Mental Health Adults and Older People Grants – Questions and Answers

This document will capture the questions or queries related to the grant opportunity and subsequent responses/clarification during the time the grants are open

Due to probity constraints, HCSD is required to make grant-related information transparently available to all sector partners. If you cannot find the answer to your question here, please email us at HCSDGrants@act.gov.au

Questions & Answers

Where proposals combine multiple complementary service components, how will HCSD assess the value of integrated approaches compared with stand-alone service models?

Applications will be assessed based on the weighted criteria outlined in the Grant Requirements.

In assessing applications under Community Connection and Supports, what weighting will be placed on assisting people to improve daily functioning, social connection and independence compared with provision of clinical or therapeutic interventions?

All applications will be assessed based on the same weighted criteria outlined in the Grant Requirements.

Could HCSD provide further guidance on what constitutes a strong response to Service Outcome 4, particularly in relation to supporting people, carers and families to understand and move through the mental health system?

The Outcomes are described in more detail in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

When considering duplication of existing services, is HCSD primarily interested in avoiding duplication of activities, or avoiding duplication of outcomes and participant groups?

Duplication will primarily be considered across activities; however, all elements will be assessed for duplication.

How important is continuity of support and relationship-based practice for participants with complex and ongoing mental health needs?

The importance of these practices is described in the Outcomes in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

For people with complex and ongoing mental health needs, would HCSD expect successful proposals to demonstrate structured partnerships and referral pathways across housing, primary care, alcohol and other drug services, justice services and community supports?

The Mental Health Commissioning Framework includes outcomes for services to provide holistic supports to help address the full spectrum of a person's needs.

Does HCSD view care coordination and service navigation as distinct service functions, or as capabilities that should be embedded across all funded service models?

Care coordination and service navigation can be both specific services and functions embedded across different service models.

Would HCSD view a proposal more favourably if it demonstrates how it strengthens the broader Canberra mental health system, in addition to delivering direct participant outcomes?

The Outcomes described in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework include outcomes focused on participant outcomes and broader service and system outcomes.

What is the split of funding to each investment focus?

There is $3.5 million available annually for this grant. The funding has not specifically been divided by investment focus.

What is the total funding for this grant stream?

$3.5 million per year is available in this stream.

Will small residential offerings be considered?

Please see the grant requirements to see if there are any restrictions on service offerings.

Is the Funding for the extra 2 years included in the $3.5m?

The funding is $3.5 annually for the term of the grant. This is available for the initial term of the grants and will also be available for any of the optional 2-year extensions.

Are there restrictions on the number of applications submitted by an organisation?

No, there are no restrictions. You can submit more than one application.

How much is being allocated to prevention and promotion programs?

There is $3.5 million available annually in this grant stream. No specific amount has been assigned to prevention and promotion programs.

Noting the total funding is $3.5m, how much does each applicant typically get?

It is up to each applicant to determine how much it costs to deliver the service. Government does not determine the funding required.

Is there guidance provided on overhead percentages that may be applied?

Please see the counting the costs guidance tools.

Does MC7 require every applicant to hold an organisation-level service accreditation at the time of application, or only where a particular accreditation is applicable to the proposed model?

As outlined in Section 4.5 of the Grant Requirements, organisations will need to comply with the relevant legislation, regulation and policies. Accreditation should only be held by an organisation where it is relevant to the proposed model.

Are the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations mandatory for all services funded through this grant, or are they one example of an appropriate accreditation standard?

The wording in the grant guidelines are examples of relevant accreditation standards.

Organisations must determine the accreditation requirements that are appropriate and applicable for the specific program proposed.

If those Standards are considered applicable, can an applicant that is not currently accredited remain eligible by committing to an agreed accreditation pathway during transition-in or before service commencement? If so, what evidence and timeframe would be expected?

It is not expected that Organisations will have these Standards in place at the time of application, particularly if you are not currently providing a mental health service. If an organisation is identified as a preferred provider, it is then expected that you will work towards being compliant with the necessary standards by the time that you begin operation.

Organisations must determine the accreditation requirements that are appropriate and applicable for the specific program proposed.

Where an organisation holds accreditation or certification under another service-quality framework, how will HCSD determine whether that accreditation is relevant or equivalent?

As outlined in section 4.5, organisations will need to comply with the relevant legislation, regulation and policies.

Are individual professional qualifications, registrations, accreditations, WWVP registrations and role-specific certifications assessed separately from organisation-level accreditation?

Organisations must determine the qualifications or role-specific requirements that best suit the proposed service, which will be assessed separately to the requirements outlined in MC7.

If an organisation applies for two components within a single application, is it possible for one component to be approved for funding while the other is not? Alternatively, would you recommend submitting two separate applications if we are seeking funding for two different components?

Yes, it is possible for one or more components of a proposed program in one submission to be funded.

I would also appreciate clarification regarding eligibility for participants with an NDIS plan. Are people who have an NDIS plan eligible to access this service if the specific support they are accessing is not funded within their NDIS plan?

Organisations must determine the eligibility requirements for their programs in line with the Grant Requirements.

When reviewing the eligibility requirements, I noted that applicants must be an "incorporated organisation in Australia". However, I also noted that "for-profit entities" are listed as ineligible in the Grant Requirements. Shift&Co is an incorporated organisation in Australia, with an ABN and ACN, and is registered for GST, but we are a for-profit organisation and are not a registered not-for-profit or charity. Could you please confirm whether Shift&Co would be eligible to apply as the lead applicant for this grant?

We are unable to advise on applicants' specific eligibility. All eligibility criteria for applicants are outlined in the requirements and application forms. Applicants who are not registered as not-for-profit or charitable organisations are not eligible for these grants.

If a for-profit incorporated organisation is not eligible to apply independently, could you also please clarify whether we would be able to participate as a consortium partner with an eligible not-for-profit organisation, and whether there are any specific requirements around the role or proportion of funding that could be allocated to a consortium partner?

All member organisations of any consortium must be an eligible organisation as outlined in the grant guidelines.

Can you please confirm the requirements for SLJ qualification?

While we encourage organisations to maintain the Secure Local Jobs Code as good practice and it is mandatory for procurements, it is not a mandatory requirement for this grant.

Can you please review our approach and provide feedback?

To ensure fairness and transparency during the open grant round, we are unable to review applications or determine eligibility for your program. All information about the grant is made publicly available. We have hosted a briefing session, which was recorded and shared for everyone to access. If you have questions, please submit them via HCSDGrants@act.gov.au. Answers will be published so that all applicants have equal access to the same information.

Is there any funding available for transition activities that occur prior to 1 July 2026?

No, services will be funded from 1 July 2027.

Is there an expectation that consumers will be transitioned to the new provider before 1 July 2026?

No, services are expected to be operational by 1 July 2027. Any services that are transitioning out will be required to support the safe transition of consumers to appropriate new or existing services.

Do you encourage applications for smaller programs, and is there a minimum program size or funding amount required?

There is no minimum program size or funding amount required for applications. Regardless of size, all applications will still need to meet all eligibility requirements and mandatory criteria.