



● Child Youth and Family Services Program and Mental Health Child, Youth and Families Stream

Joint information session
21 July 2026



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Welcome and Introductions

Wendy Kipling – Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Huyen Truong – Community Relations and Funding Support

Heidi Bell – Grants Hub

What are we covering today?

3 grant streams

- Funding for preventative early support services for children, young people and families
- Funding for targeted support services for children, young people and families
- Funding for Mental Health Child, Youth and Families Stream

Why are these 3 streams being considered together?

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Commissioning Goals:

- **Better respond to community need**, both existing and emerging, through increased flexibility and opportunities for innovation.
- **Improve integration across the service systems** to support seamless and holistic care, and transitions between services.
- Reduce pressure on our hospitals and other crisis services, such as homelessness or statutory services for children, young people, and families, by **prioritising prevention and early support**.
- Improve equity in health and life outcomes for priority population groups, through commissioning decisions made about where and how to focus support.
- **Improve sector sustainability** through closer partnerships and better understanding the needs of our service delivery partners.

During both commissioning processes we heard the need for greater integration between these parts of the service system.

A joint approach meets the goals of Commissioning.

Coordinated decision making enables consideration of the service ecosystem we are seeking to build.

What is the CYFSP?

Delivers a range of non-statutory **child and youth centred and family focused** services and supports that meet the needs of children, young people, and families who are **vulnerable** in the ACT.

All CYFSP services are delivered by Community Organisations in **partnership** with the ACT Government.

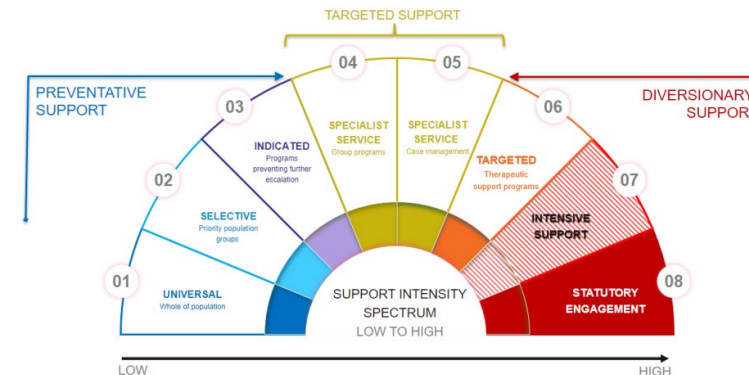
This currently includes **23 organisations** funded approximately **\$16 million** annually.

Current CYFSP Streams

- Case Management
- Groups Programs
- Parenting Program
- Youth Engagement
- Playgroups
- Integrated Service Model
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Service
- Intensive Intervention
- Young Men Mentoring and Counselling
- Network Coordination
- Peak Funding
- Therapeutic Services
- Young Carers and their families
- Workforce Development and Training
- Young Men Mentoring and Counselling

Future CYFSP Streams

- System Support
- **Preventative Early Support (this grant)**
- **Targeted Support (this grant)**
- Intensive and Therapeutic Services
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – Integrated Support
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) – Integrated Support



The Future CYFSP – Funding Streams

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Phase 1: (completed in July 2026)

1. System Support

Phase 2: (We are here)

2. Preventative Early Support
3. Targeted Support

Still to come

4. Intensive and Therapeutic Services
5. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) – Integrated Support
6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – Integrated Support

The Future CYFSP – Learn more

The CYFSP Commissioning Website includes all documents produced during the CYFSP Commissioning Engagement Process including:

- The **Strategic Implementation Plan**
- Engagement Activities **Listening Reports**
- The **Combined Insights Report**
- The initial **CYFSP Discovery Document**

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/commissioning/sectors-in-progress/child,-youth-and-family-services-program>

CYFSP Preventative Early Support

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Purpose

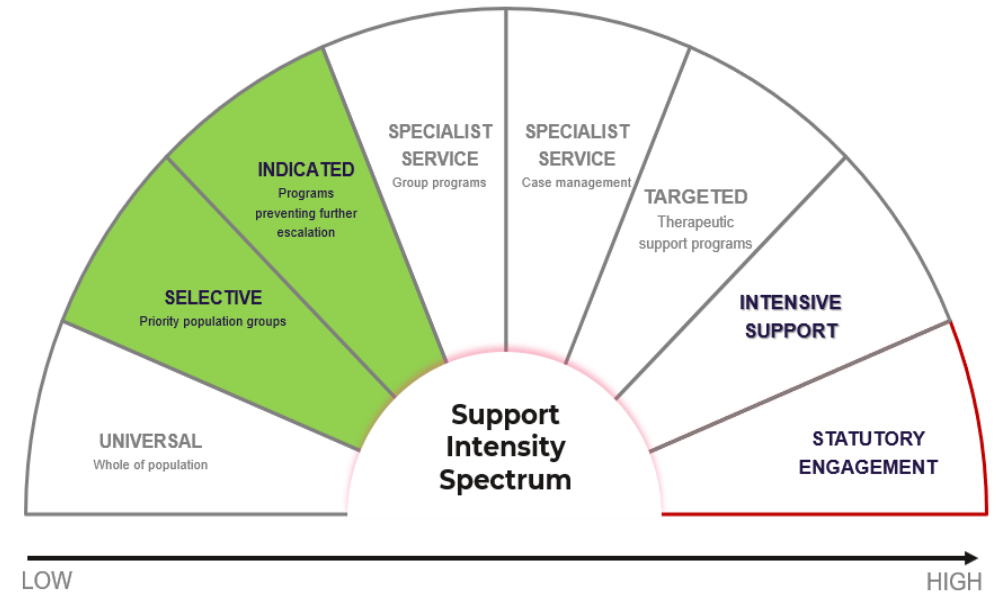
- provide early, low-intensity support
- identify needs early and respond proactively
- build skills, resilience and protective factors
- support children and families to engage with universal services

Funding

- **\$746,836** (GST exclusive) annually

Duration

- Funding will be provided over an initial 4-year period, with two extension options (3 + 3 years), up to a total **of 10 years**



CYFSP Targeted Support

Purpose

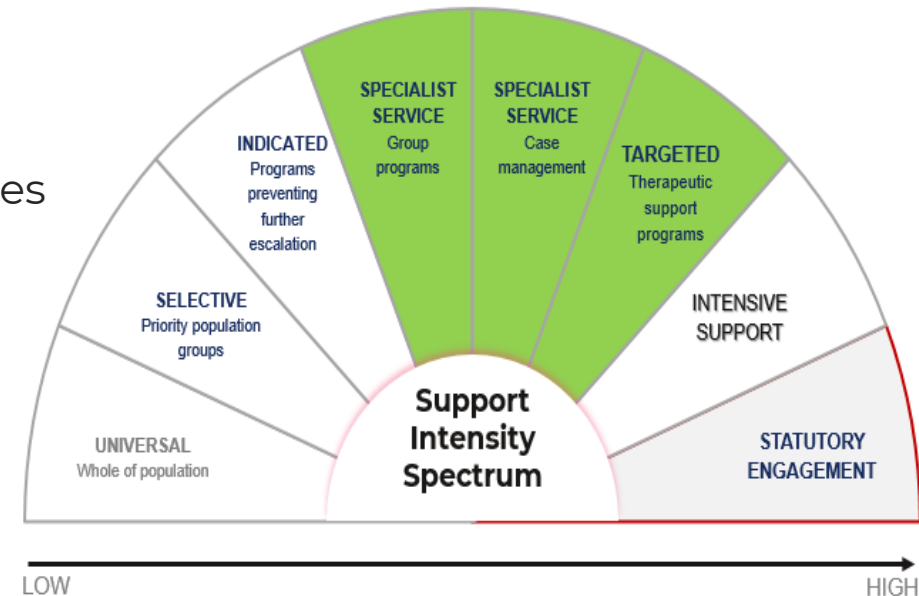
- provide structured and coordinated support
- respond to more complex or emerging needs
- support engagement with education, health and community services
- address gaps between early support and more intensive systems.

Funding

- **\$7.01 million** (GST exclusive) annually

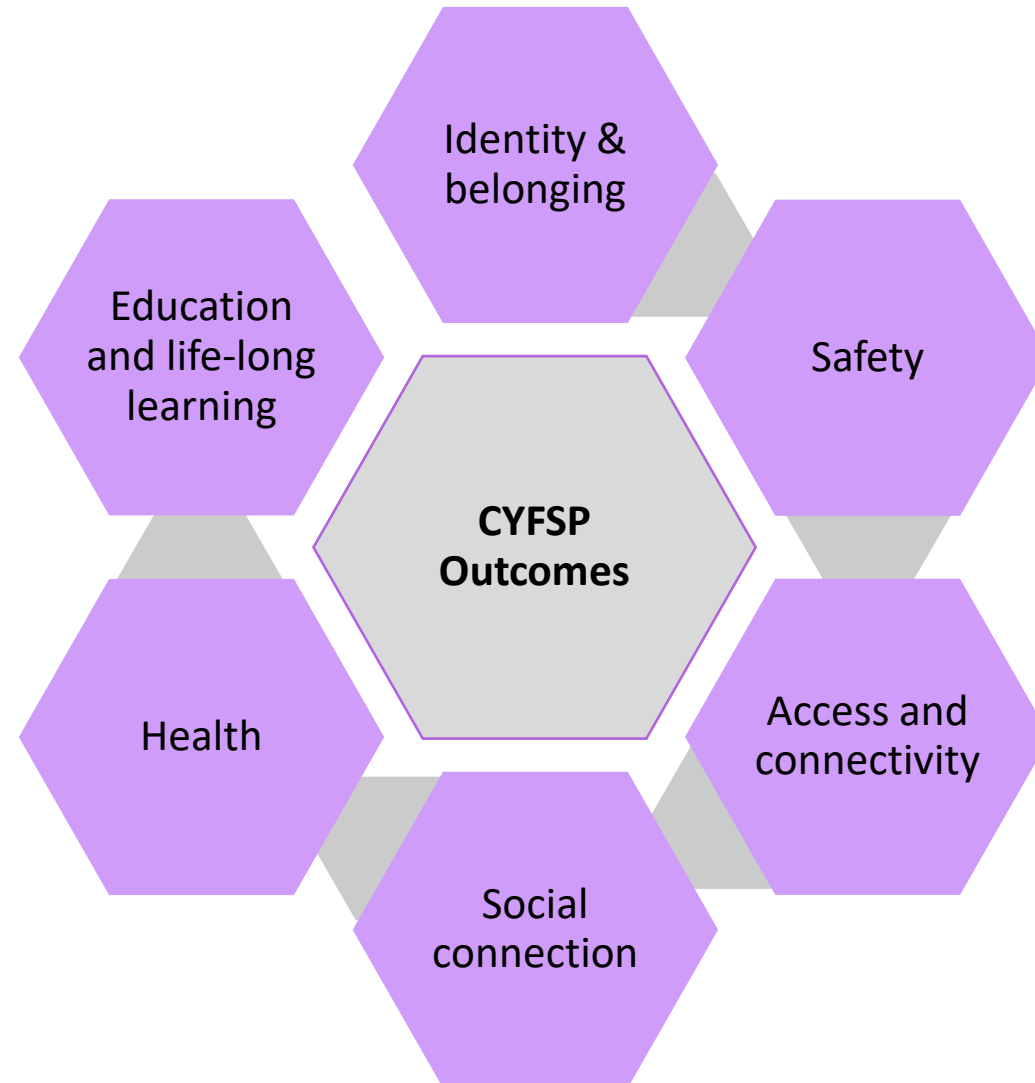
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- Funding will be provided over an initial 4-year period, with two extension options (3 + 3 years), up to a total **of 10 years**

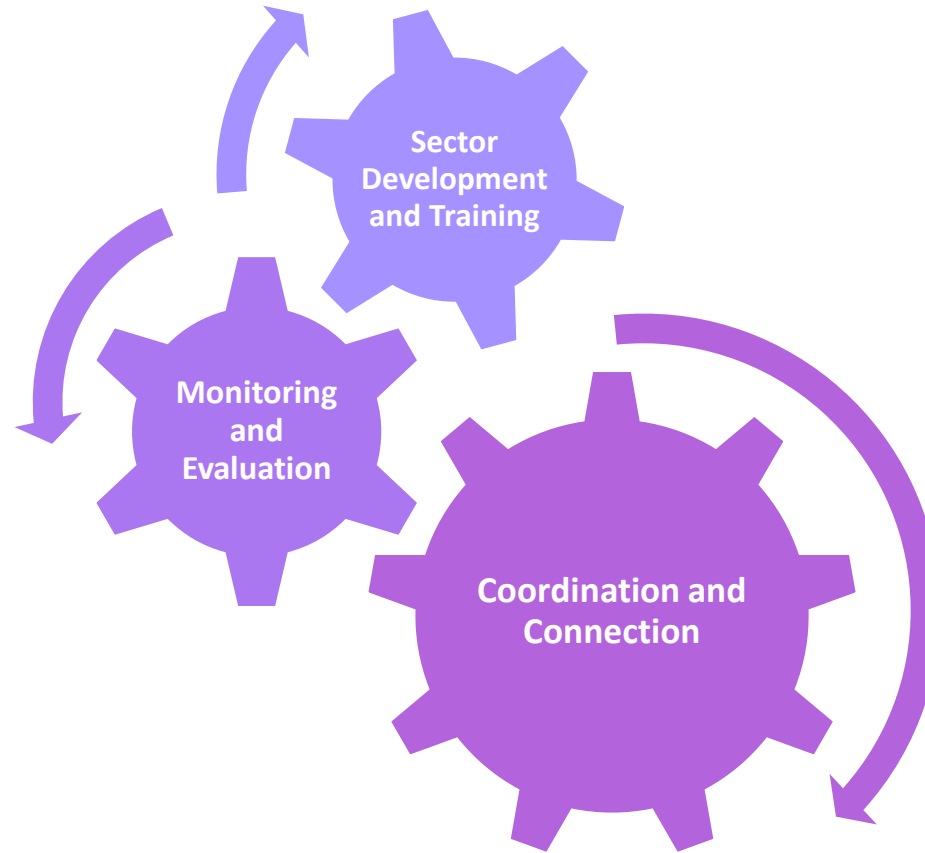


CYFSP Outcomes

The CYFSP sector aims to deliver a flexible services that know when, where, and how to provide support to children, young people, and families that collaboratively builds their strength and wellbeing as early as possible when they face challenge.



CYFSP System Support Service



Mental Health Funding Streams and Grant Tranches

The Commissioning process includes five funding streams split across three different tranches of Grant Processes.

A solid blue circle representing Tranche 1.

Tranche 1 (complete)

Individual Advocacy

Residential Community
Supports

A solid dark blue circle representing Tranche 2.

Tranche 2 (contracts in place 1 July 2027)

Child, Youth and Families

A solid light blue circle representing Tranche 3.

Tranche 3 (contracts in place 1 July 2027)

Adults and Older People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Social and
Emotional Wellbeing

See the [Strategic Investment Plan](#) for more information on Mental Health Commissioning.

Mental Health Child, Youth and Families Grant



Tranche 2

Child, Youth and Families

- Focuses on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of **children (0 to 12), young people (12 to 25)** and **families**.
- Total available funding is approximately **\$2.7 million** (GST exclusive) annually and is subject to Community Sector Indexation.
- Funding is expected to support a **range of services** that support the mental health and wellbeing of children, youth and families across the ACT.
- Grants will be provided for an initial **5-year period** with the option to extend for up to **2 additional years**.

Service Priorities

Priority will be given to services that:

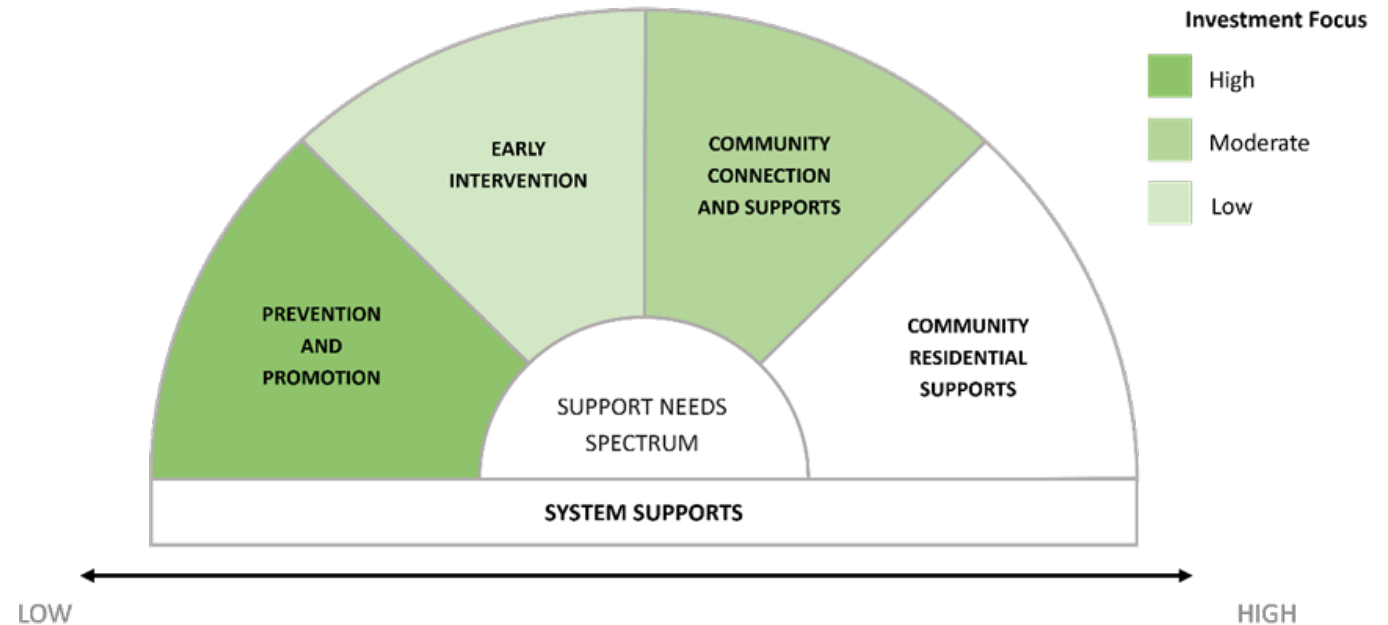
- Support individuals and families in the **perinatal period**
- Meet the needs of specific groups such as **LGBTIQA+**, **culturally and linguistically diverse communities**, and **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**
- Support **disengaged** or **at-risk young people**, including at key transition points across age groups
- Deliver services within **educational settings**, as well as through **out-of-school-hours** and **outreach models**
- Recognise and support **carers and families** of people experiencing mental ill-health.

Investment Focus

This grant seeks applications for programs with a focus on, in order:

- Prevention and Promotion
- Community Connection and Supports
- Early Intervention

This investment focus was informed by mapping of services available in the [Overview of Child, Youth and Family Mental Health Services in the ACT](#)



Personal Domain Outcomes

The Commissioning Framework

Applicants must demonstrate how they contribute to **one or more** Personal Domain Outcomes.

Domain		Outcome
Personal	1.	People experience environments that promote wellbeing.
Personal	2.	People are supported in seeking help, and self-management of emerging mental health needs.
Personal	3.	People’s mental health and wellbeing is supported in all aspects of their lives.

Service Domain Outcomes

The Commissioning Framework

Applicants must demonstrate how they contribute to **all** Service Domain Outcomes.

Domain		Outcome
Service	1.	Services are accessible and culturally responsive (right care, right place, right time).
Service	2.	Services are delivered holistically, are safe, inclusive, trauma-informed and compliant with human rights.
Service	3.	Services are collaborative, cohesive and address the full spectrum of a person’s needs by coordinating across the sector.
Service	4.	Services ensure people, carers and families are able to understand and move through the mental health system.
Service	5.	Services ensure people with lived experience are central to service design, delivery and evaluation.
Service	6.	Services are evidence informed with a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Further Information



The Mental Health Commissioning Webpage includes all resources developed in the design and invest phases, including:

- **The [Strategic Investment Plan](#)**
- **The [Mental Health Commissioning Framework](#)**
- **The [Program Logics Guide](#) and [Template](#)**
- **An [Overview of Child, Youth and Family Mental Health Services in the ACT](#)**

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/commissioning/sectors-in-progress/mental-health>

SmartyGrants landing pages

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[Current Rounds](#)

CYFSP Targeted Support Grants



Start a submission



Preview the form



Download preview form

Submissions are now being accepted. Submissions close at 3:00pm 25 August 2026 (AEST).

IMPORTANT: Please read the information below to assist you in completing your submission.

Before you begin

Welcome to the **CYFSP Targeted Support** online grant application service, powered by SmartyGrants. If this is the first time you are applying using SmartyGrants, click 'Start a Submission', then 'Register here'.

You may begin anywhere in this application form. Please ensure you save as you go.

For queries about the guidelines, deadlines, or questions in the form, please contact us via email to HCSDGrants@act.gov.au and quote your submission number.

Click here to view the [guidelines](#).

<https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/CYFSPTS>



SmartyGrants landing pages

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Mental Health Child, Youth and Families



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Click here [Grant Guidelines](#) to view the guidelines and click here [Privacy Policy](#) to view our Privacy Policy.

<https://acthealth.smartygrants.com.au/MHCYF2026>

SmartyGrants landing pages

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[Current Rounds](#)

CYFSP Preventative Early Support Grants



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<https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/CYFSPPEs>



Eligibility

All 3 streams have the same eligibility criteria.

To be eligible, the Applicant must:

- **Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or an Australian Company Number (ACN)**
- **Be registered for Good and Services Tax (GST)**
- **Have an account with an Australian financial institution**
- **Be financially viable to deliver the proposed service over the term of the grant**

Eligibility continued

All 3 streams have the same eligibility criteria.

Eligible entity types:

- **An incorporated organisation in Australia**
- **A company limited by guarantee**
- **An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust**
- **Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission**
- **A joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation that would otherwise meet the above criteria**

Eligibility

- **The following Applicants are not eligible to apply**
 - **Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies or bodies**
 - **Individuals**
 - **Unincorporated associations**
 - **For-profit entities**
 - **Overseas organisations**

Evaluation Criteria – Mandatory Assessment Criteria

- **The same across the 3 streams:**

Ref	Criteria
MC1	Board or similar governance structure to oversee functions
MC2	Continuous quality improvement
MC3	Cultural competency for staff working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
MC4	Information security and data management
MC5	Risk management
MC6	Insurance
MC7	Appropriate accreditations, qualifications and certifications
MC8	Financial viability and statements
MC9	Compliance with relevant legislation, regulation and policy
MC10	Agreement with service requirements and draft Deed of Grant
MC11	Risks or issues that may impact service delivery
MC12	(Consortium only) Letters of commitment from all partners

Evaluation Criteria – Weighted Criteria

- **These criteria differ between the streams – please check the guidelines and application forms carefully.**
- **They can be answered in the application form through text boxes and uploaded documents.**
- **They be assessed before the non-weighted criteria.**

Program Logics – weighted criteria 1b

- Applicants must provide a program logic that clearly articulates how the proposed service/program contributes to the Outcomes.
- Mental Health Commissioning Webpage link [here](#)
- CYFSP program logic link [here](#)

Evaluation Criteria – Non-Weighted Criteria

Mental Health Child, Youth and Families

Ref	Criteria
NW1	Measurement and Reporting
NW2	Risks and Challenges
NW3	Budget
NW4	Funding Sources
NW5	Referees

CYFSP Targeted and Preventative Early Support

Ref	Criteria
NW1	Measurement and Reporting
NW2	Budget
NW3	Funding Sources
NW4	Referees

If you are applying across all 3 streams, this should be outlined in the budget and pricing schedule and the funding sources sections.

Pricing and Budget

- **There is a template within the application form for you to complete.**
- **Practical resources to assist you can be found here – Costing and pricing resources for human services - ACT Government Transparency Portal**

Indicative Timeframes

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Grant round opens	14 July 2026
Sector briefing	Today – 21 July
Grant round closes	3pm Tuesday 25 August
Assessment of applications	August to November 2026
Delegate approval	December 2026
Notification of outcomes	December 2026
Contract negotiations	December 2026 & January 2027 (Mental Health through to February 2027)
CYFSP - Transition out period (existing providers)	January to June 2027
Mental Health - Transition out period (existing providers)	30 March to 30 June 2027
Earliest start date of service	1 July 2027

Thank you.

Any questions?

Email HCSGrants@act.gov.au