

Bondi Cohesion Grants Program for the Non- Government Sector

2026-2028

9 October 2026

Contents

1	Overview of the grant program	6
1.1	Objectives of the grants program	6
1.2	Grant value	7
2	Selection criteria	7
2.1	Eligibility criteria	7
2.2	Assessment criteria	9
2.3	Application timelines	9
3	Application process	9
3.1	How to apply	9
3.2	Application requirements	10
3.3	Support available to applicants	10
4	Assessment process	10
4.1	Assessment of grant applications	10
4.2	Notification of application outcome	11
4.3	Publication of grants information	11
5	Successful grant applications	12
5.1	Grant Agreement	12
5.2	Grant payment	12
5.3	Unspent funds	12
5.4	Reporting and acquittal requirements	12
6	Additional information and resources	13
6.1	Publication of grants information	13
6.2	Advertising and promotion	13
6.3	Complaint handling	13
6.4	Access to information	13
6.5	Conflict of interest management	14
6.6	Confidentiality	14

Acknowledgement of Country

NSW Premier's Department acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this grant guideline.

Bondi Cohesion Grants Program for the Non-Government Sector

Published by Premier's Department

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/connected-communities>

First published: October 2026

Copyright and disclaimer

© State of New South Wales through NSW Premier's Department 2026. Information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing, October 2026, and is subject to change. For more information, please visit

<https://www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au/copyright/>.

Grant Program Details	
Opening date and time	Friday 9 October 2026
Closing date and time	Friday 6 November 2026 (4 weeks)
Application outcome date	Mid December 2026
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	Projects can be delivered within a 24-month period commencing upon execution of funding agreement.
Decision-maker	Deputy Secretary Delivery and Engagement, NSW Premier's Department
NSW Government Agency	NSW Premier's Department
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts (excluding GST))	A total of \$1.2 million is available over two years. Applicants may apply for individual funding amounts of \$50,000 - \$150,000 (excluding GST).
Enquiries	Connected Communities, Premier's Department connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

1 Overview of the grant program

The Bondi Cohesion Grants Program for the Non-Government Sector is part of the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to support the Bondi community following the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi in December 2025.

The NSW Government recognises the deep and lasting impacts of the Bondi Terror Attack and is committed to a recovery approach that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and community-led. It is acknowledged that recovery from terrorism extends beyond physical impacts to include enduring impacts on psychosocial wellbeing, social cohesion and community trust.

The Bondi Cohesion Grants Program for the Non-Government Sector will facilitate initiatives that build connections between the Bondi and Eastern suburbs region and other communities across NSW and support enhanced engagement and trust-building between the local Bondi community and key public institutions.

The program will prioritise initiatives that:

- Identify and address the needs of segments of the community who have not yet been able to connect with support
- Incorporate partnership with another organisation or group (or multiple partnerships) into the design of the initiative.

The Premier's Department will administer the Bondi Cohesion Grants Program for the Non-Government Sector in accordance with the NSW Grant Administration Guide. See: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/grantsadministration-guide>.

A grant obtained through this program is a one-off payment with no guarantee of further funding after the completion of the project.

1.1 Objectives of the grants program

The objectives of the grants program are to fund initiatives that will help strengthen social cohesion and connections within communities, between communities or between communities and institutions following the Bondi Terror Attack.

Initiatives must demonstrate a clear benefit to the Bondi and Eastern suburbs region, although they may also deliver benefits to the broader NSW community

Initiatives must address at least one of the following outcome areas:

Safe

- People feel safe to return to public spaces, places of worship and return to everyday activities
- Community members are confident to be their authentic selves in public life, free from discrimination or fear
- Antisemitism and other forms of hate and discrimination are actively managed and minimised.

Connected

- Communities are provided with opportunities to connect via community-led events, programs and initiatives
- People build or regain a strong sense of belonging and sense of connection within and across communities
- Community is supported through enhanced partnership between different segments of the local community.

Well

- Local healing, wellbeing and long-term psychosocial recovery at the community level is supported (psychosocial recovery promotes positive wellbeing, resilience, social connection and social cohesion activities within the community)

- Affected communities are strengthened and develop ongoing resilience through capacity building
- People who are disconnected from support are identified and encouraged to connect through activities.

Heard

- People feel informed and able to navigate recovery decisions
- People have opportunities to voice views within community and institutions to improve agency
- Cohesion and wellbeing initiatives are community-led and trauma informed
- People and communities build trust in key institutions.

1.2 Grant value

Total funding for this non-government grants program over two years will not exceed \$1.2 million (ex GST).

The Premier's Department will award grants of between \$50,000 and \$150,000 (ex GST) for each successful proposal.

2 Selection criteria

2.1 Eligibility criteria

Grants will be assessed through a competitive application process and awarded to selected community groups or organisations who meet the following criteria

To be eligible:

- Applicants must be authorised representatives and be applying on behalf of a not-for-profit organisation, incorporated association, community group or non-government educational institution.
- Applicants must demonstrate their project will align with at least one of the program objectives (Section 1.1) and meet the assessment criteria detailed below.
- Applicants have, or are willing to acquire, adequate public liability insurance of \$10 million. The cost of insurance can be included as part of the project budget.
- Where needed, individuals or staff delivering programs and projects must have, or be willing to obtain, Working with Children Checks, and any required superannuation coverage. Funded organisations that employ staff must comply with relevant industrial relations and workplace health and safety requirements.
- Funded activities must commence after the grant funding commencement date. Grant proposals cannot be retrospective. **Additional criteria:**
- Funding may be directed to support new, existing, or ongoing activities, where these:
 - align with program objectives, and
 - demonstrate clear additional community benefit or expanded impact over and above the existing impact.
- Organisations who host a Community Resilience Engagement Coordinator (CREC) position or Resilience Support Service (RSS) program funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority are eligible to apply for funding. For the proposal to be eligible:

- the organisation must have the capacity to deliver the initiative without depending on CREC/RSS resourcing
- the initiative does not duplicate the program of work being undertaken by the CREC or the intent of the RSS program.

Ineligible entities:

- Local, state or commonwealth government agencies or institutions are not eligible to apply for funding. However, a local council or government agency can be listed as a key partner.
- Grant funding will not be awarded to an organisation that:
 - has Redress Obligations under the NSW National Redress Scheme. The Scheme includes sanctions against those organisations who have been named and failed to join the National Redress Scheme.
 - is subject to a winding up order or has an appointed administrator
 - has a pending/ongoing legal case
 - is bankrupt or has no sound financial management and governance
 - has not demonstrated a commitment to social cohesion principles.

Ineligible activities

Funding is not available for activities or costs that:

- do not align with program objectives
- are solely providing mental health supports or interventions for individuals, without broader community impacts
- may have unintended adverse impacts on social cohesion and community connectedness or cause damage to social cohesion in NSW
- are for religious festivals, rituals, religious events, or religious promotion, except multi-faith events which involve people from more than one religion
- are for the celebration of independence days and national days
- are retrospective, including activities or costs incurred prior to the funding agreement start date
- are associated with providing security support
- are for commercial, profit-making or private benefit
- are for political activities
- duplicate existing activities without demonstrating additional value, expanded reach or enhanced impact
- relate to fundraising activities, cash prizes or gifts, including vouchers
- relate to capital expenses, including building works, maintenance and equipment purchase
- involve the purchase of alcohol/tobacco, or activities where alcohol/tobacco is the primary focus.

The Premier's Department may seek confirmation or clarification regarding a project's activities and funds sought as part of this program before the grant is awarded.

The Premier's Department, at its sole discretion, may take other factors into account to determine that an organisation is ineligible for funding.

2.2 Assessment criteria

Each application will be considered on its merits and assessed based on how well it meets the following criteria:

- Demonstrated eligibility criteria (Section 2.1)
- The activity must show a clear community benefit and contribute to at least one of the four outcomes in section 1.1
- Demonstrated cultural competency and/or experience working alongside Jewish people and communities or other individuals, families and communities affected by the ongoing impacts of the attack. Applicants must demonstrate a reasonable capacity to deliver the proposed activity or initiative via demonstration of relevant skills, expertise and where possible examples.

If a high number of applicants meet the selection criteria, priority will be given to initiatives that:

- engage underserved people or community groups that have not previously accessed support
- embed a partnership model to support collaboration and connection.

The following **assessment criteria** will be considered in the process of assessing applications:

- Ability to demonstrate a clear community benefit and contribute to one or more of the outcomes in the Outcomes Framework above in Section 1.1. (40% weighting towards overall score)
- Organisational capacity to plan, manage and deliver a meaningful project, demonstrated through a clear project plan, realistic timelines, appropriate resourcing, and effective risk management. (30% weighting towards overall score)
- Draft project budget, including quotes where relevant. (30% weighting towards overall score).

2.3 Application timelines

There will be one round of applications. Applications must be submitted before the closing date, Friday 5 November 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

3 Application process

3.1 How to apply

Applicants will need to submit a short application via the online program SmartyGrants, accessible through a portal on the NSW Government's Grants and Funding page via this link:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

If you have previously used SmartyGrants use your existing username and log in details. If this is your first time using SmartyGrants you will need to set-up a new registration/account.

All required attachments must be uploaded through the online application form in SmartyGrants. The online application form includes an application checklist to ensure all the required information is provided.

All required fields marked with an * within the online application form must be completed.

The Premier's Department will not accept applications unless they are submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal. Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will not be eligible for assessment.

3.2 Application requirements

Applicants will be required to provide in their application the following information:

- applicant details (individual or group)
- the intended outcomes of the project aligned to the Community Cohesion and Wellbeing Funding Program Outcomes Framework
- intended participants or community groups
- location and timing of the activity/activities
 - a draft budget outlining how funds will be used
- a copy of public liability insurance certificate or quote to obtain one
- ensure all supporting information and documentation is provided to demonstrate any additional eligibility requirements noted under Section 2.1
- ensure your application is complete.

Applications that are not submitted through the online application portal before the closing date with all required aspects of the application form completed will not be considered.

3.3 Support available to applicants

Bondi Cohesion Grants

If you have any questions about eligibility or the assessment criteria, please contact the Connected Communities team:

- [mailto: connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au)

If you have any questions while completing your application, please submit them in writing via email to connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

SmartyGrants

If applicants have any questions about SmartyGrants, the online grants management system, or experience any technical issues while using it, please contact the support team on:

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Phone: (03) 9320 6888 Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (AEST).

4 Assessment process

4.1 Assessment of grant applications

All applications will be assessed by a panel convened by the NSW Premier's Department. The panel will include Multicultural NSW, Reconstruction Authority and representatives from other NSW Government agencies with subject matter expertise in supporting community recovery and social cohesion.

Panel members will need to declare actual and/or potential conflict of interests before participating in the assessment of applications. These declarations will be made to the Director, Connected Communities, NSW Premier's Department. Any identified conflicts will result in a panel member being excluded from the assessment process for that application.

Applications will first be reviewed to ensure compliance with the **eligibility criteria** and that all required documentation has been submitted through the online application system.

Two assessment panel members will then independently assess the application on merit against the assessment criteria and award it a score of either a (1) low, (2) satisfactory or (3) high against each of the three merit criteria.

The Chair of the assessment panel will rank applications based on the overall average score and the assessment panel will then meet to discuss all applications.

After its review, the panel will provide a written assessment report to the Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement, NSW Premier's Department, on proposals it considers should be awarded the grants.

The Deputy Secretary Delivery and Engagement, NSW Premier's Department is the decision-maker for this grant and will decide on consideration of recommendations of the panel. The Deputy Secretary's decision is final in all matters, including:

1. the grant approval
2. the grant funding to be awarded
3. any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

4.2 Notification of application outcome

All applicants will be notified of application outcome in mid December 2026 in writing via email.

Successful applicants will be notified and advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing via email and will have the opportunity to seek written feedback on the application outcome.

To request feedback on your application please email the Connected Communities team:

- connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

4.3 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (Guide) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide). This information is also open access information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

5 Successful grant applications

5.1 Grant Agreement

Successful organisations will need to enter into a funding agreement. Funded projects must be delivered in full within 24 months of execution of the funding agreement.

Grant recipients will be required to:

- attend an initial inception meeting
- provide an outline of how the proposed project will be delivered

- provide the Premier's Department with relevant multimedia of the project where possible and with the consent of participants and/or their guardian. This may include videos, photos etc
- deliver their project by a date agreed with the Premier's Department
- complete a reporting template outlining how and what the project has delivered
- contribute to program level evaluation activities
- complete a simple data evaluation template
- acquit funds by a date agreed with the Premier's Department
- participate in forums and materials the Premier's Department may produce to share updates, insights, and learnings.

If funding is awarded, the Program Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant funding and outlined in the agreement.

Applicants will be required to:

- review the Terms and Conditions and declare in their application that they have read and understood them
- acknowledge that an agreement based on the Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant
- if awarded a grant, agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions in acquitting the grant.

Successful applications for funding must be delivered on time and on budget. No extensions to the completion deadline will be provided unless agreed to in writing by the Premier's Department

5.2 Grant payment

Payment will be made either in full or in instalments as set out and agreed upon in the grant agreement.

5.3 Unspent funds

Grant recipients are required to return unspent funds, or funds not spent in accordance with the funding agreement, to the Premier's Department, unless otherwise renegotiated and agreed to by both parties.

5.4 Reporting and acquittal requirements

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision of progress and completion reports are a condition of funding.

Grant recipients will be required to provide:

1. regular progress updates against agreed to deliverables and timelines
2. an acquittal letter, signed by the recipient organisation's appropriate delegate at the completion of the project.
3. A report that summarises the key learnings and outcomes from the project, within three weeks after the project is completed.

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Publication of grants information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, relevant information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect.

This information is also open access information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act), unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

All records related to these decisions will be managed in line with the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

6.2 Advertising and promotion

The applicant is responsible for promoting and advertising the activity to the community.

When promoting the activity, the applicant must acknowledge the financial support of the NSW Government in any relevant promotional materials.

If the applicant shares photos or videos of the activity to the Premier's Department, the applicant must ensure that appropriate consent has been obtained from participants, or from a parent or guardian where required.

Information about the activity may also be used by the Premier's Department to monitor, evaluate and report on the outcomes of the program and help inform future initiatives.

6.3 Complaint handling

Any concerns about the Program should be submitted in writing via <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/contact-us>.

The NSW Premier's Department is committed to responding to external complaints fairly, efficiently and effectively in accordance with the [TCO and PD External Complaints Handling Policy](#).

This policy sets out the steps for managing an external complaint regarding the Bondi Cohesion Grants Program. If you are a person with a disability or experience difficulties in providing your complaint in writing, you can make a verbal complaint by contacting (02) 9228 5555. NSW Premier's Department may require a verbal complaint be made in writing in circumstances where the matter is complex or contentious. If you do not agree with the way the Department handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

6.4 Access to information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect. This information is also open access information under the GIPA Act, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Information received in applications is treated as confidential, and funding decisions and assessment outcomes must remain confidential until announced and applicants are notified. However, documents held by the government may be released under the GIPA Act, subject to the deletion of exempt material. Documents submitted as part of a grant application may also be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.5 Conflict of interest management

Any real or perceived conflicts of interest arising during the assessment process must be disclosed and managed.

Risks are managed in accordance with The Premier's Department risk management systems and grant guidelines.

Fraud controls are in place to support the management of conflicts of interest.

Any conflicts of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with The Premier's Department Code of Conduct.

Risk management will continue throughout the grant life cycle.

6.6 Confidentiality

Successful applicants may be required to keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.

The Premier's Department follows all confidentiality requirements that apply to grants administration and the assessment process under the Guide.