



DREAM IT FORWARD PROGRAM

2025 GRANT GUIDELINES



ConnectGroups
helping support groups & individuals



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OVERVIEW

The Dream it Forward program (DIF) is a ConnectGroups small grants program focused on strengthening, sustaining, or adding value to grassroots, community-led projects that:

- Positively impact the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities in Western Australia.
- Strengthen cultural identity and apply culturally-informed ways of healing to improve social and emotional wellbeing.
- Reduce risk factors and operate a range of activities to increase community protection against psychological distress.



ELIGIBILITY

- Funding is open to community groups or leaders, Elders, ACCOs (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations), or any community member with a healing focused initiative meeting the intent of the program.
- Programs and services must take place in Western Australia and directly benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in WA.
- Applicants must not be in receipt of funding and/or under a Service Agreement from the WA Mental Health Commission.
- Applicants may request up to \$7,000 (ex GST) to be used for (but not limited to):
 - On-country camps/trips, healing workshops, art therapy, cultural transmission
 - Opportunities that connect people to culture, country and community, and strengthen cultural identity
 - Men's Groups or Women's Groups
 - Identifying an opportunity to engage with at-risk groups
 - Partnering between community and ACCOs to have wider impact

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA



Grants will be assessed based on their alignment with the project's social and emotional well-being outcomes, with a focus on the positive impacts on participants and the community in the following areas:

- Connection to body
- Connection to mind and emotions
- Connection to family and kinship
- Connection to community
- Connection to culture
- Connection to country
- Connection to spirit, spirituality, and ancestors

Additional components considered include:

- Whether the project is Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander led and/or has involvement of Elders
- The ongoing outcomes of the project beyond the life of the grant

WHAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

- Items that benefit an individual, not the community
- Past grantees who have an open, active grant or have not met their reporting obligations for previous projects
- Projects that do not meet the grant eligibility and/or that fail to demonstrate how they will meet the assessment criteria
- Incomplete applications. This means all quotes and supporting documentation must be provided before the close of the grant round.
- Project management costs
- Requests for cash/money deposits



WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

TIME FRAMES

- Applications open on 17 February 2025
- If you would like early feedback or assistance with your application, please submit your application prior to 24 April 2025
- All final applications must be received by 11 May 2025



BUDGET

- Applicants must provide quotes and exact costs for all items requested. These quotes must be clear and transparent and match your funding request



ASSESSMENT

All applications are considered by an Assessment Panel made up of representatives from:

- ConnectGroups
- Mental Health Commission of WA
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives

ConnectGroups reserves the right to request further information in considering any application as well as the right to reject any application.

Your application may be approved for partial funding.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in the first week of July 2025.

The decision made by the panel is final.



FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful applicants must enter into a written funding agreement with ConnectGroups before any payment is provided. Please ensure that the authorised person from your group or organisation signs the agreement.

If ConnectGroups do not receive a signed grant agreement from you within two weeks of distribution, the letter of offer will be withdrawn and the funds will be returned to the general granting pool for the next round.

PAYMENTS

ConnectGroups will be responsible for ALL payments to vendors and suppliers providing goods and services for grant recipients. This allows grant recipients to focus on the outcomes of their project.

THERE IS NO DIRECT EXCHANGE OR REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS between ConnectGroups and grant recipients. This means ConnectGroups can only pay invoices directly from the supplier.

****Please note, all online subscriptions will require a credit card provided from the group to use post-payment by ConnectGroups.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your funding agreement outlines some of the ways you can acknowledge ConnectGroups' financial support.

'PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY CONNECTGROUPS' LOGO

Please display the logo on your marketing materials. You will be provided with a colour version and a transparent version (for use on coloured backgrounds). You cannot use this logo for any other purpose.

COMMUNICATIONS

In social media and other communications please include a statement "This project is supported by ConnectGroups' Dream it Forward grants program."

Please tag ConnectGroups in social media posts.

ACQUITTALS

Acquittals are a necessary component of your grant application. You will be required to complete a final report at the close of your project.

You will receive notification when the report is due. Please do not hesitate to contact ConnectGroups if you would like to complete your report earlier, require more time, or need some assistance.

FAQS

How many applications can I submit?

You can apply for one grant per funding round. This allows a fair and equitable distribution of funds between organisations. Applicants cannot apply if they have an open, active grant from a previous round.

Does the program support payments to Elders and Traditional Owners?

Yes, Elders and Traditional Owners can be compensated for providing cultural knowledge and support to a project. They will be supported to complete the required ATO Statement by a Supplier form where needed.

Does the program support payments for the applicant?

No, applicants cannot financially benefit from the proposed project. This includes any Staff or Board members of the applicant organisation.

What can the program pay for?

Examples but not limited to: costs for on-country camps or day trips (food, fuel, camping/fishing equipment), art therapists and art supplies, facilitation or delivery of cultural workshops, food or venue hire costs for yarning circles or men's and women's groups.

Can I submit a joint application with another group?

Yes, ConnectGroups encourages collaboration, however, one group needs to be identified as the point of contact for communication.



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