Strengthening Rural Communities – Round 7
Program Guidelines

FRRR
Foundation for Rural
& Regional Renewal

Key Dates

| Opens **26 August 2020** | → | Closes **24 November 2020** | → | Grants Announced **by mid-March 2021** |

Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between March 2021 and May 2022

About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) is focused on increasing equity of opportunity in rural, regional, and remote Australia. We focus on improving outcomes in the areas of **people, place,** & **disaster resilience and climate solutions,** in the belief that targeted philanthropic investment and collaboration will build more vibrant, sustainable, and adaptive rural, regional, and remote communities - and a more equitable and prosperous Australia as a whole.

FRRR believes:

- in the power of people to drive prosperity;
- that local solutions are central to achieving equal access to opportunities across regional, remote and rural Australia; and
- that rural, regional and remote communities have the knowledge to best respond to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Program Information

Program Purpose

The Strengthening Rural Communities program gives small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds that can benefit and help secure their future success. Grants are available for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.

Outcomes 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;
- 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;
- Increasing capacity and capability of local community organisations to support preparedness and recovery from natural disasters;
- Enabling locally-led responses within rural, regional, regional and remote communities endeavouring to reduce the impacts of the changing climate within their community.

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Funds Available & Priorities

Thanks to the generous support of the donors listed on the Strengthening Rural Communities program page, **SRC Round 7 has $490,000** available through the **Small & Vital Stream** and a further **$650,000 available** in the **Bushfire Recovery Stream**. While all requests will be considered, our priorities for funding are outlined below.

Small & Vital Stream
Requests up to $10,000

- Communities with fewer than 15,000 people;
- Communities outside major cities are eligible;
- Projects initiated and delivered by local community groups and not-for-profits;
- Organisations that do not have DGR status.

Examples of previous projects:

- ✓ Barista training for youth and disabled peoples in Pemberton
- ✓ Looking forward, looking back: QRRRWN's history project
- ✓ National Remote Indigenous Media Festival gets mobile

Bushfire Recovery Stream
Requests up to $25,000

- Projects that support the recovery of rural, regional or remote communities affected by the Sept 2019-Feb 2020 bushfires;
- Projects initiated and delivered by local community groups;
- Organisations that do not have DGR status.

Examples of previous projects:

- ✓ Community wellbeing retreats aid recovery
- ✓ Helping little kids with their big feelings
- ✓ Online volunteering portal for Kinglake
- ✓ Training for the future
- ✓ Managing bushfire risk

Projects You Can Apply For

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;
- Organisational capacity building;
- Community resource development.

Projects We Can't Fund

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 or private interests;
- Projects solely focused on animal welfare.

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Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a not-for-profit, community-based organisation **with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate;**
- Project must offer clear public benefit (i.e. has a charitable purpose);
- Organisations with or without DGR endorsement are eligible;
- Organisations can submit one application per grant round;
- For Bushfire Recovery Stream, applicants must be in a declared fire-affected area;
- Applicants must be in a rural, regional or remote area (defined as outside 'Major Cities of Australia/ Code RA1' of the 2016 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)).

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if the:

- Application is submitted by individuals, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity, without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation number;
- Application is submitted without required financial documentation (see below);
- 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;
- 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 via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.

We recommend you download this printable copy of the application form.

Click here to apply.

Contact Us

If you have questions about the Strengthening Rural Communities program, your project, or are unable to apply online or experience any problems in using Grants Gateway, please contact us on 1800 170 020 or email info@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. 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 could still fund the project (with your organisation as the **delivery organisation**) but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the **'legal organisation'**.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it's the overarching 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.

This situation often occurs often when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch.

Why is this important?

The Strengthening Rural Communities program is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation number, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation number 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 information on financials is currently the most frequent reason why applications are not considered.

➢ For organisations that have **audited financials:** Attach the most recent annual audited statements;

➢ For organisations that **do not have audited financials:** Attach the most recent 12 months Income and Expenditure Statement. If you have a Balance Sheet, please also submit;

➢ For organisations **less than one year old:** Provide Bank Statements for the period you have been operating.

Please note:

- If financial documents are more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents;

- Bank Statements are **only** acceptable as financial documentation if your organisation has been operating for less than one year;

- Explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially;

- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required;

- Income and Expenditure statements must cover a full 12-month period.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financials or you are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

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

Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funds will be used for and 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 $41.00 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/help/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, community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show the wider community support and partnerships involved in the project.

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, also indicate that your community is ready to deliver the project and if required, can support the initiative ongoing - i.e. awareness of need is widespread, appropriate leadership, resources, skills and knowledge exist in the community.

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 formula 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.

If you have questions at any time, contact FRRR on 1800 170 020 or email info@frrr.org.au.
You may also find it helpful to review these Tips for Successful Projects: https://www.frrr.org.au/SuccessTips.