[Small Grants for Rural Communities](#) is a program of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), which is collectively funded through a range of valued partnerships. The 33rd round of the program is generously supported by: The Bertalli Family Foundation, William Buckland Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees), Scenic World Shared, The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation, David Mactaggart Foundation, The R.E. Ross Trust, Kapikarnpi Community Fund, Hannaford, The Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation, Yulgilbar Foundation, The John T Reid Charitable Trusts, and various Friends of FRRR.

What can be funded?

Grants of up to $5,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations in small rural, regional and remote Australian communities to support projects that focus on one of the following activity areas:

1. **Building Community Resilience** *(for example, projects that facilitate community connectedness, develop leadership capacity within the community, improve local community infrastructure and meeting places, support and develop volunteer community groups, and community preparedness to natural disasters).*
2. **Developing Organisational Resilience and Capacity** *(for example, projects that strengthen local not-for-profit organisations' operational infrastructure, upgrading of equipment to improve service delivery, skill development of committees of management, and support for planning and sustainability).*
3. **Enhancing Environmental Sustainability** *(for example, projects that increase awareness of local environmental issues, provide opportunities for local residents to care for the local environment, and projects that work to restore, protect and promote the local natural environment).*
4. **Fostering Cultural Vibrancy** *(for example, projects that celebrate, preserve and promote local culture and identity, creative projects that foster the arts, and support for local artists and the arts community).*
5. **Lifelong Education & Training** *(for example, projects that provide local residents with access to opportunities that enrich their learning and skills development, from cradle to grave).*
6. **Economic Strength** *(for example, projects that create local employment and training with an employment outcome, stimulate new spending within a community or region, events that attract visitors and which can demonstrate an economic benefit as a result, and projects that attract new residents to a community or region and improve economic prosperity).*
7. **Improving Community Health & Social Wellbeing** *(for example, projects which address physical health, improved nutrition and access to fresh food and sustainable local food systems, projects that enhance mental health, and those which assist vulnerable members in communities to improve their health and wellbeing).*

Who is eligible to apply?

- **Not-for-profit community-based organisations** from communities in rural, regional and remote locations in Australia can apply for funds to support **projects and activities that offer clear public benefit** (i.e. are for a charitable purpose) and clearly address a need in the community in one of the areas listed above.
- Projects located in **communities with a population of 10,000 or less will receive priority.**
- **Organisations must have an ABN or Incorporation Certificate.**
- **Organisations and/or projects demonstrating community partnerships are preferred** to multiple applications from one community (please submit only one application per organisation).
- Projects should be undertaken between **July 2018 and June 2019,** as projects cannot be funded retrospectively.
- NOTE: Previous FRRR grant recipients who have not completed final reporting requirements are ineligible.

What can't be funded? (If in doubt, please contact FRRR)

- Regular operational and administration costs will not be funded (e.g. rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments).
- Overseas travel and overseas projects.
- Projects that benefit a single individual, rather than a community.
- Projects that support private / commercial business (excepting social enterprise / local economic development, which are eligible).
- Federal, State and Local Government core business and areas of responsibility.

- 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 benefit to the wider community.
- If your project involves working directly with children / youth under 18 years, your organisation must have policies and procedures around working with children, Working with Children Checks, and the handling of child abuse complaints, or the project may not be funded. See the Community Group Resources section on our website www.frrr.org.au for further information.

What makes a stronger application?

- Community-based and led projects with **strong partnerships**, a **defined project plan** and a **clear evaluation plan that is relevant to the scale and depth of the project** to capture impacts and outcomes of the project.
- **Signed letters of support from organisations directly involved in the project**, clearly stating their contribution towards the project, are highly desirable.
- **Quotes** (where applicable) supporting the funding request are highly regarded and should be provided for items over $500.
- A 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 in the application why they are unable to do so.

Planning your application should include consideration of the following:

1. **Identifying which of the seven activity areas (listed above) your project is focused on.**

2. **The approaches / change mechanism that you will use in your project**
   a) Providing access to services / activities
   b) Developing knowledge, awareness & skills
   c) Building local capacity (helping organisations to deliver effective supports, services, activities)
   d) Investing in equipment / infrastructure to catalyse change

3. **The outcomes that you anticipate your project achieving** (all projects must measure against one or more of the following outcomes):
   a) Stronger community resilience
   b) Greater community participation and engagement
   c) More friendly and inclusive community
   d) Build a creative/culturally vibrant community
   e) Improve financial security and relieve poverty
   f) Innovate or respond to local opportunities
   g) Give children the best start in life
   h) Strengthen the ability to respond to community / individual challenges
   i) (Re)build community identity and sense of pride
   j) Strengthen the local economy
   k) Increase engagement in learning and strengthen educational outcomes
   l) Promote environmental health / sustainability

How to apply

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.

If you have questions about your project, are unable to apply online, or experience any problems in using Grants Gateway, please contact us on free call 1800 170 020 or email info@frrr.org.au.

If you have previously applied using FRRR's Grants Gateway, login using your user account and start a new application.

If you have not previously applied for a grant with FRRR via this system, you need to set up an account to start your first application.

Click on the Apply Now button on the Small Grants Round 33 web page and then follow the link to '*Set up an account'*. You will be prompted to create an online account to access the application form, using an email address and password.

Please use an email address associated with your organisation or group (rather than a personal email address) to create the account. This ensures that any member of your organisation or committee will be able to access the account even if the person managing the application changes. It will also ensure your history is there for future applications, and for reporting.

Once the account has been established, you will be able to start the application, save your progress and finally submit via the online portal, until the program closes at 5pm AEDT on Wednesday 28 March 2018. We recommend that you print a copy of the form (top right of the online application screen), so you can see all the information required and begin drafting your answers and collating the required information.

Tips for using the Grants Gateway: We strongly recommend preparing your application content in a word document and then transferring your final application content to the Grants Gateway form. This will assist in managing versions and will reduce the risk of losing work if an internet connection times out – although continual saving is also recommended. Working offline also makes it easier for multiple people to work on an application before entering your application into Grants Gateway for submission.

To return to your application once started, you will need to use the application link that is automatically generated by the system and emailed to your nominated Grants Gateway user email – you will only be able to access your application by using this link.

We have developed various tools to help you navigate the application process. We strongly suggest you read the How-To Guide and FAQs, and watch our helpful tips on How to Navigate the Activity Tree before you start your application.

What information should be provided with applications?
FRRR considers all eligible applications on their merit. However, we are only able to make a proper assessment of funding requests when we have adequate information about the applicant organisation and the project that funds will support.

The following are important to be aware of and FRRR suggests attending to these early in the preparation of grant applications:

- An up-to-date organisational financial statement that shows the most recent 12 months of activity. This is preferably a profit & loss statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement. At a minimum and only where an applicant doesn't have the above, a current bank statement can be provided.
- A copy of your current ABN or Incorporation Certificate.
- Letters of support and quotes can significantly strengthen your application, as does the inclusion of in-kind support e.g. volunteer hours, and other sources of funding in your project budget. We highly recommend that you include letters of support, in-kind support and quotes with your application.
  Note: we suggest costing unskilled volunteer labour at $25/hr.
- All supporting material MUST be submitted with the application.

If you need assistance with any of the above, please contact our office on 1800 170 020.

How to submit your application
You will need to upload the following with your application before submitting:
- Your most recent financials, per the requirements listed above;
- Quotes for items to be purchased (over $500) or outsourced; and
- Letters of support from those partnering in, or directly benefiting from the project.

Once you have reviewed and completed your Grants Gateway application and uploaded the relevant documentation, click the **'Submit' button at the bottom of the 'Review My Application' tab page**.

FRRR recommends you save a copy of the application for your records, although a copy will be emailed to you.

If you have questions about your project, are unable to apply online, or experience any problems in using Grants Gateway, please contact us: Free call 1800 170 020 or email info@frrr.org.au.

Applications will be accepted any time, through to **5pm AEDT Wednesday 28 March 2018.**