \$50,000. While all requests will be considered, priorities for funding are outlined below:

- Projects that support communities in remote, rural or regional Australia with fewer than 15,000 people;
- Projects initiated and delivered by local community groups and not-for profits; and
- Organisations that do not have DGR status.

Examples of previous projects:

- [Engawala Art Centre to take root](#);
- [Childcare for families in Augusta](#);
- [Raising awareness for mental and physical health in WA](#).

What Can be Funded

A broad range of charitable projects are considered under this program, including:

- Delivering, or providing activities, events, programs and services;
- Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials;
- Community infrastructure projects;
- Activities and resources that will strengthen your organisation (capacity building); and
- Community resource development.



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Additional specific funding is available for:

- Projects to strengthen the digital skills, confidence and safety of adults enabling them to get online, build social connections, and access services, information, education and employment through training, as well as acquiring the digital and connectivity infrastructure where needed;
- Projects benefitting older people in VIC;
- Projects to support education of children and young people in the Mitchell Shire in VIC;
- Environmental sustainability initiatives in grain-growing LGA's in WA, VIC, NSW, QLD and SA; and
- Projects in the Wiluna and Leonora Shires in WA.

What Can't be Funded

There are several areas that we **can't fund** through this program. If in doubt, please contact us.

- Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments.
- Ongoing core organisational operational costs (e.g. rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments).
- The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law.

Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club.

- Overseas travel and overseas projects.
- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards.
- Political lobbying.
- Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader, or private interests.
- Projects solely focused on animal welfare.

Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a **not-for-profit organisation** with either an **Incorporation Certificate and/or an ABN**. If you are unsure if your organisation is a registered not-for-profit (e.g. if you are a Co-operative, Other Unincorporated Entity, Public Company or Trust), please contact FRRR;
- There are three streams of funding available within the Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Program: [Small and Vital](#) (including Larger Leverage), and [Prepare and Recover](#). Organisations may submit their application in **only one** of these streams per SRC grant round, and any other applications in this round will be considered ineligible;
- Project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Not-for-profit organisations with or without DGR-1 endorsement are eligible; and
- Projects must benefit communities in remote, rural or regional Australia.

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
- Application is submitted without required financial information (see below);



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- Final report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
- Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding; or
- Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

How to Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications online via the Blackbaud Grants Portal.

We recommend you download this [sample copy of the application form](#).

[Click here to apply](#).



**BLACKBAUD
Grants Portal**



FRRR

FRRR Contact Details

If at any time you need help with your application, don't hesitate to contact the FRRR office on free call 1800 170 020 or email us at granting@frrr.org.au.

IMPORTANT NOTES RE: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you **MUST** include for your project to be considered. The FRRR website also includes a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that provide valuable information. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible Legal Entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation doesn't have that, FRRR may still fund the project but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the '**legal organisation**' (with your organisation being the **delivery organisation**). This situation often occurs when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch. In this case, the CWA or YMCA would be the legal organisation.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it's the 'legal organisation's' legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role, with a [template available here](#).

FRRR conducts a broad range of due diligence queries when reviewing applications, such as: reviewing current and past incorporation, DGR and ACNC status. If your organisation has happened to have their incorporation status, DGR status or ACNC status changed or ACNC registration revoked or voluntarily withdrawn, please let us know the reasons for this.

Applications from ACNC and/or unincorporated associations are required to submit their organisation's Constitution.

Why is this important?

This program is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial Information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect financial information is currently the most common reason why applications are not able to be considered. You must include the organisation's:

- Annual income (total income in your financial year);
- Annual expenditure (total expenses in your financial year); and
- Current assets (from your audited financials, or bank balance minus any debts).

Please note:

- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required.
- If financial information is more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents.
- Please explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially.

Please contact us if you cannot provide the required financial information or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's financial viability and ability to manage grant funds.

Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funding would be used for and that also shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e. total expenditure must match total income.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Quotes or detailed rationale for items over \$1,000 are required, where possible. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$45 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: <https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/help-sheets/valuing-volunteer-labour>.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how FRRR funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR strongly recommends that you provide supporting materials such as [letters of support](#), [evidence of permission from the property owner](#), community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show broad-community support and partnerships involved in the project. For more information on supporting documentation, [watch this recording](#).

Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally-led and delivered, show good partnerships and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description of exactly **what** the grant funds will be used for, **when** and **where** the project will happen, **who** will benefit and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** funds will be spent and **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated and shared.

Where possible, we encourage you to make it really clear that your organisation is ready and able to deliver the project and, if required, provide ongoing support for the initiative.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing the what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best way to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR SUCCESSFUL GRANTEES

Bank Account

To receive the grant funds, successful grantees (the legal entity) must have a bank account registered under the organisation's name. Without a bank account, the grant funds cannot be disbursed, and the grantee will not receive the funds.

Reporting Requirements

When the project is complete, the grantees will be required to provide a [Project Report](#) on the project's activities, impacts and outcomes, and include a **financial acquittal** of your grant. Project reporting is an opportunity for the organisation to reflect on and celebrate what has been achieved and to share learnings.

Grantees have up to 12 months for Small & Vital projects (grants up to \$10,000) and 18 months for Larger Leverage projects (grants up to \$50,000) to deliver the project. **The online Project Report is due 8 weeks after project completion.**

Organisations with an overdue Project Report are not eligible to apply for further FRRR funding until the report is received. If the Project Report is not received, the applicant organisation may be suspended from applying for any FRRR grant programs until it is supplied.