

Key Dates



Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between **May 2024 and June 2025**.

All applications close 5pm Victorian time (AEDT).

This is the final grant round for the Rebuilding Regional Communities program.

About FRRR

FRRR is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural and regional communities.

Our unique model connects common purposes and funding with locally prioritised needs. We believe targeted, well-informed investment in local organisations will stimulate ideas that create vibrant communities.

That is why our programs focus on building resilience and strengthening communities.

Program Information

Program Purpose

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Rebuilding Regional Communities (RRC) stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.

Recognising the impacts of COVID-19 on communities, [the Australian Government has partnered with FRRR](#) to distribute \$5 million from 2022 to 2024 to support community-led initiatives that:

- Enhance the process of recovery of remote, rural and regional communities from the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Reduce social isolation and foster stronger, more resilient remote, rural and regional communities; and/or
 - Sustain local, remote, rural and regional organisations and their work.
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Types of Projects Supported

Eligible projects will have a focus on recovering from or adapting to the impacts of COVID-19 in remote, rural and regional communities and may include:

- Supporting, training or attracting volunteers;
- Events and activities to reconnect the community;
- Enhancing community spaces to increase community use;
- Developing services and support to assist vulnerable people, and people experiencing disadvantage;
- Purchase of equipment or resources to strengthen organisations that support communities.

FRRR funds projects aligned with the following types of charitable projects and outcomes:

- Bringing people and community organisations together to foster stronger, more resilient communities;
- Fostering and celebrating a sense of identity, diversity and cultural connection within the community;
- Supporting diverse groups within remote, rural and regional communities including, but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, those living with disability, and LGBTQIA+;
- Improving community health and social wellbeing;
- Enabling people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence to lead and contribute to the prosperity and renewal of their community;
- Building a sustainable volunteer base and/or supporting the wellbeing of volunteers;
- Celebrating and resourcing volunteer-led efforts;
- Increasing access and inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including remote communities;
- Enhancing places where communities gather;
- Promoting connection to place and enabling initiatives that champion a community's social, cultural or economic aspirations;
- Reducing the divide on access to digital technology and connectivity for remote, rural and regional communities; and
- Enabling locally-led responses within remote, rural and regional communities endeavouring to reduce the impacts of the changing climate within their community.

Funds Available & Priorities

The Rebuilding Regional Communities stream received grant funding from the Australian Government. For this final round, there is approximately \$300,000 available to fund grants **up to \$10,000**, for communities with fewer than 50,000 people.

While all requests will be considered, priorities for funding will be given to projects that:

- Enhance the process of recovery of remote, rural and regional communities from the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Deliver targeted support that will have a long-term impact on the health of the not-for-profit sector across remote, rural and regional communities, whilst also supporting local self-generation and self-determination, improved amenity, service equity, strengthened identity, and improved quality of life and community-wide prosperity in smaller and more remote communities;
- Reduce social isolation and foster stronger, more resilient remote, rural and regional communities by:
 - Focusing on reinforcing community social cohesion; celebrating a sense of identity, diversity and cultural connection within the community; improving community health and



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social wellbeing; and enabling people to develop skills, knowledge and the confidence to lead and contribute to the prosperity and renewal of their community following the COVID-19 pandemic; and / or

- Sustain local remote, rural and regional organisations and their work by:
 - Ensuring that community organisations are better resourced and prepared to adapt to the impacts of COVID-19 through digital transition, strengthening volunteerism, fundraising, delivery of programs and services, and support for vulnerable people.

Examples of previous projects:

- [A mobile boost for Freycinet's Volunteer Marine Rescue Association;](#)
- [Connecting through COVID in Woomelang;](#)
- [Boosting capacity to support COVID response;](#)
- [Responding to COVID in East Arnhem Land;](#)
- [Making a big impact with a small project in Foster.](#)

What Can be Funded

A broad range of charitable projects are considered under this program, including:

- Delivering, or providing activities, events, programs and services;
- Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials;
- Community infrastructure projects;
- Activities and resources that will strengthen your organisation (capacity building); and
- Community resource development.

What Can't be Funded

There are several areas that we **can't fund** through this program. If in doubt, please contact us:

- On-going costs such as rent and utilities;
 - Purchase of motor vehicles;
 - Costs involved in the purchase or upgrade / hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project);
 - Insurance costs (the participants must effect and maintain adequate insurance or similar coverage for any liability arising as a result of its participation in funded activities);
 - Routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, office computing facilities, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges;
 - Projects that duplicate an existing project or service in their community;
 - Costs related to preparing the grant application, preparing any project reports (except costs of independent audit reports we require) and preparing any project variation requests;
 - Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments;
 - Ongoing core organisational operational costs (e.g. rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments);
 - The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law.
Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club;
 - Overseas travel and overseas projects;
 - Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards;
 - Political lobbying;
 - Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader, or private interests; and
 - Projects solely focused on animal welfare.
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Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a **not-for-profit organisation** with either an **Incorporation Certificate and/or an ABN**. If you are unsure if your organisation is a registered not-for-profit (e.g. if you are a Co-operative, Other Unincorporated Entity, Public Company or Trust), please contact FRRR;
- There are three streams of funding available within the Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Program: [Small and Vital](#), [Prepare and Recover](#), and [Rebuilding Regional Communities](#). Organisations may submit their application in **one** of these streams per SRC grant round, and any other applications in this round will be considered ineligible;
- Project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Not-for-profit organisations with or without DGR-1 endorsement are eligible;
- Projects must benefit communities in remote, rural or regional Australia.

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
- Application is submitted without required financial information (see below);
- Overdue final report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
- Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;
- Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

How to Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.



We recommend you download this [sample copy of the application form](#).

[Click here to apply.](#)



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC)

SRC Rebuilding Regional Communities

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**FRRR
Contacts**

If at any time you need help with your application, don't hesitate to contact the FRRR office on free call 1800 170 020 or email us at covidsupport@frrr.org.au.

IMPORTANT NOTES RE: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you **MUST** include for your project to be considered. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible Legal Entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation doesn't have that, FRRR may still fund the project but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the '**legal organisation**' (with your organisation being the **delivery organisation**). This situation often occurs when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch. In this case, the CWA or YMCA would be the legal organisation.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it's the 'legal organisation's' legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role.

Applications from ACNC and/or unincorporated associations are required to submit their organisation's Constitution.

Why is this important?

This program is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial Information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect financial information is currently the most common reason why applications are not able to be considered. You must include the organisation's:

- Annual income (total income in your financial year);
- Annual expenditure (total expenses in your financial year); and
- Current assets (from your audited financials, or bank balance minus any debts).

Please note:

- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required.
- If financial information is more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents.
- Please explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially.

FRRR conducts a broad range of due diligence queries when reviewing applications, such as: reviewing current and past incorporation, DGR and ACNC status. If your organisation has happened to have their incorporation status, DGR status or ACNC status changed or ACNC registration revoked or voluntarily withdrawn, please let us know the reasons for this.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financials or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's financial viability and ability to manage grant funds.

Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funding would be used for and that also shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e. total expenditure must match total income.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Quotes or detailed rationale for items over \$1,000 are required, where possible. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$45 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: <https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/help-sheets/valuing-volunteer-labour>.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how FRRR funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR strongly recommends that you provide supporting materials such as [letters of support](#), [evidence of permission from the property owner](#), community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show broad-community support and partnerships involved in the project. For more information on supporting documentation, [watch this recording](#).

Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally-led and delivered, show good partnerships and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description of exactly **what** the grant funds will be used for, **when** and **where** the project will happen, **who** will benefit and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** funds will be spent and **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated and shared.

Where possible, we encourage you to make it really clear that your organisation is ready and able to deliver the project and, if required, provide ongoing support for the initiative.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing the what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best way to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.