The Rural Education Australia Program (REAPing Rewards) provides grants of up to $10,000 to not-for-profit community groups, early childhood service providers, and primary and secondary school community support committees, for locally driven projects and programs that directly enhance the educational outcomes for children and students (0-18 years) in remote, rural and regional communities.

Who is eligible to apply to the REAPing Rewards Program?
The program can assist community based not-for-profit organisations and educators to support education in remote, rural and regional communities through the provision of quality, positive educational experiences in the early childhood, primary and secondary years, including:

- Community based Early Childhood Service Providers such as playgroups, kindergartens, preschools, day care / family care centres, toy libraries;
- Primary Schools and Secondary Schools, community based support committees such as Parent & Citizens Committees, after school care programs, and homework Programs;
- Not-for-profit community group projects and activities that directly support education providers and students.

To be eligible, projects must offer a clear public benefit, be for a charitable purpose and clearly address an identified educational need.

- Organisations should have an ABN or be incorporated;
- Applications from communities with a population of 15,000 or less will receive priority;
- Organisations demonstrating community and school partnerships are preferred;
- Projects and activities should have clearly defined educational objectives and timeframes, be community driven, show creativity and innovation, and where possible, include a financial and / or in-kind co-contribution.

What can be funded?
Projects and activities that directly support early childhood, primary and secondary education outcomes for students in remote, rural and regional Australian communities through:

- Reducing the barriers to education in remote, rural and regional communities by supporting effective learning environments and opportunities;
- Fostering a positive attitude to learning in students;
- Enhancing the resources and facilities available to early childhood service providers;
- Building local capacity for community groups and schools to develop or expand programs and activities that enhance learning outcomes and opportunities;
- Encouraging collaborative partnerships between education providers, community, not-for-profit organisations and philanthropy in remote, rural and regional communities;
- Supporting the innovative delivery of quality programs such as school readiness / transitions, student engagement, leadership and retention programs, work readiness, and supporting student resilience and social and emotional health and wellbeing;
- Programs that provide balanced nutritious meals for disadvantaged students, such as breakfast programs or lunch clubs.

Please note the following:

- Travel and accommodation costs may be considered, particularly for applications from remote areas.
- Requests to support teacher training should demonstrate how the training will support direct student engagement, learning & educational outcomes rather than ongoing teacher skill development.
- Support for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) such as Smart Boards, tablets and laptops will be assessed in light of existing infrastructure, curriculum requirements and direct student/teacher benefit. Generally, no more than seven tablets would be supported per application.
What makes a stronger application?
- Projects which clearly articulate an education need (evidence based) and a desired outcome that will enhance educational outcomes;
- Demonstrable partnerships, with defined project plans and evaluation of impact and outcomes;
- Quotes to support the budget where applicable;
- Letters of support from organisations directly involved in the project, clearly stating their contribution towards the project, are highly desirable;
- Financial or in-kind contribution towards the project from the applicant organisation is highly desirable and will be taken into account when assessing applications. Organisations that are unable to contribute either financially or in-kind should clearly articulate why they are unable to do so.

What can’t be funded?
- Programs, buildings or equipment that are considered to be the responsibility of Government;
- Business as usual operational and administration costs;
- Ongoing wages;
- Outdoor learning areas, landscaping, playgrounds and shade structures for Primary and Secondary Schools;
- Conference attendance without a knowledge exchange plan outlining how knowledge will be shared with others;
- Adult education;
- Previous FRRR grant recipients who have not completed final report requirements.

Note: The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities is not considered a charitable activity by the Australian Taxation Office. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate a benefit to the wider community.

How to apply
Applications will be accepted any time by email, through to midnight (AEST) Thursday 24 March 2016. (Please note that the FRRR office closes at 5pm AEST). **Hard copy applications must be clearly postmarked on or before Thursday 24 March 2016.**

Please use the application form and attach:
- **Your most recent financial statement / budget.** For schools, this can be the financial information presented in your most recent Annual Report. Financial documentation is **compulsory.** Applications received without financial documentation will not be considered. If you have any questions regarding the financial documentation required, please contact the Program Manager on 1800 170 020;
- **ABN or Incorporation Certificate** (don’t have a copy? Go to www.abr.business.gov.au);
- **For schools, a print out from the MySchool website** [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au), clearly showing the ICSEA value for the school;
- **Project plan**;
- **Quotes** (if applicable, highly regarded);
- **Letters of support** (if applicable, highly regarded).

Applications MUST be signed by the head of the organisation for the application to be considered.

**Enquire:** you can contact us on free call 1800 170 020 or email [info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au).

**Submit:** your signed application either by email (preferred) or by post.

**Email:** [info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au) before midnight (AEST) Thursday 24 March 2016. **Please ensure that the application has been signed. EMAILED APPLICATIONS AS WORD DOCUMENTS ARE PREFERRED TO PDF FILES.**

**Post:** FRRR REAPing Rewards Program, PO Box 41 Bendigo Vic 3552 postmarked on or before Thursday 24 March 2016.

For more information on applying, grant seeker FAQs and application top tips, see [www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au).