

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: 02/10/2024

1. What is the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Community Support – Small Grants for Volunteer Involving Organisations program?

The Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Community Support – Small Grants for Volunteer Involving Organisations is a program funded by The Australian Government Department of Social Services and administered by the State and Territory volunteering peak bodies, the small grants will assist grassroots organisations to strengthen volunteering through capability and capacity building.

Small volunteer involving organisations will be able to apply for grants (\$10,000 – \$20,000) for one-off, time-limited projects that build volunteer management capability, build volunteer management capability within organisations to uplift volunteer capability, including volunteer knowledge, skills and volunteer numbers; and to support alignment with the strategic objectives of the [National Strategy for Volunteering](#) and [National Standards for Volunteer Involvement](#) in organisations that support:

2. How can my organisation apply for a grant through the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Community Support – Small Grants for Volunteer Involving Organisations program

Information on how to apply can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Section 5, page 10). The Grant Opportunity Guidelines can be found on your local volunteering peak body website:

State/ Territory	Volunteering peak body	Website
Australian Capital Territory	VolunteeringACT	https://volunteeringact.org.au/strong-and-resilient-communities-grant-program/
New South Wales	The Centre for Volunteering NSW	https://www.volunteering.com.au/strong-and-resilient-communities-activity/
Northern Territory	Volunteering SA & NT	https://vsant.org.au/communitygrants/
Queensland	Volunteering Queensland	https://volunteeringqld.org.au/initiatives/new-grants-program-for-vios/
South Australia	Volunteering SA & NT	https://vsant.org.au/communitygrants/
Tasmania	Volunteering Tasmania	https://volunteeringtas.org.au/for-organisations/small-grants-for-volunteer-involving-organisations/
Victoria	Volunteering Victoria	https://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/strong-and-resilient-communities-activity-grants/
Western Australia	Volunteering WA	https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/news/investing-in-strong-and-resilient-communities-new-grants-program-for-volunteer-involving-organisations



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3. How long do I have to apply?

The timelines for the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Community Support – Small Grants for Volunteer Involving Organisations program can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Section 2.3, page 6).

4. Is a paper-based form available if I am unable to access the expression of interest form online?

Yes, a paper based expression of interest form is available. If you have problems accessing the online form, or would prefer to complete an expression of interest offline, please contact your State or Territory volunteering peak body by email or phone:

State/ Territory	Volunteering peak body	Email	Phone
Australian Capital Territory	VolunteeringACT	grants@volunteeringact.org.au	02 6251 4060
New South Wales	The Centre for Volunteering NSW	grants@volunteering.com.au	02 9261 3600
Northern Territory	Volunteering SA & NT	grants@vsant.org.au	08 8221 7177
Queensland	Volunteering Queensland	grants@volunteeringqld.org.au	07 3002 7600
South Australia	Volunteering SA & NT	grants@vsant.org.au	08 8221 7177
Tasmania	Volunteering Tasmania	team@volunteeringtas.org.au	03 6231 5550
Victoria	Volunteering Victoria	grants@volunteeringvictoria.org.au	03 9052 4524
Western Australia	Volunteering WA	TBA	08 9482 4333

5. Will it be possible to be granted an extension of time to submit an expression of interest?

Unfortunately, late expressions of interest will not be accepted.

6. How much funding can my organisation apply for?

Organisation can apply for a one-off amount of between \$10,000 - \$20,000 (GST exclusive), for one-off time-limited projects that build volunteer management capability and help the organisation to support the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

7. Can I apply for more than \$20,000?

No. The maximum funding an eligible organisation can apply for is \$20,000.

8. Can I apply for less than \$10,000?

No. The minimum funding an eligible organisation can apply for is \$10,000.

9. Is the funding provided on-going?

No. If successful, the funding provided is one-off.

10. Is my organisation eligible to apply?

Eligibility criteria can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Section 3, page 6).



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11. Do I need to be a member of my local volunteering peak body to submit an expression of interest?

No, membership is not relevant to this grant program. You must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 3, page 6 of the Grant Guidelines for Applicants to submit an expression of interest.

12. Is it the volunteer organisation (i.e. providing services to those cohorts) OR the volunteer program (i.e. providing opportunities for those cohorts to engage in volunteering) that are eligible to apply?

Both, volunteer organisations providing services to the listed cohorts and organisations with volunteer programs that include volunteering opportunities for the listed cohorts are eligible to apply.

13. For organisations that fit all other eligibility criteria but are run nationally, to which state/territory should they apply?

National organisations that are eligible to apply should apply to the Volunteering Peak Body in the state or territory where the activity will take place. If the activity will take place nationally, the organisation should apply in the state or territory where their headquarters are located.

14. Do I need to complete a Child Safe Compliance form if the services being delivered do not involve contact with children?

Yes, every grant recipient needs to complete a Child Safe Compliance form.

- If the services being delivered involve direct contact with children, or involve contact or interaction with children that is more than incidental to the activity, then you will need to complete a CB9 compliance form.
- If it is highly unlikely or there is a very remote chance of interaction with children, you will need to complete a G8A compliance form.

Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information on Child Safe Compliance requirements.

15. If my organisation is an autonomous branch/sub-group of a larger organisation, and we are a separate entity with separate bank accounts, but we share an ABN with that larger organisation, how should I complete the EOI form?

According to the eligibility criteria in Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, organisations that are an autonomous branch/subgroup of an organisation with an annual income greater than \$500,000, but that branch/subgroup income is under \$500,000, are eligible to apply.

In this case, applicants should apply under their own name and use the ABN of the auspicing organisation.

16. We are an incorporated association, but we do not have Not For Profit Status. Are we eligible to apply?

Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for information about who is eligible to apply for a grant.



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17. Is payment of fees for the Cert IV in Volunteer Management for our Volunteers Officer an eligible expense under this funding?

Eligible activities are outlined in Section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Please note, all activity must be completed within the Grant Activity Period, 29 November 2024 – 30 May 2025, as specified in the Grant Timelines in Section 1.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

18. Can we use the grant to have an IT Consultant conduct an evaluation of our IT systems and provide basic training for our volunteers?

Eligible activities are outlined in Section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Please note, all activity must be completed within the Grant Activity Period, 29 November 2024 – 30 May 2025, as specified in the Grant Timelines in Section 1.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

19. What is the definition of income in the context of the small grants program?

In the context of the Strong and Resilient Communities – Community Support – Small Grants for Volunteer Involving Organisations Activity, income refers to the total amount of funding being received by an organisation (i.e. gross income).

20. Which time period should we refer to when calculating our annual income?

When calculating your organisation's annual income, you should refer to the 2023-24 Financial Year.

21. Are Volunteer Resource Centres eligible if they already receive funding through the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) fund?

The proposed activity/project cannot be the same as one that is already funded through the Volunteer Management Activity, and you cannot be receiving other funding (State or Federal) for the same activity/project.

22. Would a collaborative project between multiple organisations be considered for the 2024-2025 SARC grants?

Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for information about who is eligible to apply for a grant.

23. Our organisation is funded for approximately \$495,000 - \$505,000 a year currently. If we do tip over the \$500,000 mark, will the criteria be strictly administered?

To be eligible for the grants, organisations must have an annual income less than \$500,000. When calculating your organisation's annual income, you should refer to the 2023-24 Financial Year.

24. Our organisation is Not For Profit according to our constitution, but we are not registered with the ACNC. Are we eligible to apply?

According to the [ACNC](#), a not-for-profit is an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain or other benefit of particular people.



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All registered charities must be not-for-profit. However, not all not-for-profits are charities. Some organisations (Such as sporting clubs or community service organisations) may be not-for-profit, but are not charities because they do not have a charitable purpose.

Applicants for the SARC grants must be not-for-profit, but do not need to be registered with the ACNC in order to meet eligibility requirements.

25. Can you support us to complete a Statement by Supplier form?

You will need to complete a Statement by Supplier form if you are not providing an ABN.

The Volunteering Peak Bodies cannot support you in completing this form. If you require support, please contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

26. Are RSLs and RSL-affiliated organisations eligible to submit an EOI?

Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for information about who is eligible to apply for a grant.

27. Can we use the SARC grant money for promotion and marketing?

Small grant recipients can use the grant to build capability and capacity within their volunteering programs (including volunteer knowledge and skills and volunteer numbers), and support alignment with the National Strategy for Volunteering. Grants will be considered for projects that meet the requirements outlined in Section 1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines – About the grant, including the Objectives and intended Outcomes.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines and a sample of the On-funding Funding Agreement can be found in the Grants webpage of your local Volunteering Peak Body.

28. Can we install air conditioning or upgrade premises and/or vehicles (not for accessibility purposes)?

Please refer to Section 3.1 (What can grant recipients use the money for?) and 3.2 (What grant recipients cannot use the grant money for) of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information on what the grant money can and cannot be used for, including a list of suggested eligible activities.

29. Our organisation has multiple projects we want to undertake with SARC funding. Do we need to submit multiple applications?

In each application, you can apply for one project. Organisations wishing to apply for funding for multiple projects must submit multiple applications.

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31. Our community group operates through a formal Financial Auspice with a Community Service Organisation. They have an ABN, NFP status and a bank account for receipt of funds. Our group has income under the capped amount, and we meet all other criteria. Are we eligible to apply?

According to the eligibility criteria in Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, organisations that are an autonomous branch/subgroup of an organisation with an annual income greater than \$500,000, but that branch/subgroup income is under \$500,000, are eligible to apply. In this case, applicants should apply under their own name, and use the ABN of the auspicing organisation.

32. Is a Program the same as a branch/subgroup for the purposes of eligibility?

No, a Program is not the same as a branch/subgroup for the purposes of eligibility for this grant. According to the eligibility criteria in Section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, organisations that are an autonomous branch/subgroup of an organisation with an annual income greater than \$500,000, but that branch/subgroup income is under \$500,000, are eligible to apply. The applicant must be a not-for-profit organisation with an ABN and an account with an Australian financial institution in order to meet the eligibility criteria.



The seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.