

Mental Health Child, Youth and Families & Children, Youth and Families Preventative Early and Targeted Support 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

General Questions

I missed the sector briefing session, where can I find the recording?

The link to the recording can be found [here](#).

Could you please clarify the organisational eligibility requirements? Are they exclusive to Non-for-Profit ?

Yes, they are. You must be registered as a charity or through an incorporated association to be eligible for the grants. All eligibility criteria for applicants are outlined in the guidelines, requirements and application forms.

Is the contract available for review?

Yes, there is a link to the draft Deed of Grant that is included in the application on the SmartyGrants page.

Are you looking for broad reaching providers across a range of diagnoses? Or can an organisation that supports a specific condition apply?

These are competitive grants rounds. Applications will be assessed on their own merit and against other applications. Please read the grant guidelines and requirements for more information.

Are organisations required to be compliant with the National Quality and Safety Mental Health Standards?

Organisations must comply with the relevant legislation, regulation and policies. If your service is something that needs to be compliant with the National Quality and Safety Mental Health Standards, then the expectation is that you will be compliant.

For MEL and outcomes measurement, should applicants propose their own indicators and evaluation framework, or is ACT Government intending to implement a standardised outcomes and reporting framework across funded providers following contract commencement?

Your program logic will form part of contract negotiations. If any changes to reporting requirements need to be made after the Deed of Grant commences, this will occur through a variation and that would be another negotiation process. The Outcomes and Program Logic details can be found in the grant requirements and guidelines.

Will the assessment panels coordinate if a service is applying across different streams, or will all grants be separately assessed? Also, will there be opportunities for discussions with the services if questions are raised?

Yes, there will be a coordinated approach to assessment. There is not an expectation to go back to applicants to clarify as it can provide an unfair advantage/perceived unfair advantage. Please ensure all details are included in your application.

If an organisation applies across multiple streams, how much weight will assessors place on demonstrating a connected service pathway between applications?

All assessment criteria and weightings are outlined in the grant guidelines.

Can you confirm that the submission date is 25 Aug and references to 18 Aug on Smarty Grants is incorrect?

Yes, the closing date for all 3 streams is 3pm on 25 August 2026.

Is ACT Government actively encouraging partnership or consortium approaches, and how will partnerships be assessed compared with single-provider submissions?

No extra weight or favour will be given to a single or consortium application. Applicants will need to decide how they will best deliver on the criteria in the guidelines and requirements.

Will templates be provided for criteria like risks assessment and pricing schedules?

Yes, templates have been provided throughout the application forms in SmartyGrants and can be downloaded in the preview page as well.

I had previously been told that if the govt wanted to discuss funding, possibly removing some aspect of the proposed program, that this discussion would occur. Has this changed?

Discussions about the scope of your program will not occur during the assessment process. If your application is successful, this may form part of the contract negotiations process.

What does the Directorate consider to be the strongest evidence that a proposed service complements rather than duplicates existing services in the ACT service system?

We are unable to provide advice or further detail on this. Applicants are encouraged to answer the criteria to the best of their ability against the grant guidelines and review the commissioning websites and other guidance material provided.

Do you want the program logic submitted as an attachment or in the text box? Is there a word limit?

Please submit the program logic document and provide further explanation within the text box in the application form. The word count applies to the text box not the program logic attachment.

How are you ensuring service mapping is considered and gaps will not emerge from this process? Follow on question- How will this be transparently communicated? How does a sector know what weighting and what the mapping is?

The assessors will be assessing the applications using the scoring matrix which is included in the grant guidelines and requirements for the weighted criteria to ensure transparency of the process. Applicants should note that all funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the Health and Community Services Directorate. In the unlikely event that there's not coverage across some sections, the funding will be quarantined, and a new grant process will be undertaken.

What would success of this commissioning process look like from the Directorate's perspective in 5 years' time?

Please refer to the Strategic Investment Plans.

As I progress through the application process, if questions arise, is there an opportunity to ask further questions?

Applicants may submit questions or requests for clarification via email until 5 business days before the application period ends. Responses to these questions will be shared with all applicants on the SmartyGrants landing pages. Please email the grants inbox at HCSDGrants@act.gov.au with your questions.

Are the grants going to one provider, or will the grant money be shared across several providers?

Applicants should consider their funding requirements and determine the number and value of grant applications they submit. All applications will be assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria set out in the Grant Guidelines.

Under these combined funding rounds will a consortium be an advantage?

Applicants may partner with other organisations to deliver the proposed service – however this will not be weighted more or less favourably than other applications.

A consortium must nominate a lead organisation. Only the lead organisation may submit the application and will enter into a grant agreement with the Territory.

Applicants must have a formal arrangement in place with all consortium members prior to execution of the grant agreement. The Territory may request a copy of this arrangement and supporting documentation (such as insurance or accreditation evidence).

Across the Weighted criteria questions, there are opportunities to upload " One attachment (visual or written) may be uploaded" Can you please provide guidance on file size, type etc?

All requirements for the attachments have been outlined in the Grant Requirements and information about file size is listed SmartyGrants landing page.

Questions specific to the Mental Health Child, Youth and Families Grant

Is there a document or resource that explains what success looks like for the Government in relation to Outcome 1 of the Personal Domain: 'People experience environments that promote mental wellbeing'. We are interested in whether there is a central source or guidance that HCSD can share on what good looks like?

The Strategic Investment Plan outlines the intent behind the Prevention and Promotion focus in the Support Needs Spectrum. The first outcome of the Personal Domain, to support the Prevention and Promotion, is further detailed in the Commissioning Framework and other related sources discussed in the SIP including the ACT Wellbeing Framework and the 'ACTing Upstream: Taking a Strategic Approach to Mental Health Promotion and Prevention in the ACT report'.

Do you expect to only fund services that directly support individuals, or also indirect services that support services directly supporting individuals - e.g. research that helps to design and target services and the types of services needed?

Please refer to the CYF Grant Guidelines and requirements. This grant opportunity supports the mental health and wellbeing of children, youth and families through the delivery of services that operate across the Support Needs Spectrum. As part of Mental Health Commissioning a Sector Development Fund has been established in response to service provider feedback highlighting the need for service innovation and sector-wide capacity building.

Will Tranche 3 be competitive?

Please see the Mental Health Commissioning webpage for the most up to date information on Tranche 3. More information will be available shortly.

Can you confirm the total per annum funding for Tranche 2 as \$2.7m per annum and the total across all three tranches \$13.8m annually?

Total funding available for Tranche 2 is approximately \$2.7 million per year (GST exclusive). In this commissioning cycle across all three tranches \$13.8 million is available to fund NGO services. This funding is based on 2025-26 prices and will continue to index annually. More information about this can be found on the MH Commissioning website.

Questions specific to the CYFSP Preventative Early and Targeted Support Grant

What will happen with current contracts?

The current CYFSP providers will enter Transition in January 2026 with the new providers. The existing contracts will expire on their expiry date.

Are the LIPP and LRTWP required for the CYFSP grants?

Compliance with the Local Industry Participation Policy (LIPP) and Labour Relations, Training and Workplace Equity Plans (LRTWP) are not required for the CYFSP Targeted and Preventative Early Support grants.

Can the word limit for responses please be reviewed and increased?

The word limits are intended as a guide only and applicants are encouraged to use both the text boxes and document uploads to address the criteria.

Can you confirm the Early Intervention funding being only \$748,836 in total for all of the programs in that stream?

Yes, that is the total annual funding available for the CYFSP Preventative Early Support stream is \$748,836.

The grant guidelines for the Preventative Early Support (CYFSP) suggest a stronger focus on prioritising service models targeted at children aged 0-8, than the SIP did. The SIP had a more flexible focus on children, young people and families for this stream, in addition to early childhood. Can you please confirm whether youth-focused supports will be eligible and considered in the Preventative Early Support stream?

Young people are included as a part of the target population group in the Guidelines. Please refer to item 4.3. in the Guidelines.

When can we expect the Intensive/Therapeutic services grant be released?

Please see the CYFSP Commissioning webpage for the most up to date information.

For the Preventative Early Support, will you accept applications from a consortium of organisations with a lead organisation?

Yes. Consortia of eligible organisations are able to apply across all 3 streams.

Given existing youth centres are currently funded through CYFSP funding, what stream would these types of services be eligible to apply through?

Review the guidelines and make sure any service is targeted or preventative support. Refer to the target population group in item 4.3 in the guidelines.

If your service is primarily for young children, is that appropriate for the Targeted Support grant? What if there's overlap in age groups for the services you provide?

Please refer to the target population group outlined in item 4.3 of the Grant Guidelines. Where there is overlap in age groups, this will be considered in the context of the proposed service model and approach.

How will past performance, CYFSP reporting etc be factored into assessment?

Any previous applications submitted to HCSD, or current funding arrangements with HCSD, including performance reporting, can be used as part of the assessment process as stated in the guidelines and requirements. Applicants are expected to include all relevant information in their application forms.

I want to clarify if our program is eligible. We already provide, and have for decades, early intervention in the ACT for deaf and hard-of-hearing children so they can develop spoken language, listening and social skills and enter school on an equitable basis with their peers. We work in close partnership with their families and build their capacity to support their child's development. We also support school age children and teens as they navigate school and living in a hearing world. Naturally, children's NDIS plans are a key source of funding, however this covers only 67% of the cost to deliver our evidence-based family-centred model. It is for this program that we would want to apply. Is this appropriate given ours is an existing program? Or would we be better suited to the Intensive and Therapeutic Support Services Grant?

Please review the grant guidelines to decide if your program is eligible. We cannot provide advice on eligibility for your program.