



Australian Government

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

Frequently Asked Questions—regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)

This document has been developed to assist applicants to the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Program Guidelines and other supporting information available on the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts website](#).

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Co-contributions

Are applicants required to provide a financial contribution? Is there a percentage of the proposal cost that must be contributed?

No, there is no defined percentage of the proposal cost that must be contributed. However, each stream does require applicants to demonstrate their commitment to the proposal, so while there is no defined percentage contribution, applicants are required to show what they can do monetarily or otherwise to ensure the success of a proposal. Your contributions can be cash or in-kind (such as land or resources), or a combination of both.

Do the organisations that form part of the partnership also have to be co-contributing or co-funding partners?

No, there may be organisations in the partnership that do not make financial or other co-contributions to the proposal.

What evidence can applicants provide to demonstrate cash co-contributions and in-kind co-contributions?

Examples of the types of evidence applicants can provide to demonstrate cash co-contributions can include, but are not limited to: loan approvals and agreements, letters of offer from financial institutions, letters of commitment from funding partners, grant funding confirmation letters or agreements, etc.

Examples of the types of evidence applicants can provide to demonstrate in-kind co-contributions can include, but are not limited to: land lease agreements, letters or agreements to outline service to be provided, such as labour or donated goods.

Can the project have other Commonwealth funding?

No, other Commonwealth funding cannot be used for your project proposal. However, for stream two, other parts of the broader precinct (that are not part of the applicant's proposal) can be Commonwealth funded.

Funding

How much Commonwealth funding is committed to the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program?

The Australian Government is providing \$400 million for the program.

- \$250 million available across 2023-24 and 2024-25
- \$135 million will be available 2025-26
- \$15 million will be available for 2026-27.

What funding amounts are available?

The program guidelines provide detail on the funding available across the two streams, but in summary:

- Stream One: Precinct development and planning. Funding between \$500,000 and \$5 million is available for master planning, consultation, design, business cases and establishment of partnerships.

- Stream Two: Precinct delivery. Funding between \$5 million and \$50 million will be available to help deliver one or more elements of a precinct. This could be enabling infrastructure, public infrastructure, or open spaces between elements or a particular building that activates other investment.

What kind of projects will be eligible for funding?

For Stream One (precinct development and planning), eligible activities include:

- scoping, planning, design and consultation activities of the proposed precinct
- development and formalisation of partnership relationships and responsibilities
- business cases and feasibility studies.

For Stream Two (precinct delivery), eligible activities include:

- Investment ready projects that will develop or improve a regional precinct such as construction, upgrade or extension of existing or shovel ready infrastructure which supports a precinct
- procurement of suitable equipment and infrastructure.

How is funding arranged?

If your project is successful, applicants will enter into a funding arrangement with the relevant state or territory government agency responsible for administering the program funding in your area.

Where the State is the applicant under the Program, the States delivers the project in accordance with the Federation Funding Agreement – Infrastructure Schedule, any relevant appendices and the Notes on Administration. Project delivery arrangements, including reporting milestones, will be set out in the relevant tables in the appendices.

Expenditure

Can you provide guidance on contingency costs that are covered? For example, amounts, eligibility etc?

Applicants are encouraged to invest time in writing their applications and developing project budgets that are realistic and cater for contingencies such as potential increases to project costs and timeframes.

Contingency will be managed in the negotiation of funding arrangements between successful proponents and the relevant state and territory governments.

Is digital infrastructure an eligible expenditure under the program?

The program is designed to fund hard infrastructure. Appendix B of the guidelines outlines ineligible expenditure.

We would encourage applicants to contact the Business Grants Hub to discuss the specifics of the project including project eligibility, circumstances and activities. The Business Grants Hubs contact details are provided here [Stream one—business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/stream-one) and [Stream two—business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/stream-two).

Partnerships

How is the term ‘partnership’ defined?

Partnerships are intended to be multiple organisations working together with an aligned focus and intent to deliver a shared goal. The concept of a partnership is purposefully broad to allow a variety of organisations to come together to deliver place-based priorities.

Why is the Government taking a partnership approach? What is the purpose of a partnership?

The establishment of partnerships, that include local perspectives, will be critical to delivering place-based infrastructure supported by the community. The program supports governments and communities to establish long-term partnerships and jointly invest in genuine regional priorities.

Do the organisations in the partnership have to satisfy eligibility criteria in the guidelines?

No, only the applicant needs to meet the eligibility requirements.

Who can form part of the partnership?

Partnerships are intended to be varying conglomerates of eligible organisations as well as other local stakeholders, such as First Nations groups, Regional Development Australia committees, private enterprise, land owners, developers, designers, end-users, and community groups.

Is there a required number of organisations needed to form a partnership?

No, there is no required number of organisations needed to form a partnership. However, given partnerships are a key requirement of this program, applicants should focus on bringing together all relevant and interested parties to collaboratively plan or delivery precinct proposals.

Are there certain organisations that must form part of the partnership?

While there is not a particular organisation that must form part of the partnership, each set of guidelines outlines in detail the requirements for applicants to show that certain organisations, such as state or territory and local governments and agencies, relevant Regional Development Australia Committees, as well as First Nations Groups have been contacted to either form part of the partnership and/or support the precinct.

What do I do if I am asked to be a partner?

There is no set process that needs to be followed. It is a matter for that particular entity being asked to determine if they have the resources and capacity to provide what is being asked of them to enter the partnership. If a partnership offer is declined, that does not preclude an applicant from submitting an application.

Is a letter of support considered as part of the partnership?

A letter of support does not always indicate commitment to partnership. As such, letters of support can be provided by entities that are not part of the partnership and are used to show evidence of community support for the particular precinct. Unless the letter confirms a commitment to the partnership, it will be considered as evidence of community support. As outlined in the guidelines at 7.1, attachments to the application may include:

- evidence to support your intended partnership (e.g. a letter from project partner/s or other type of agreement), including details of all project partners
- evidence of support from local community and business as relevant.

Location

My proposal does not meet the geographic eligibility criteria as it is located within a Greater Capital City Statistical Area, what should I do?

Projects located within the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas can apply for funding through the urban Precincts and Partnerships Program.

Can a proposal which has multiple sites to form the precinct that spans across more than one jurisdiction (state or local government area) be funded under the program?

Yes, if a project proposal has multiple sites and spans across multiple jurisdictions, as long as they are still delineated as outside of the Greater Capital City Statistical Area, then they will be eligible. The applicant will also need to demonstrate that the project is part of a precinct which spans across multiple jurisdictions.

For application purposes, one project site must be selected as the main project site, although the application form has the ability to record up to ten separate project sites.

Application

Can applicants submit multiple applications for different projects? Will this impact each other or will they be assessed individually? Could an applicant potentially be awarded multiple funding opportunities?

Yes, applicants can submit multiple applications for different projects. Each application will be assessed as a separate application. Potentially, the same applicant could receive funding for more than one project if multiple applications were successful.

Can applicants apply for stream one and stream two?

Yes, an applicant can submit separate applications for stream one and stream two. Each application will be assessed separately.

Can a proposal that is approved for funding in stream one then apply for funding in stream two?

Yes, an applicant who has received funding under stream one to complete their precinct development and planning can then submit an application for stream two, subject to available funding. Part of the intention behind stream one is to support precinct plans to become investment ready. The application under stream two would require a new application.

Do applicants need to use their own budget template for applications?

Yes, applicants will need to use their own template as there is no standard template available on www.business.gov.au.

Assessment

Can a proposal that was deemed ineligible or assessed as not meritorious for funding be re-submitted?

Yes, an applicant may submit a new application for the same project while the funding opportunity remains open. If your application is found unsuccessful, there will be an opportunity to discuss the outcome with Business Grants Hub and to resubmit your proposal providing additional information. A project cannot be submitted to the program for assessment a third time.

Are the assessment criteria the same for both streams?

No, each stream has its own set of guidelines with its own set of assessment criteria. Applicants should ensure that they are using the correct set of guidelines for their application.

How will applications be assessed? What does a non-competitive process mean?

An independent panel of experts drawn from the Urban Policy Forum will undertake the merit assessment, where applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines. Only proposals that have been deemed as meritorious in the assessment process will be provided to the Minister for final decision making. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) also provides advice to the Minister based on policy considerations and the funding envelope available.

The program's non-competitive process means that each application will be assessed against the assessment criteria, rather than in comparison to other applications.

How often will the expert panel meet to assess applications?

The panel is expected to meet twice per year to assess the proposals across both funding streams, however, this may vary depending on the volume and nature of applications received.

Who will approve funding?

The Minister decides which projects to approve and may take into account the expert panel's assessment, policy advice from DITRDCA, the availability of funding, and, where necessary, advice from relevant Minister/s for meritorious proposals relevant to their specific portfolio responsibilities.

Timeline

Is there a closing date for the program? What is the timing for award of funding?

The program was originally intended to run over three years from 2023–24 to 2025–26. The program has been extended to 30 June 2027. The project completion date under the updated guidelines is 31 March 2027. Applications remain open throughout the year subject to the availability of funding.

Eligibility

What is a precinct?

Regional precincts or ‘places of purpose’ are user-defined geographic areas that encompass multiple infrastructure elements delivered by various parties through long-term partnerships between multiple providers.

Regional precincts may include business districts, neighbourhoods, activity centres, commercial hubs or community and recreational areas. The scale of regional precinct projects will vary depending on their location and objectives.

Revised guidelines

Why were the guidelines revised?

The rPPP guidelines were updated in February 2025 to align with the program guidelines for the [urban Precincts and Partnerships Program](#) and administration through the Federation Funding Agreement (FFA)—Infrastructure.

What changes were made to the guidelines?

In addition to amendments made to administer the program through the FFA – Infrastructure, and extend the program to 30 June 2027, other administrative amendments included:

- Extension of the program end date to 30 June 2027.
- Clarification that a precinct should encompass multiple infrastructure elements delivered through collaborative partnerships between multiple partners.
- Updates indicating that only applications that score at least 75 per cent against each assessment criterion will be deemed meritorious and considered for award of funding.
- Update the low-rate based councils list.
- Eligible/ineligible expenditure:
 - Clarification that the following are ineligible project costs under Stream One:
 - Site preparation
 - Costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land
 - Clarification that the following are ineligible costs under Stream Two:
 - Land clearing and demolition.
- Clarification that partnerships are intended to provide material support to the project.
- Updates to provide clearer guidance on how projects can best align with the program intent and objectives.
- Clarification that a project cannot be submitted to the program for assessment a third time.
- Inclusion of a small number of glossary updates and other minor amendments that do not change the context of the guidelines (e.g. typographical corrections).

More information

For more information, please refer to the Program Guidelines. If you have a query that remains unanswered please contact the Business Grants Hub at regionalprecincts@industry.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.