

Purpose

Supporting social inclusion and participation for people living with disability.

Funding amount

- One-year grants of up to \$55,000
- Granting pool up to \$275,000

Timeframes

- Opens 5th October 2026
- Closes 13th November 2026

Outcomes

- By 8th March 2027

Eligibility

- Item 1 DGR organisations which are registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and endorsed with charity tax concessions.

Community Inclusion

FY2026/27 Grant Round Guidelines

State Trustees Australia Foundation (the Foundation) was established in 1994 as a public charitable trust.

Community Inclusion will distribute funds for initiatives that encourage social inclusion and participation for Victorians living with disability.

The FY2026/27 round represents a substantial evolution of the Community Inclusion Grant Program and will serve as a 'gateway' to a larger multi-year grant.

We seek to support approaches that are based on collective impact – engaging individuals, families, communities, and making effective use of existing services.

Submitted applications must have the potential to be scaled up to form the basis of a 3-year, \$250k per year grant from FY2028–30.

Prospective applicants are requested to contact the State Trustees Charitable Trusts Team to discuss their project prior to applying.

What are the objectives of the Community Inclusion Grant?

To enhance **social inclusion** and **social participation** for **people living with disability** in Victoria.

We are seeking approaches that:

- Address systemic issues limiting social inclusion and social participation
- Deploy integrative and collective impact approaches and make effective use of existing programs
- Promote cross-sector collaboration
- Are innovative and take a systems view
- Are informed by lived experience
- Have a focus on prevention
- Provide an evidence base to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs
- Advance / improve policy and practice
- Are Victorian based

We encourage regional, rural, and remote organisations to apply and special consideration will be given to these applications.

Who is eligible to apply?

An eligible entity is endorsed as item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), with charity tax concessions.

Organisations can only apply for one project per round.

What are the funding exclusions?

- Organisations that have not acquitted previous projects for any of State Trustees' granting programs
- Applications identical to a previously submitted, unsuccessful application
- General fundraising appeals
- Organisations whose funded activity may seek to proselytise a particular faith or religion to its beneficiaries
- Universities and other institutions seeking funding for academic research projects or research positions with minimal or no research translation activity or no community-based partners
- Applications from Universities or Medical Research Institutes must come from the relevant Philanthropy / Fundraising office
- Retrospective funding
- It is not State Trustees' preferred practice to fund existing positions or supplement existing staff budgets – please discuss this with us if you propose to do this

- 'For-profit' bodies and commercial activities
- State and Commonwealth Government bodies
- Political parties or their candidates
- Work conducted outside Victoria
- Individuals
- Personal living expenses
- Loans

What are the timeframes?

Round Opens	Monday 5th October 2026, 9am
Round Closes	Friday 13th November 2026, 5pm
Outcome notifications	By Monday 8 th March 2027
Conditions of Awards	To be returned by the recipient within 5 business days of successful outcome notification

How much funding is available for a project?

The round provides single one-year grants of up to \$55,000.

What is the assessment process?

- Applicant organisations will be first reviewed to confirm if they are eligible entities.
- Applications will be assessed against the program application criteria, with applications which are most aligned with our preferences and objectives receiving a higher rating.
- Assessment is made using a blended assessment model, where ranking and qualitative analysis is used to inform decisions. Ratings are made on a 6-point scale:
 - 0 = application completely fails to address criterion
 - 1 = application largely fails to meet the criterion
 - 2 = application just fails to meet the criterion
 - 3 = application meets criterion
 - 4 = application meets criterion well
 - 5 = application meets criterion at a high level
- Notifications of outcomes will be sent via email.
- Due to resourcing, feedback regarding decision-making is unable to be provided for every application.

How are payments made?

Payments will be made by electronic funds transfer only to the nominated bank account provided in the application within 5 business days of a returned Conditions of Award.

What reporting will be expected if your application is successful?

6-month phone update <i>Informal</i>	A member of our grant team will call to discuss the start of the project
Grantees 'meet and greet' and/or other stakeholder engagement	During 2027 – To be confirmed
Acquittal report	Due 1 month after project completion (as defined in application)

Remember that you can call or email at any time if you have any questions about the progress of your project.

How do I apply?

This round will be conducted via initial consultation. We request that prospective applicants contact the State Trustees Charitable Trusts Team to discuss their project prior to applying.

Contact us on **(03) 9667 2845** or email us at charitable@statetrustees.com.au.

Note: Please do not add us to your direct marketing / appeals lists. This may result in all your correspondence being treated as 'spam' in our email processes.

We use SmartyGrants – an online application form. Remember to save each page when entering information. We recommend reading these tips on how to use SmartyGrants: [Help Guide for Applicants](#).

Application Checklist

Have you:

- ☐ Read the objectives and exclusions?
- ☐ Noted the important dates?
- ☐ Prepared eligibility details, including ABN, Australian bank account?
- ☐ Prepared copies of proof of eligibility including Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient, Charity Tax Concession endorsements, and ACNC registration?
- ☐ Prepared links to your annual report or financial statements?