

September 2024

Frequently Asked Questions Central-West Orana REZ - Local Community fund

What is the Local Community Fund?

The Local Community Fund (LCF) is a new, \$15 million grant fund provided under the NSW Government's **Community and Employment Benefit Program** (the Program).

The LCF aims to support and enable communities within the Central-West Orana REZ to provide programs, services or infrastructure that reflect local needs, improve community amenity, boost resilience and deliver enduring benefit for host communities.

Who can apply?

The following groups are Eligible Applicants and can apply for funding through the LCF:

- Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations;
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils;
- Incorporated Aboriginal community organisations (i.e. initiated by, controlled and operated by Aboriginal people and/or governed by a board or committee of Aboriginal people); and
- Local Councils (*only if in partnership with or in support of a community project*).

Committees under section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) must apply via the relevant Council.

Please see the "Eligible Applicants" section of the **Grant Guidelines** for further information.

Can businesses apply for funding?

No, private organisations are not eligible for funding under the **Grant Guidelines**.

What types of projects are eligible?

Projects, programs or services that will benefit communities within the Central-West Orana REZ geographic area and meet the LCF Objectives are eligible for funding, as outlined in the **Grant Guidelines**.

Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount?

Funding applications must range from a minimum of **\$50,000** to a maximum amount of **\$1,000,000**.

When do applications open and close?

The fund opens on Monday 15 July 2024 and closes on Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 4:00pm.

When will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed from 9 October 2024.

How long do we have to deliver the project?

Projects must commence within 3 months of the commencement date of a funding deed and be completed by December 2028.

“Commencement of a project” refers to any project development activities (including planning works, Development Application preparation or submission, procurement planning or contractor engagement).

Can my project be delivered outside the Central-West Orana REZ?

Projects must be delivered within the Central West Orana REZ geographic boundary (as defined [here](#)) or provide primary benefit to local communities within the Central West Orana REZ.

Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to submit applications that deliver projects and activities into villages and smaller communities most impacted by REZ activities.

Is a co-contribution required?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make a financial co-contribution to their projects. However, this is not a mandatory eligibility requirement.

Can an organisation apply for more than one project?

Yes - applicants requesting grant funding for multiple projects must submit a separate application for each project.

What if we need support to complete our application?

Grant writing workshops will be held during the application open period to support Applicants. Please refer to the Program webpage for relevant dates.

Support is available to assist with the development of applications. If you require support or further information, including referral to your local Economic Development Manager, please contact energyco@regional.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 679 673.

Please check with Department of Regional NSW prior to submitting if you are unclear about any part of the application. Applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine the suitability of the funding before applying.

Can a project be located on private land?

Projects can be located on private land but they must not be solely for private benefit. An applicant will need to show how the facility will be open to and how it will benefit the community.

What are the next steps after we apply?

Successful Applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Deed with the NSW Government.

When can we announce our project to the public?

Applicants must keep funding decisions and assessment outcomes confidential until announced by the NSW Government or until the Applicant is advised that announcement can proceed.
