



Community Grants

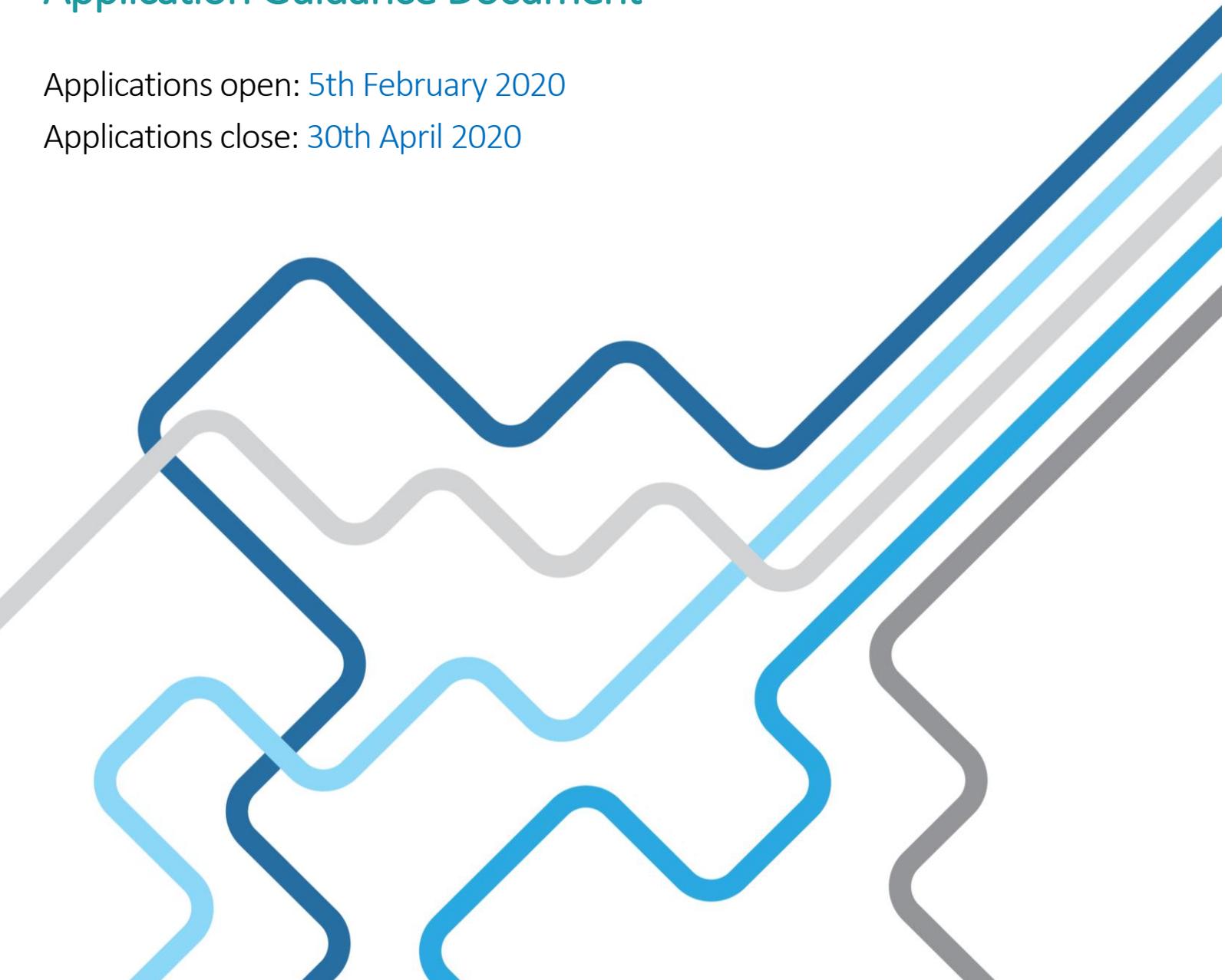
Drought Support

Empowering our communities

Application Guidance Document

Applications open: [5th February 2020](#)

Applications close: [30th April 2020](#)





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Introduction

Empowering our communities is a commonwealth funded initiative aimed at helping farmers and communities in drought affected regions deal with the uncertainty, stress and anxiety of drought conditions.

COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network (SENSW PHN) have set aside a portion of this funding to support a community grants program and invites local community organisations to apply for grant funding for group based activities that will promote community resilience and enhance community wellbeing whilst delivering mental health and wellbeing benefits to individuals.

Who can apply?

Organisations, community groups and local governments who are based in an area identified as a drought affected area within the South Eastern NSW PHN region are eligible to apply. Local government areas deemed eligible are: Shoalhaven; Eurobodalla; Bega Valley; Snowy Monaro; Queanbeyan Palerang; Goulburn Mulwaree; Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire.

Background

COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network

COORDINARE – SENSW PHN was established in July 2015. It is one of 31 PHNs established across Australia and one of 10 PHNs in NSW. The PHN spans two Local Health Districts (LHDs) – Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD and Southern NSW LHD and supports and strengthens general practice and primary health care services for more than 611,000 people across 11 Local Government Areas and one Commonwealth Territory (Jervis Bay). SENSW PHN works directly with General Practitioners (GPs), primary and secondary health care providers and hospitals to improve and better coordinate care for people in South Eastern NSW.

More information about COORDINARE can be found on our [website](#)

Empowering our Communities Initiative

In 2018 the government announced funding to provide increased support for mental health and suicide prevention measures for farmers and communities in drought affected areas under the 'Empowering our Communities' initiative. Anecdotal evidence indicates that rural communities, particularly farming communities, are generally averse to seeking and participating in more traditional, clinical forms of mental health care and support. It is acknowledged that there is a certain amount of stigma, particularly in small communities, around seeking and attending consultations with mental health professionals. It is also acknowledged that drought has detrimental economic and social effects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as detrimental cultural impacts associated with spiritual distress as the land deteriorates, and loss of traditional meeting places as the rivers dry up. ⁱ

Purpose and objective

These grants aim to promote community resilience and enhance community wellbeing through group based activities that deliver mental health and wellbeing benefits to individuals. Funding is available for small to medium community groups/organisations to provide activities that are delivered at no cost to the consumer and will:

- promote resilience and reduce stigma associated with mental illness and accessing mental health and suicide prevention services;
- improve physical and mental health;
- provide community education on topics such as managing stress, anxiety, depression and stigma.



What the grant money can be used for

This funding is for group focused health and wellbeing initiatives, types of activities that will be considered include:

- community health and wellbeing events or workshops that promote individual and/or community resilience and reduce stigma associated with mental illness and accessing mental health and suicide prevention services;
- complementary and lifestyle interventions known to improve physical and mental health, that can be delivered in a group setting, such as exercise classes, relaxation and yoga classes, mindfulness meditation classes; and
- community education sessions on topics such as managing stress, anxiety, depression and stigma.

What the grant money cannot be used for

Projects which are not eligible for this funding include:

- activities / services which duplicate existing
- reimbursement of individual activities e.g. gym membership, aromatherapy etc.
- construction of new community infrastructure
- refurbishment, repair and maintenance of existing community infrastructure
- purchasing of assets (i.e. buildings or vehicles)

Please note, while applications from the same organisations may be considered under both the Drought Support – *Empowering our Communities* and Bushfire Recovery – *Supporting Communities in Recovery* grant programs they will need to target different activities to be eligible for funding concurrently under both programs.

Program assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed for suitability against the following criteria:

- evidence that the planned activity is consistent with the grants program's objectives
- provides an outline of how the grant activity will benefit one/or more of the eligible regions identified as drought affected
- capacity of grant recipient to deliver the activity on time and within budget
- value for money.

Grant funding amounts

There are two levels of grant amounts available:

- Level 1 - up to \$1,500
- Level 2 - \$1,501 to \$10,000

Grant funding is available from **Wednesday 5th February 2020** until 30th April 2020.

How to apply

To apply for a COORDINARE- SENSW PHN Drought Support Community Grant:

1. Download and complete the application form from the COORDINARE website [here](#) and email to eocgrants@coordinare.org.au **or**
2. Complete the online application form [here](#).



Applicants should ensure each question in the application form is completed, including sufficient details about their organisation and proposed activities. This is to enable prompt assessment of the application and to avoid the need to return to applicants to request further information or clarification.

Applications will be assessed through an evaluation process. Successful applicants will need to enter into a grant agreement with COORDINARE – SENSW PHN. A copy of the draft grant agreement can be viewed [here](#).

If the application is successful, funding will be paid directly into the bank account provided following the return of signed grant agreement documents and tax invoice. Note, a tax invoice template will be provided for small organisations that require it.

Successful applicants will need to complete a short summary report at the completion of their grant that describes the outcomes achieved. An example of the reporting template can be viewed [here](#).

The COORDINARE - SENSW PHN reserves the right to directly approach communities in relation to grant program support where necessary to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of grant funding across all bushfire affected areas.

Further information

For further information contact Louise Roser on

Phone: 02 4474 8410

Email: eocgrants@coordinare.org.au

Conditions of this grant process

General	Applicants should familiarise themselves with this document and the application form and ensure that their proposal complies with the requirements set out in these documents. Applicants are deemed to have examined statutory requirements and satisfied themselves that they are not participating in any anti-competitive, collusive, deceptive or misleading practices in structuring and submitting the proposal.
Acceptance	Non complying applications may be rejected. COORDINARE may not accept the lowest priced proposal and may not accept any proposal.
Explanations	Verbal explanations or instructions given prior to acceptance of a proposal shall not bind COORDINARE.
Assessment	COORDINARE reserves the right to engage a third party to carry out assessments of an applicants' financial, technical, planning and other resource capability.
Legal entity	COORDINARE will only enter into a contract with an organisation or individual with established legal status (e.g. under Corporations Law, Health Services Act, Trustee Act), or a natural person at least 18 years of age with mental capacity to understand the agreement.
ABN/Taxation requirements	COORDINARE will only deal with applicants who have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
Expenses	All expenses and costs incurred by an applicant in connection with this grant process including (without limitation) preparing and lodging an application, providing COORDINARE with further information, attending interviews and participating in any subsequent negotiations, are the sole responsibility of the applicant.
Additional information	If additional information to that requested in this document is required by COORDINARE when proposals are being considered, written information and/or interviews may be requested to obtain such information at no cost to COORDINARE. COORDINARE may also provide additional information or clarification.
Process	COORDINARE reserves the right to withdraw from, or alter, the grant process described in this document for whatever reason, prior to the signing of any agreement/contract with any party.
Negotiation	COORDINARE reserves the right to negotiate with short-listed applicants after the applicant closing time and allow any application to alter its application. Contract negotiations are strictly confidential and not to be disclosed to third parties.
Part applications	COORDINARE reserves the right to accept applications in relation to some and not all of the scope of activity described, or contract with one, more than one or no applicant on the basis of the proposals received.
Conflicts of interest	Applicants must declare to COORDINARE any matter or issue which is or may be perceived to be or may lead to a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in the grant process, or in the event their proposal is successful.



Ownership	All applications become the property of COORDINARE once lodged. COORDINARE may copy, or otherwise deal with all or any part of an application for the purpose of conducting assessment of proposals.
Notification of Probity Breach	Should any supplier feel that it has been unfairly excluded from responding or unfairly disadvantaged by the process, the supplier is invited to write to COORDINARE at commissioning@coordinare.org.au
Lobbying	Any attempt by any application to exert influence on the outcome of the assessment process by lobbying COORDINARE staff, directly or indirectly, will be grounds for disqualification of the proposal from further consideration.
No contract	Nothing in this grant process should be construed to give rise to any contractual obligations or rights, express or implied, by the issue of this grant application or the lodgment of a proposal in response to it. No contract will be created unless and until a formal written contract is executed between COORDINARE and an Applicant. Applicants will not be considered approved until a final grant agreement is in place.

ⁱ PHN Primary Mental Health Care Flexible Funding Program Implementation Guidance, Empowering our Communities funding guidance, Department of Health, October 2018