



CommBank Bushfire Recovery Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible to apply for a CommBank Bushfire Recovery Grant, each applicant must:

- be a community organisation, fire service, school, sporting club or non-government organisation in a bushfire affected area, not an individual;
- need to replace or repair facilities or property which was lost or damaged by bushfire during the 2019-20 bushfire season and is not likely to be covered by insurance;
- be able to identify how repair or replacement of the facilities or property will benefit the community ;
- not be implementing projects with any political objectives; and
- hold a current bank account in Australia and in its name.

What's the maximum grant I can apply for?

The maximum amount for a single grant is \$50,000.

What does a grant cover?

The grant covers the cost to replace or repair facilities or property which was lost or damaged by bushfire during the 2019-20 bushfire season and is not likely to be covered by insurance.

I'm a business, can I apply?

Only community organisations, fire services, schools, sporting clubs or non-government organisations in a bushfire affected area are eligible to apply.

I'm a school or P&C, can I apply?

Yes - any school or P&C operating in a bushfire affected area are eligible to apply.

I'm a religious organisation or church, can I apply?

Any religious organisation or church operating in a bushfire affected area is eligible to apply.

I'm an individual, can I apply?

No - individuals are not eligible to apply, only community organisations, fire services, schools, sporting clubs or non-government organisations in a bushfire affected area are eligible to apply.



Application Queries

Do I have to be a customer of Commonwealth Bank?

No.

Do I have to have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status?

No.

Do I have to have an ABN?

Yes.

I'm a CommBank employee, can I submit an application?

If you are a formal representative of a community organisation, fire service, school, sporting club or non-government organisations in a bushfire affected area, you are eligible to apply.

How long do I have to apply for a grant?

At this stage we plan to close applications on 31 March 2020. With this lengthy and unpredictable fire season we'll review closer to the time if we need to extend. We will be reviewing applications as they come in and plan to make payments each fortnight, so we would encourage you to apply as soon as you're able.

All my documentation was lost in the fire, how can I apply?

We understand. Please apply and provide all the information you can at this time.

Do I need evidence of the damage that has occurred?

It is not mandatory, but please provide any supporting documentation you may have available to show how the grant will be spent. If you do not have any documentation, please briefly describe what the grant will be spent on.

I don't know the exact value of the impact, can I estimate it?

Absolutely. Please provide your best estimate and share any supporting documentation you may have available to show the damage incurred.

I'm not sure if my insurance will cover the damage, can I apply for a grant?

Yes – you are welcome to apply, however please keep us informed on the status of your organisations insurance claim.

My insurance claim was granted but it doesn't cover the full damage, can I apply?

Yes.



Grant Payment

How long will it take to get my funding?

We will be reviewing applications as they come in and plan to make payments each fortnight.

Can I get this money directly from my branch?

We will deposit the money in the organisations bank account that is provided in the application. If your situation requires an alternate process we'll review this on a case by case basis.

Can I apply through my branch?

You will need to complete the online application in order to be eligible for the grant. However, your local branch will be able to assist you in completing the application.

As a Commonwealth Bank customer will I get preferential treatment?

No, each application is granted on the basis of meeting the Eligibility Criteria, you and/or the organisation you are applying on behalf of do not need to be a CBA customer to apply for a grant.

Can I apply for multiple grants for different things?

Yes you may, if damage has occurred in multiple locations please detail these in your application.

When do I need to have spent the grant?

The received grant needs to be spent within 12 months of receiving the funds.

Can the grant be paid into my personal bank account?

No.



Further Information

My grant was unsuccessful, what can I do now?

Please visit our [Customer Care Hub](#) or your local branch for further support.

I'm not eligible to apply for a grant, how else can CommBank assist me?

Please visit our [Customer Care Hub](#) or your local branch for further support.

I can't service my mortgage/I'm in hardship at the moment, can I apply for a grant?

No, only eligible organisations may apply for a grant. However please call 1300 720 814, visit our [Customer Care Hub](#) or your local branch for further support.

Who are SmartyGrants and why are they taking my application?

SmartyGrants is an online portal for grants management. It is Australia's most used grants management system and provides a simple, secure way for applications to be submitted.