



ACT
Government

2026 Audrey Fagan Enrichment Grants Program

Grant Guidelines

Applications open: 12 noon Tuesday 12 May 2026
Applications close: 3pm Thursday 2 July 2026

Accessibility Information

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- If English is not your first language and you require the **translating and interpreting services** – please telephone **13 14 50**.
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Table of contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Aim	4
3	Government objectives.....	4
4	Eligibility requirements.....	5
5	Funding	6
6	Assessment of applications	7
7	Accepting a grant	9
8	Acquittal and reporting requirements.....	10
9	Application submission	10
10	Application feedback	12

2026 Audrey Fagan Enrichment Grants Program

1 Introduction

The Health and Community Services Directorate is pleased to announce the opening of the Audrey Fagan Enrichment (Enrichment Grants) Grants Program.

The Enrichment Grants support ACT girls, young women, non-binary, and gender diverse young people, to develop a project that will assist them to achieve their goals.

The Enrichment Grants are part of the Audrey Fagan Program. Established in 2007, this program is in memory of Audrey Fagan, the ACT's first female Chief of Police. This program honours and recognises her support and mentorship of girls, young women, non-binary, and gender diverse young people.

The program is also connected to the United Nations International Day of the Girl Child, a global initiative recognising the leadership, achievement and right of girls and young women. Each year, grant recipients may be acknowledged as part of local celebrations marking this day.

2 Aim

The Enrichment Grants aim to inspire eligible girls, young women, non-binary, and gender diverse young people, to enhance their skills and knowledge within their area of interest.

These grants provide girls, young women, non-binary, and gender diverse young people aged 12 to 18 years with an opportunity to develop a project that will assist them to achieve their goals.

It provides an opportunity for applicants to make decisions, take responsibility, and initiate a project in collaboration with an experienced mentor of their choice. Grant funding can contribute to costs such as equipment, forums, courses, and travel expenses to activities.

3 Government objectives

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

Consistent with the objectives of the grant program, funding for projects, activities or initiatives that contribute towards Closing the Gap priorities will be considered.

This is part of the ACT Government's commitment to Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As outlined in the [ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement](#), the ACT Government and community partners are committed to self-determination as the guiding principle in the delivery of programs and services.

ACT Wellbeing Framework

Projects and initiatives can demonstrate how they address any of the ACT Health and Wellbeing Framework outcomes.

For more information, visit the [ACT Wellbeing Framework website](#).

4 Eligibility requirements

Who can apply?

To be eligible for an Enrichment Grant you (the applicant) must:

- Be a girl, young woman, non-binary or gender diverse young person aged between 12 – 18 years in the year of the grant application
- Be a resident of the ACT, and/or attend an ACT school, or home schooled in the ACT
- Have the support of a mentor (see 'Mentor' section below for more information).

Eligible applicants can only apply once in the 2026 round.

Applicants must have no overdue acquittal obligations for any previous Health and Community Services Directorate grant. **All outstanding acquittals must be completed prior to submitting an application.**

Parent/Guardian permission

Applicants must obtain permission from their parent/guardian before submitting their application.

Your parent/guardian will be required to upload their photo ID and proof of ACT residency.

Mentor

Applicants must have the support of a mentor to be eligible to receive a grant. A letter of support is required from your mentor with your application. A mentor can be someone you have already built an existing relationship with. Or even someone that you respect, with expertise in your area of interest. A mentor can be a:

- Teacher
- Coach
- Professional in a chosen field
- Supervisor or manager.

If you need assistance to identify a mentor, please contact the ACT Office for Women via email to women@act.gov.au

A mentor will not be paid additional funds to provide the mentoring role to the applicant outside of their normal duties, such as teach or coaching.

Mentor's role

The role of the mentor is to provide you with guidance and support throughout the life cycle of the project. This can be as simple as working together to develop an activity or project that you would like to do over the next 6 to 12 months. It may involve developing a plan, that includes goals, tasks and opportunities to review and reflect.

When your project is completed, your mentor will provide a one-page report about how their mentoring role supported you to achieve your goals. This can include what was effective, what were the challenges and the lessons learnt.

A mentor can also provide opportunities to:

- Learn professional skills and new ways of thinking
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Network
- Develop management, leadership and communication skills.

5 Funding

Available funding

The total funding available under the Enrichment Grants is \$10,000.

The maximum grant that can be applied for is \$2,000.

Successful recipients will receive a Letter of Offer, which provides information on the grant funding terms and acquittal requirements.

The Enrichment Grants can be used for a wide range of project areas. However, it is important that applications clearly demonstrate how the project proposal will achieve your individual goals.

Some examples of previous Enrichment Grant applications include:

- pay tuition, fees, or books (does not include school fees)
- specialist equipment
- registration costs for an activity/project
- accommodation costs for the activity/project
- travel expenses to an activity/project
- LGBTQIA+ youth project to raise awareness through arts and crafts and a keynote speaker
- Created a mural for STEM projects through purchasing of appropriate technology
- Support participation in Olympic qualifying swimming trials.

These are only examples; it is important that your application reflects your individual goals.

Funding cannot be used for

The following will not be funded:

- An activity or project that has already commenced prior to the grant closing date, including items already purchased
- Financial support for travel companions
- Spending money
- An activity or project that requires on-going funding or where the applicant or their family are unable to meet the cost after the grant money has been spent
- Projects that do not contribute to or meet the aim of this program
- General administration and operational costs such as salaries, communication and IT, stationery, rent, leasing, or utilities
- IT devices (e.g. laptop, smartphone etc)
- Debt repayments of any kind
- Projects or activities already funded by the ACT Government or Australian Government or are better suited to other available funding opportunities
- Projects or activities which are deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.

If you are not sure if your idea fits and you would like to discuss your proposal, please contact the ACT Office for Women via email to women@act.gov.au

6 Assessment of applications

When your application is received it will be checked against these grant guidelines to ensure it meets the eligibility requirements for funding.

Successful applications may not receive the full amount applied for. The Grant Assessment Team will review and adjust the level of allocated funding as necessary.

Assessment process

Following the pre-eligibility check, a Grant Assessment Team will assess your application. The Grant Assessment Team will be made up of a chairperson and may include members from the Women's Advisory Council for Gender Equity, the Youth Advisory Council and a senior officer from the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Grant Assessment Team members will use the information provided in your application and information from any previous Health and Community Services Directorate grant rounds to assess the applications submitted. If you have been successful in other recent grant rounds, the Grant Assessment Team may take this into consideration during their assessment considering the high number of applications received to ensure fairness across all applicants.

All decisions on whether to award a grant, or on the amount of any grant, are at the sole discretion of the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Assessment criteria for applications

Due to the competitive process, all eligible applications will be assessed and prioritised by the Grant Assessment Team against the following criteria:

- **Proposal:** The proposal clearly demonstrates the aims of the activity/project.
- **Mentor Support:** The proposal clearly demonstrates the support from your mentor in achieving the activity/project.
- **Benefit:** The application clearly demonstrates the extent to which the activity/project benefits the applicant, including ongoing benefit.
- **Budget:** The budget is realistic and clearly details all expenditure for the activity or event including demonstrating value for money.

A budget is an estimate of income and expenditure required to complete your chosen activity. You will need to provide a budget with your application. This needs to show the funding breakdown for different items or activities.

In some cases, due to the high demand for grants, only part funding may be offered to successful applicants. Therefore, you will need to consider if you can proceed with your project if only part-funding is available.

If you have applied for, or received, other funding for this project, you must clearly explain this in your application.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Notification of outcome

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in writing.

The Health and Community Services Directorate expects to notify applicants of the outcome of their applications in September 2026. Please ensure that this timeframe is taken into consideration when planning your projects. Between the grant round closing, and receiving your outcome letters, applicants may not hear anything from the CSD Grants team.

Unfortunately, not all applications can be funded as there are usually more applications received than funds available. This does not necessarily mean that the application is not worthy. It is more likely that other applications were ranked higher in the assessment process.

If you would like feedback on your application, please see the 'Application Feedback' section.

7 Accepting a grant

Grant Agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an Agreement. This will be via a Letter of Offer with the Health and Community Services Directorate for which grant funding will be provided. The Letter of Offer will include:

- How to accept an Offer
- Detail on the grant amount to be funded
- Detail on the purpose or activity for which the grant is given
- The term of your funded activity for which the grant amount must be fully expended
- How to acquit your grant funds when the project has been completed.

The ACT Government does not carry any responsibility for the activities undertaken by grant recipients.

Funds must be spent only on items and activities listed in your application. Sometimes the Letter of Offer will have conditions of what the funding cannot be spent on.

Changes to activity

Your grant is funded based on the details of your application only. If something changes due to unexpected circumstances, you must first obtain written approval from the Health and Community Services Directorate. Your request to change the activity will be reviewed by the Delegate in the Health and Community Services Directorate and you will be advised in writing if the request is approved or declined. Failure to seek approval to change the purpose can result in non-conformance and may result in you having to return the full grant amount that was paid by the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Celebration event

Successful applicants will be invited to attend a celebratory event with the Minister for Women, held on or around 11 October 2026 in recognition of the United Nations International Day of the Girl Child.

This event provides an opportunity to connect with other young leaders, hear inspirational stories, and formally recognise recipients' achievements. Applicants are encouraged to keep this period available.

Grant and project promotion

The project descriptions and funding amounts of all successful applicants will be posted on the ACT Government Grants website following completion of the grants process. If you do not want your project published, or to be contacted by the ACT Government Media Team, please let the CSD Grants Team know when you accept your grant.

8 Acquittal and reporting requirements

All successful applicants must expend the grant funds they receive within the timeframes nominated in their Letter of Offer.

An acquittal is a signed declaration, submitted at the end of the activity, stating that funding was used for the agreed purpose. This includes providing copies of receipts as proof of expenditure.

Acquittal process

The acquittal of the grant must be submitted through SmartyGrants at:

<http://dhcs.SmartyGrants.com.au/applicant>

Instructions will be provided to successful applicants in their Letter of Offer. You will need to login using the same identification details you used to submit the application. Please keep this in a safe place.

The funds must be expended in accordance with the activity/project outlined in the grant application and in the Letter of Offer and you must include a letter from your Mentor. All receipts must be kept and submitted with the acquittal.

Unspent funds

Any unspent funds from your grant must be returned to the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Please note: *To be eligible for funding in any future Health and Community Services Directorate grants rounds, applicants must meet all acquittal requirements.*

9 Application submission

Online Application Form

Now that you have read the Grant Guidelines, this section explains how to submit your application on SmartyGrants. All applications must be submitted via the online application form at:

<https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/2026AFEG>

All applications must be submitted online. Hardcopy or email applications will not be accepted.

If you require assistance to complete your application, please contact the Office for Women at:

women@act.gov.au

Start early – the process of preparing a grant application depends on how well you have planned the activity for which you are applying. You can start this process long before you start and submit an application.

If you have never prepared a proposal or written a grant application, we suggest you take some time to understand the process and reach out for assistance if you need it. You will find lots of tips on the SmartyGrants website –

<http://help.smartygrants.com.au/display/help/Help+Guide+for+Applicants>

Start gathering your support materials. These might be quotes, or website details. You can never have enough evidence to support an application, so long as it is relevant to the activity to be funded.

Create login

You will need to create a log in to begin your application and you may begin anywhere in the application form. Please make sure you save as you go.

Navigating form

On the right-hand side of every screen, there is a box which links directly to every page of the application. Click on any page to jump directly to that page. You can also click 'next page' or 'previous page' on the top or bottom of each page to move forward or backward through the application.

Saving draft

You can press 'save' at any point and log out. When you log back in, your draft application will be saved, and you can start where you left off.

Submitting application

The submit button is on the final page. You will not be able to submit your application until all the questions are completed. Once your application has been submitted, you cannot make further changes to it.

Supporting documentation

All applicants must provide supporting documentation at the time of submission.

If your application does not include all the required documentation, it may be deemed ineligible.

SmartyGrants provides an online help guide for applicants. This guide will explain the essential steps you need to take to complete and submit your form. The help guide is accessible at:

<http://help.smartygrants.com.au/display/help/Help+Guide+for+Applicants>

Correct contact details

Please make sure that the contact details listed in your application form are correct. The Health and Community Services Directorate will use this information for all correspondence relating to your application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a personal (non-school) email address to ensure ongoing contact through the grants process and after project completion.

Save application

It is recommended that you keep a copy of your application for your records as well as your application ID number (e.g., 2026AFEGxx). You can print a copy of your completed online application or save it as a PDF.

10 Application feedback

Providing feedback

Applicants are encouraged to complete the feedback questions at the end of the application form. This feedback assists to improve grant programs, processes, and service delivery. You can also email feedback to the CSD Grants team at HCSDGrants@act.gov.au.

Requesting feedback

The Health and Community Services Directorate supports your right to ask questions about the grant application process. If your application has not been successful, email the CSD Grants team at HCSDGrants@act.gov.au, quoting your application ID number and outlining your specific concerns. The Health and Community Services Directorate will provide a response as soon as possible.

This information also assists to improve grant programs, processes, and service delivery.