



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Fact Sheet – Thriving Suburbs Program

- The Government has **committed \$350 million** towards the **Thriving Suburbs Program** to deliver investment in locally-driven **urban, suburban and peri-urban community infrastructure projects across Australia**.
- The Thriving Suburbs Program is an **open competitive** program with funding awarded on a **merit basis**.
- The program has a **single-stage application process**.
- **Applications opened on 27 July 2024 and close at 5:00 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time on 2 September 2024 (the former closing date was 26 August 2024)**.
- Funding between **\$500,000 and \$15 million** will be awarded to **eligible local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations** to deliver **priority** community infrastructure projects.
- **Joint (consortia) applications** are accepted under the program guidelines.
- Eligible projects **must be located in the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs)** as defined by Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- The Government also opened the **\$600 million Growing Regions Program** on 5 July 2023 and this program will cover all communities outside the GCCSAs. We expect **all local government areas in Australia to be eligible for funding opportunities under one of these two programs**.
- The Government has redesigned regional investments to ensure best **practice transparency and consistency** of process, as well as **fairer distribution of funds** to ensure people can have confidence in the new programs.
- **Fairness and transparency** in funding administration will be demonstrated in the **Thriving Suburbs Program** through the introduction of a **multi-party Parliamentary panel**. The panel will recommend only projects that contribute to social and community inclusion, are aligned with Government priorities and can be delivered and sustained.
- An **external probity advisor** will provide advice to the **multi-party Parliamentary panel**.
- The Thriving Suburbs Program **Forecast Funding Opportunity was released on 16 May 2024** to allow **eligible** applicants time to start preparing applications ahead of the program opening. This is now **obsolete and has been replaced** with the approved program guidelines.
- The **Thriving Suburbs Program Guidelines were published on 27 July 2024 and are available** on the department's **website**.

The objectives of the program are:

- constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified and immediate gap or unmet need for community infrastructure, particularly for communities that have experienced substantial growth.
- contributing to achieving social outcomes and increased community cohesion, liveability and accessibility for urban, suburban and peri-urban growth areas, fringe areas and inner suburbs.
- strategic alignment with the Australian Government's National Urban Policy to deliver targeted and place-based investment that promotes sustainable growth and enables communities to thrive.

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- provision of multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion.
- to enhance amenity and liveability, particularly in suburban and peri-urban areas (new and outer suburbs) that are experiencing growth.
- to contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities, including in First Nations communities.
- delivery of funding where it is needed across a broad geographic spread of urban, suburban and peri-urban areas in Australia.
- delivery of diverse project types and a balance of large and small projects.
- supporting and encouraging projects from lesser-resourced project proponents and low rate-based councils.

Further information

- This fact sheet is intended to complement our Program Guidelines for this program. The guidelines are your primary source of information for the program.
- For further information on the geographic eligibility of project locations please refer to the guidelines and use the mapping tool available on our program webpage. When using the mapping tool, we strongly encourage you to input the exact project location as this will return the most accurate eligibility result for your application.
- The guidelines and mapping tool are available at [Thriving Suburbs Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)