



Afghan-Australian Community & Settlement Support

Grant Program Guidelines

November 2021 – June 2023



About the grant program

On 14 October 2021, The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs announced new funding of \$27.1 million for a tailored Afghan settlement support package, to help recent evacuees from Afghanistan settle successfully into their new lives in Australia.

The package includes \$8.0 million over two years to further strengthen the capacity of Afghan-Australian organisations and other community and grassroots organisations to continue to play a critical role in supporting the evacuees to begin their new lives in Australia.

As part of this commitment, \$7.0 million over two years is provided as direct funding through an open competitive grant program and \$1.0 million will be assigned to capacity building for organisations receiving the funding, as well as program administration. The grant program is administered by Migration Council Australia and is called *Afghan-Australian Community and Settlement Support*.

Program objectives and aims

The program seeks to help support Afghan-Australian and other community and grassroots organisations undertaking critical work to welcome and support recent and future, evacuees and humanitarian entrants through this current crisis in Afghanistan. Further, the program aims to strengthen whole-of-community engagement and capacity building. The successful organisations will be supported through a comprehensive organisational capacity-building program and individual leadership training.

Expected outcomes

Desired outcomes of the Afghan-Australian Community Support Grants program include that:

- Community organisations are better able to link new Afghan arrivals to the Afghan community
- Community organisations are able to demonstrate sound governance and organisational structures
- Community organisations have strong leaders, including women leaders, who are able to advocate for their community
- Community organisations are able to link and refer community members into other organisations that provide settlement and integration support
- Refugees and humanitarian entrants participate socially within the Afghan-Australian and broader community
- Refugees and humanitarian entrants have a sense of belonging within the Afghan-Australian and broader community.

Target groups

The Grants program will provide funding to Afghan-Australian and other community and grassroot organisations to support newly arrived Afghan refugees, humanitarian entrants and other vulnerable migrants. Activities are to be conducted primarily in locations where recent arrivals are settling.



Grant rounds and funding

Two grant rounds will be held between November 2021 and June 2023:

- Grant Round One: November 2021 for projects commencing in February 2022 (projects must finish by June 2023).
- Grant Round Two: March 2022 for projects commencing in July 2022 (projects must be finish by June 2023).

The minimum amount of funding available is \$20,000 per year (or \$30,000 over 17 months). The maximum amount of funding available is \$250,000 per year (or \$375,000 over 17 months).

At the commencement of each of the grant rounds, MCA will host a series of grant program information sessions via videoconference to provide interested applicants with the relevant information about the application process and to answer questions.

Throughout the duration of the grant program, MCA will maintain a telephone line and an online channel for enquiries, feedback and complaints.

More than one application can be submitted per applicant in any given grant round.



Grant eligibility criteria

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Afghan-Australian and other community and grassroots organisations undertaking critical work to welcome and support recent evacuees from Afghanistan.

Priority will be given to small not-for-profit organisations who directly represent, or are able to demonstrate close existing relationships with, the Afghan-Australian community. We welcome collaborations between different organisations. Smaller community organisations may wish to partner with larger organisations for example, or veterans organisations with Afghan community organisations.

Larger and well-established organisations are eligible to apply but should consider:

- whether they have effective links with the target community to enable them to successfully deliver the project
- partnering with a smaller, Afghan-Australian community organisation.

To be eligible to apply for a grant, you must be one of the following entity types:

- Cooperative
- Incorporated association
- Partnership
- Trustee on behalf of a trust
- Indigenous corporation
- Company
- Local Government

You are not eligible to apply if you are a:

- Commonwealth company
- Corporate Commonwealth entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth statutory authority
- Non-corporate state or territory entity
- International entity
- Sole trader
- Person
- Unincorporated association.

Organisations must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) in place and have an account with an Australian financial institution before applying for a grant, or be willing to register for both prior to signing the grant agreement.



Organisations must have policies aligned with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, which ensure:

- All staff who may be working with children undergo appropriate screening and recruitment practices
- The organisation takes appropriate child safety measures (e.g. through the implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations).

Eligible grant activities

The funding can be used to pay for:

- Staff salaries and on-costs that can be directly attributed to the delivery of the grant activity.
- Grant activities expenditure consistent with the grant agreement.
- Operating and administrative expenses related to the delivery of the grant activities.

What the grant money cannot be used for

- Purchase of land
- Major capital expenditure
- Overseas travel
- Overseas activities
- Services that duplicate those delivered by the Humanitarian Settlement Program.



The grant selection process

Migration Council Australia (MCA) will announce the call for applications for each of the two grant rounds. Applications will be accepted via an online submission form.

First, MCA will assess all applications against the organisational eligibility criteria and proposed grant activities eligibility. Eligible applications will progress to the next stage and will be considered through an open competitive grant process.

An independent assessment panel will be convened to consider the applications.

After eligibility has been established, each eligible application will be considered on its merits, based on:

- How well it meets the criteria
- How it compares to other applications
- Whether it provides value for money.

Consideration will be given to:

- Overall objectives of the grant program
- Ensuring that the proposed activities will be delivered in locations where Afghan evacuees are residing
- How the activity will be delivered
- How well the proposal addresses the target groups listed on page 2.

The assessment criteria

You will need to address the following three assessment criteria in your application. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion detailed below:

- Criterion 1: 40%
- Criterion 2: 40%
- Criterion 3: 20%

There is a word limit of 750 words for each of the criteria.

Criterion 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for support within the target Afghan cohort (40%).

Your response should:

- Outline the characteristics and needs of your target group/community, including numbers of people in need of support
- Address gaps in supports within the target group/community
- Demonstrate how delivery of the support will benefit the target group/community.



Criterion 2: Describe your proposed activity and how it will achieve positive outcomes for the target cohort (40%).

Your response should address:

- The activities that you propose to deliver
- How your organisation will engage with the target group/community and relevant stakeholders
- What outcomes you expect to achieve for the target group/community.

Criterion 3: Demonstrate your organisation's capability to achieve objectives for the target cohort and successfully deliver the activity on time and within budget (20%).

Your response should:

- Outline your organisation's relationship with the target group/community
- Describe your organisation's approach to engaging with the target group/community and delivering support to address particular needs
- Describe your organisation's ability to develop and deliver grant activities.

In addition to addressing these assessment criteria, applicants must also submit an estimated budget proposal outlining a high-level breakdown of the costs associated with the proposed activity.



Successful applications

If you are successful and choose to accept a grant offer, you will enter into a legally binding agreement with MCA.

You will be required to provide an Activity Workplan (on the template provided) reflecting agreed activities, six-monthly Activity Workplan Reports, and a Final Financial Declaration.

Grant Funding will be paid on the basis of a tax invoice for the amount of the payment from your organisation.

For projects over twelve to eighteen months in duration, the initial six-months payment will be paid on execution of the agreement, and the remaining payment will be paid on the acceptance of the six-monthly reports.

If your application is successful, it will be expected that you have public liability insurance cover in place.



Evaluation

MCA will evaluate the grant program to scope the impact and outcomes. In this regard, funded organisations will be required to participate in MCA-facilitated monthly learning circles through the duration of their respective activities to share learnings and experiences from their projects, identify emerging issues, and exchange knowledge and expertise.

The purpose of the learning circles is to encourage greater collaboration among the organisations nationally.

Organisations will be required to include in six-month reports information on program outcomes, the number of clients serviced, types of services provided and include case study examples, which will be included in the evaluation of the grant program.



Capacity building for funded organisations

Funded organisations will be required to participate in an MCA-facilitated capacity-building program targeted at the organisational, as well as the individual leadership levels.

At the organisational level, the program will support funded organisations with access to governance and structural support (including tools and resources) enabling the organisations to achieve enhanced outcomes. The program will focus on the following areas:

- Governance and business
- Risk management
- Human resource management
- Talent management
- Health, safety and environment
- Building leadership skills
- Strategic planning
- Funding sustainability.

At the individual level, the program will deliver leadership training to support the capacity of individuals to develop tailored solutions for their respective communities. The training will focus on the following areas:

- Identifying emerging issues and concerns among communities
- Working with communities, local government and non-government stakeholders to develop and implement appropriate responses
- Building strong relationships within communities and with relevant sectors
- Representing community views and effectively advocating for the issues of concern
- Navigating decision-making processes.

The program will also facilitate quarterly forums for community leaders to discuss their successes and challenges, and share ideas.

