



ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

Gambling Harm Prevention & Mitigation Fund

Community Grants Program

Grant Guidelines



Accessibility

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If English is not your first language and you require the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) please telephone **131 450**.

If you are deaf or hearing impaired and require the National Relay Service, please telephone **131 677** then ask for **133 427**.

Any additional information provided by the Commission as part of the Grants Program will be available online at www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au.

Contact us

gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au

www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au

02 6207 0359 (Option 4)

For gambling help or support

[1800 858 858](tel:1800858858)

www.everystorymatters.act.gov.au

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About

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (**the Commission**) is an independent body established under section 5 of the *Gambling and Racing Control Act 1999*.

The prevention and reduction of gambling harm are core objectives of the Commission and this is guided by its five-year [Strategy for gambling harm prevention in the ACT: A public health approach](#). This Strategy relies on the development and delivery of evidence-based, co-ordinated activities and initiatives addressing harm as experienced by people who gamble, their families and the community.

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund (**the Fund**) was established under the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* (**the Act**). Payments to the Fund consist of a levy from gaming machine licensees as well as voluntary contributions from Tabcorp ACT, Casino Canberra and The Lottery Corporation.

The scope of the Fund

Section 163C (2) of the Act provides that the Commission may only make payments from the Fund for a purpose the Commission is satisfied will assist in:

- Alleviating gambling harm
- Alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm
- Providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm

The Commission has established the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund Grants Program (the **Grants Program**) and administers it through the Fund.

Grants Program objectives

In the ACT gambling is a regulated activity that many people enjoy, yet there are significant social and individual harms that can arise with negative impacts to individuals, friends and families, the community and the economy.

Utilising a public health approach, the prevention and reduction of gambling harm are core objectives of the Commission where it seeks to prevent gambling harm before it occurs or reduce or delay the actual onset of gambling harm.

Involvement from industry, research organisations, community and individuals are integral to alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm and promoting healthy communities and environments. The Grants Program provides a funding framework to support this multi-sectoral response to gambling harm prevention and reduction.

The aims of the Grants Program are to:

- Prevent and reduce gambling harm utilising a public health approach aligned with the principles of the Commission's Strategy
- Increase understanding about gambling harm amongst government, gambling industry, communities, families and individuals
- Enhance social cohesion and an inclusive community that enables all ACT residents to access fit for purpose solutions and supports to live a fulfilling life in our city
- Improve awareness, skills and capability in gambling harm, prevention and response across the ACT
- Ascertain information in creating or adopting effective regulatory measures that better protect individuals and reduce the negative impacts associated with gambling

The Community Stream of the Grants Program provides funding to support a range of community led activities that prevent and reduce gambling harm for the benefit of ACT residents.

Projects funded by the Grants Program must align with the scope of the Fund and at least one of the following Commission's strategic objectives:

1. Ensuring Government policy and initiatives prevent and reduce gambling harm
2. Increasing understanding about gambling harm amongst government, gambling industry, communities, families and individuals
3. Providing a wide range of accessible, responsive and effective services and initiatives that prevent and reduce gambling harm
4. Ensuring gambling environments and providers prevent and reduce gambling harm
5. Supporting and building the evidence base for gambling harm prevention strategies and initiatives

Eligibility: Community Grants Program

Eligible organisations and entities

To be eligible to apply for the Grants Program applicants must:

- Be an incorporated legal entity or be auspiced by an incorporated legal entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN) (See additional information about auspiced funding requirements under *Important information for applicants* section of this document)
- Be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) if applicable
- Have a minimum of \$10 million public liability insurance (evidence may be requested)
- Be willing to enter into a Deed of Grant
- Not be a Family Trust or Political party registered under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
- Have no overdue acquittal reports associated with grant programs administered by the Commission

Please note: Applications may not be assessed for funding if the applicant does not meet the above eligibility requirements.

Examples of organisations eligible to apply to the Grants Program may include:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- ACT community organisations* including but not limited to:
 - sporting
 - social
 - cultural
 - recreational associations
- Parents ACT School Associations
- Health, community and support services
- ACT community clubs
- Sole traders
- Individuals, including people with lived experience of gambling harm

* ACT community organisations must be a current ACT organisation listed on the [Incorporated Associations public register](#).

Eligible projects

Projects eligible for funding under the Grants Program must:

- Be delivered in the ACT for the benefit of ACT residents
- Be completed within 12 months
- Address a clear need in public health and gambling harm prevention
- Not duplicate the Commission's current or previous activities
- Align with at least one of the five strategic objectives under the *Strategy for Gambling Harm Prevention*
- Align with at least one of the following under 163C (2) of the Gaming Machine Act 2004:
 - alleviating gambling harm
 - alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm
 - providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm

Please note: Applications may not be assessed for funding if the applicant does not meet the above project eligibility requirements.

Examples of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Community development, engagement and education programs (e.g. within school, sporting, recreational and cultural groups)
- Public health information and promotion activities
- Communication activities and campaigns
- Community events and workshops
- Innovative improvements to enhance gambling harm initiatives
- Capacity and knowledge building

- Online learning
- Providing support for:
 - practical initiatives for people experiencing gambling harm or their family
 - education and awareness about harms caused by gambling
 - assisting people experiencing gambling harm to exclude themselves from gambling venues
 - supporting the family of people experiencing gambling harm
 - self-help information about gambling harm
 - research about gambling harm

Funding exclusions

Funding will not be provided through the Grants Program for the following:

- Projects that are primarily involved with fundraising, prizes, competitions and awards
- Any activity of a commercial nature that is for personal profit
- Travel and accommodation costs unless it is demonstrated that it is essential to the outcome of the project
- Costs of project activities that are fully covered by other funding sources
- Costs of products or activities that are core business of the organisation, for example, the infrastructure costs associated with running an organisation including but not limited to employment of core staff, equipment, core programs, leasing or property maintenance
- Expenses not related to the direct costs of the project
- Expenses occurring outside the project start and end date
- Fees related to applicants' attendance at conferences, workshops or events

Application information & process

Community Grants Program

The 2026-27 Community Grants Program has up to \$50,000 in funding available to support eligible local community organisations and individuals deliver projects that help prevent and reduce gambling harm in the ACT Community. Applications are open all year round commencing at the start of the financial year and closing at the end of the financial year.

Up to \$10,000 per project is available for applicants under the Community Grants Program.

Community Grants Program

Grant Funding Pool: Up to \$50,000 per year

Project Funding Scope: Up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive)

Project Type: Small to medium sized projects, events, or initiatives

Project Period: Projects must be delivered within a 12-month period

Please note: The Community Grants Program will close once the funding pool has been exhausted for the financial year. Notification of this will be provided on the Grants webpage. Please check the webpage before completing and submitting your application.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the [Grants webpage](#). You will need to complete the application form and upload your written response to the assessment criteria contained within the grant guidelines.

To apply:

1. Visit the [Grants webpage](#)
2. Click 'apply now'
3. Follow the instructions to complete your application
4. Submit your application

If there is a reason you are unable to submit an online application, please contact the Gambling Harm Prevention Team via email gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au or phone (02) 6207 0359 (option 4).

Grant application stages

Key dates and timeframes

Grant applications open: 1 July 2026

Applications close: 30 June 2027 (or earlier if the annual funding amount is exhausted)

Notification about outcome of application: Up to 4 weeks after your application submission

Grant application criteria

Applicants must detail their proposed project or activity and address the following criteria to be considered for grant funding.

Criterion 1: alignment with strategic objectives

The proposal demonstrates alignment with at least one of the following objectives of the [Strategy for gambling harm prevention in the ACT: A public health approach](#):

1. Ensuring Government policy and initiatives prevent and reduce gambling harm
2. Increasing understanding about gambling harm amongst government, gambling industry, communities, families and individuals
3. Providing a wide range of accessible, responsive and effective services and initiatives that prevent and reduce gambling harm
4. Ensuring gambling environments and providers prevent and reduce gambling harm
5. Supporting and building the evidence base for gambling harm prevention strategies and initiatives

Criterion 2: scope of the Fund

The proposal will assist with at least one of the following:

- Alleviating gambling harm
- Alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm
- Providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm

Criterion 3: project plan

The application provides a basic project plan including:

- Outputs/Outcomes
- Timelines
- Milestones
- Target audience/who will benefit from the activity
- Community and stakeholder support
- Key risks and risk mitigation
- Measures of success

Criterion 4: budget

The proposal demonstrates value for money and appropriate use of government funds.

The application provides a detailed cost breakdown and is based on realistic estimated costs for proper implementation.

Assessment process

The assessment of applications is based on the criteria identified in these guidelines. ACT Government staff will assess applications and act in accordance with the ACT Public Service [Code of Conduct](#). External representatives with relevant expertise may also be involved in the assessment process. All persons involved in the assessment process are required to sign a conflict-of-interest declaration and confidentiality undertaking.

Once your application has been assessed, a recommendation about the suitability of your project/activity will be provided to the delegate for their decision on grant recipients.

Notification of application outcome

You will be advised about the outcome of your application in writing via email.

Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback or comments on their application by emailing the Gambling Harm Prevention team gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au. Generally, feedback will be provided via email, however a time can be arranged to call you.

Important information for applicants

Auspiced funding

An auspicings organisation is an entity that accepts all legal responsibility, including financial accountability, for the delivery of a project. The auspicings organisation will be the applicant.

The auspicings organisation must provide a letter of support with the application stating they will:

- Be the applicant for this grant funding and, if successful, contract directly with the Commission for the receipt of grant funding, and comply with all grant funding contractual obligations, including the provision of financial acquittal documentation
- Be the entity that will accept the grant funding for the project and administer the funding in accordance with the Funding Guidelines and Deed of Grant
- Disburse grant funding to the auspicied party in accordance with the Funding Guidelines and Deed of Grant and not unreasonably withhold funding from the auspicied party for the implementation of the project

Accepting a Grant

Successful applicants are required to enter into a Deed of Grant with the Commission setting out the terms and conditions for which funding will be provided, including acquittal requirements within the agreed timeframe. The Deed of Grant identifies certain legal obligations associated with the grant, including your project proposal, the use of grant funds, and project and financial reporting.

Information about successful Grant recipients will be published on the Commission's website, including the name of the organisation, grant amount, the project name and description.

Funding duration

The funding duration for each project is up to 12 months.

Other funding sources

Other funding can come from any source, including but not limited to Commonwealth, state, territory and local government grants, private and in-kind contributions. If applicants are seeking additional funds from other sources, costs need to be clearly defined and show transparent application of project funds to reflect activities (or components of projects) that have been funded through other sources.

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to provide the Commission with written project updates throughout the grant period. These updates must capture an overview of the project's progress against milestones and activities, including any issues that may have arisen. This will help provide assurance that projects remain on track and are being delivered to an acceptable standard.

The Recipient must provide to the Commission, a final report confirming the completion of the Project and an acquittal of the Funding in accordance with the Deed of Grant, within 30 days from the end of the Term.

Confidentiality

All material submitted to the Commission is provided in confidence. However, the Commission may promote successful applicants for the mutual benefit of the applicant and the Grants Program. Details of applications will not be made available to third parties without permission. However, applicants should be aware that the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* apply to documents in the Commission's possession.

Contact details for more information

If you require more information about the Grants Program, please contact the Gambling Harm Prevention team at gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au or on 02 6207 0359 (option 4).