

Community Grants Guidelines

Community Grant Guidelines

At Variety NSW/ACT, we're all about giving every child the chance to belong, participate, and shine. Our Community Grants provide one-off support to help bring to life projects, programs or equipment that promote inclusion and accessibility. Empowering children aged 0-18 years with disabilities or those experiencing disadvantage to feel a sense of belonging, fully participate, and reach their full potential.

What we mean by accessibility and inclusion

Inclusion is about creating places and experiences where every child feels safe, respected, able to participate, and has a genuine sense of belonging within their community. Accessibility ensures that environments, equipment and activities can be used by all kids—regardless of their abilities or circumstances.

What we aim to support

Our Community Grant seeks to enable initiatives that strengthen inclusion, accessibility, participation, and belonging for children and young people. Funding may be considered for projects or activities that:

- Deliver new or enhanced programs that enable children of all abilities to participate in sport, the arts, recreation, culture, leadership, or social connection.
- Improve accessibility within community spaces, clubs, facilities, or events to remove barriers to participation.
- Provide adaptive, assistive, or specialist equipment that supports safe, meaningful engagement for children with disability or disadvantage.
- Increase access to opportunities in regional or remote areas, ensuring children can benefit from programs and services closer to home.
- Support community-driven initiatives that foster inclusion, encourage participation, and create a sense of belonging for children within their community.

How much can I apply for?

Most Community Grants are around \$10,000, but this is a guide only. We're open to supporting smaller requests and may also consider contributing part funding towards larger projects where there is strong alignment and impact.



Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be an organisation that provides services directly to:
 - Children aged 0 – 18 years &
 - Children living with a disability or chronic illness &/or
 - Children experiencing disadvantage or living under financial hardship
- Be based and operating in NSW or the ACT
- Be a not-for-profit or community organisation classified by the ACNC as small or medium sized and/or that have an annual revenue below \$6M
- Social or sporting groups and associations
- Require financial support to deliver a project that will directly promote inclusion and/or accessibility for children living with a disability or experiencing disadvantage.

Ineligible grant requests

- Anything illegal or that may cause or do harm
- Travel/Transportation
- Mainstream resources that are available through normal funding channels
- Capital expenditure including new construction, maintenance or refurbishments to schools, offices, or homes e.g. furniture, carpets, air conditioning units
- Retrospective funding - Only items purchased after approval are eligible
- Support or equipment funded in a participant's NDIS plan
- Purchasing of iPads, tablets and standard laptops/computers
- Items and equipment for which other Government bodies are responsible for
- Government fees, charges or taxes

Application and Assessment Process for Expression of Interest (EOI)

While Community Grants are awarded by invitation, any organisation may submit an Expression of Interest if they believe their project aligns with the grant guidelines. Your EOI should help us understand your idea and its potential impact and show what makes it a particularly strong or inspiring project that could progress to the next stage.

The EOI is a short online form that asks for key information about:

- Your organisation



- The project or initiative
- The children or young people who will benefit
- The need or opportunity the project addresses
- The estimated cost and timelines

Invitation to Submit a Full Application

If your EOI demonstrates strong alignment and shows potential for meaningful impact, you will be invited to submit a full application.

Applicants may be contacted for further information throughout the assessment process. Any information supplied will form a part of their application.

The decisions by Variety NSW/ACT are final. Variety reserves the right not to fund applications if it does not believe they have sufficient merit.

Measurement and accountability

All successful applicants will be required to submit a grant acquittal report to demonstrate the funds provided were used appropriately, the project was carried out as planned and your objectives were met.

Application Steps/Process



If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support Team at kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au

