

Frequently Asked Questions

National Grants Manager – Village Hubs Grant Fund

What is a Village Hub?

A Village Hub is a community-led initiative for senior Australians aged 55 years or over and Indigenous Australians aged 50 years and older, that may be struggling to maintain their health and wellbeing, are socially isolated and/or experiencing loneliness in their community. A Village Hub will develop and offer specific activities that are relevant to its members with the aim to offer opportunities for social connection and increasing wellbeing. A Village Hub initiative can take place anywhere in Australia; the process to decide where/in which communities hubs will be developed is being conducted by ILA and will undergo an approval process by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Who can apply for a Village Hub grant?

Grant Manager, Independent Living [Assessment](#) (ILA) is undergoing a process of identifying the Australian communities which could benefit from the establishment of a Village Hub. The list of priority communities will be subject to DSS approval. Approved DSS communities will be contacted and invited to submit a formal grant application. Existing Village Hubs are not eligible to apply.

Will organisations be invited to apply for a grant, or will it be an open process?

ILA will be adopting a direct select/restrictive competitive process.

Who is eligible for a grant?

ILA is developing eligibility criteria which will reflect DSS' requirements. Eligibility criteria will form part of application guidelines, which are currently under development. Only the DSS approved list of shortlisted priority communities will be invited to submit a grant application for the Village Hubs national grant.

What is the expected duration of the Village Hub grant?

Each applicant will be required to provide a budget with their application that extends for the full grant period, which ends on 30 June 2024.

What is the expected geographical area of service for a Village Hub project?

Once the mix of priority communities and potential Village Hub providers in each community is agreed by DSS, a direct select/restricted competitive grants selection process will be implemented by ILA.

Can likeminded organisations partner in the delivery a Village Hub project?

Yes. Consortia model is accepted as long as eligibility requirements are met. A lead agency will need to be appointed by the consortia to submit the application. More information on this will be included in the guidelines ILA is preparing. Guidelines will be shared with all the DSS approved organisations who are invited to apply for a Village Hub grant.

How much funding is available?

The program envisions at least 10 Village Hubs will be established around Australia, which will share the available funding. There is no expectation around the minimum and maximum value of the Village Hubs grant, provided at least 10 new Village Hubs are established. The amount of funding required by each organisation to establish a Village Hub will vary, depending on their readiness to establish a Village Hub. The amount of funding received by each Village Hub will be determined and agreed to in a formal funding agreement.

Can the grant funding be used to purchase land or a building?

No, the grant funding cannot be put towards the purchase of land or a building for use as a Village Hub. The grant terms, conditions and guidelines for application are being developed and will be shared with the priority communities that have been approved by DSS.

Are there any other items that would not be eligible for funding under a Village Hub grant?

If you are one of the selected priority communities/organisations to progress to a formal grant application process, you will not be able to use the grant for the following activities:

- Purchase of land.
- Wages that are not directly attributed to the provision of the grant program.
- Major capital expenditure.
- The covering of retrospective costs.
- Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation.
- Subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- Major construction/capital works.
- Overseas travel for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.
- For other purposes other than as detailed in the grant agreement.

The grant money cannot be used if a grant recipient has received funding from another government source for the same purpose. Detailed guidelines (including eligibility criteria) will be shared with the selected priority communities/organisations.

If I am one of the organisations/communities invited to respond to a Village Hub survey (and I do submit a response to the survey by COB 22 April 2021), what is the expected timeframe of activities for the selection of the Village Hubs?

The survey aims to determine interest, readiness, and capacity within your community to establish and maintain a Village Hub. Survey submissions aligned with the Fund goals and requirements will be invited to participate in a grant application process to become one of ten communities around Australia to receive Fund support to set up a Village Hub. The selection process will then commence and at least 10 Village Hubs will be selected. Grants will be awarded by 30 June 2021.

Is a Local Government (LG) eligible for a grant to establish and operate a new Village Hub project?

If a LG has been established under one of the following laws Local Government Acts, they will be eligible for a grant to establish and operate a new Village Hub project:

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)
- Local Government Act 1995 (WA)
- Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)
- Local Government Act 1999 (SA)
- Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
- Local Government Act 2009 (NT).

Why can't existing Village Hubs apply for the Village Hubs National Grant funding?

The Village Hubs Grants Fund is for the establishment and operation of new Village Hubs. It must not be used to fund existing Village Hubs.

Can a Village Hub support people who are living in residential aged care?

Support to older Australians living in residential aged care is out of scope for the Village Hubs activity.

What if I'm not eligible, will there be more opportunities for funding?

While you may not be eligible for the Village Hubs Grants Fund, upcoming grant rounds will be published on the Community Grants Hub at www.communitygrants.gov.au and GrantConnect.

If you are interested in receiving notifications of upcoming grants and opportunities for funding, you may subscribe to receive email alerts via the above websites.

What if existing communities/organisations submitting an EOI and those invited to respond to a Village Hub survey are already receiving funding from a Local Area Government, will they be excluded?

As long as funding received is not used to achieve the same purpose as Village Hubs funding goals, but rather can augment or supplement it, then it is acceptable. The Village Hubs funding goals are specifically aimed at alleviating loneliness and social isolation experienced by older Australians to support their mental health, targeting people aged 55 years and over (or Indigenous Australians aged 50 or over) living in their community, then it is acceptable.

Are there any existing Village Hubs in Australia?

Yes, existing Village Hubs and links to their website include:

- [Connect Victoria Park Incorporated](#) - Victoria Park, WA
- [Darling Range Seniors Hub Inc](#) - Darling Range, WA
- [Waverton Hub Inc](#) – Waverton, NSW

Do I need to follow and copy the model developed and adopted by existing Village Hubs for my proposed Village Hub?

If your organisation/community has been invited to respond to the Village Hub survey (and if shortlisted for invitation to apply for a Village Hub grant), you would be expected to describe how your newly established Village Hub would operate in your grant application.

There isn't a set definition for this model, but the Village Hub must meet the core requirements of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines which include:

“The aim of the Village Hubs Activity is to alleviate loneliness and social isolation experienced by older Australians to support their mental health, targeting people aged 55 years and over (or Indigenous Australians aged 50 or over) living in their community (support to older Australians living in residential aged care is out of scope for the Village Hubs Activity)”.

Furthermore, Village Hubs provide members, typically older Australians, an informal peer support network to help them age well in their community for as long as possible. The Village Hubs Activity model would need to operationalise the World Health Organisation's definition of active ageing by allowing people to realise their potential for physical, social, and mental wellbeing. They provide a diverse range of member-led social activities such as:

- physical: walking groups, excursions, and fitness classes (for example, yoga)
- social: trivia, fundraising events, morning teas, lunches, and dinner events
- learning: guest speaker programs, digital skills mentoring
- arts and cultural: art classes, book club, choir.

The existing Village Hubs models offer good learnings and reflect an evidence-based approach to developing a community-led initiative, targeted at older people, that reflect the place and diversity of needs of a given community.

The existing hubs have been set up and developed largely based on the [American model](#) (a movement that started in 2002 with the Beacon Hill Village in Boston).

What happens if I'm shortlisted, submit a grant application, and not successful at receiving a Village Hub grant fund?

While you may be unsuccessful with your application, upcoming grant rounds will be published on the Community Grants Hub at www.communitygrants.gov.au and GrantConnect at <http://www.grants.gov.au>. If interested, you can subscribe to receive notifications of upcoming grants and opportunities for funding via these websites.