



Collie Futures Small Grants Program

Program Guidelines

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Collie Futures Small Grants Program at a glance

Key features of the Collie Futures Small Grants Program are:

- Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to business and Not for Profit organisations seeking to drive economic impact in the Collie region. Funding will be directed towards enterprise and industry projects that demonstrate an aim to support economic growth and job opportunities for Collie.
- Proponents are encouraged to provide a **cash** contribution to the project. Although not an eligibility criterion, providing leveraged cash towards the project is an assessable component and the greater the cash contribution the higher the project will score in the co-investment weighting in the application assessment process (see Section 12).
- The Collie Futures Small Grants Program (CFSGP) may support feasibility work for projects that support the Economic Development Plan for Collie and Bunbury regions.
- The fund is open in a rolling round format.

Should you read on?

The CFSGP will support projects that aim to stimulate the local economy and support community needs.

To help decide whether you are eligible to apply for a grant under this program, your project should address **one or more** of the statements below.

Small grants will be available to support new opportunities for enterprise and industry that provide a long-term benefit to the Collie region to:

- increase jobs,
- increase productivity,
- expand or diversify new business streams,
- develop skills or capabilities, and
- foster co-investment opportunities and partnerships.

Please note that projects must demonstrate an economic impact within a journey to work zone of up to 50kms from the Collie townsite/CBD.

To be eligible to apply, you must:

Complete and submit an online application form:

<https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/CFSGP-rollingfund> To be eligible to apply, the applicant must be either:

- An existing enterprise (with a focus on Micro and Small to Medium Enterprises)
https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_L

- A Not for Profit (including voluntary and community groups) which:
 - has an Australian Business Number (ABN), and/or
 - is an incorporated body or have equivalent status (e.g. represented by an incorporated auspicing body).
- An incorporated body which:
 - has an Australian Business Number (ABN), and
 - is a company incorporated in Australia, and/or
 - a trading corporation.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided there is a lead applicant as the main driver of the project that is eligible to apply. There must be a formal arrangement in place between all parties.

Eligible items of expenditure include:

- Development of new business streams that diversify or expand existing businesses,
- Development of new technologies aimed at providing a net economic benefit to the Collie region (e.g. prototype design, construction, and testing),
- Research development (e.g. market research and/or feasibility studies),
- Training courses and/or skills development,
- Business case development, and
- Events will be considered where they demonstrate an economic benefit to the Collie region.

Collie Futures Small Grants Program

These guidelines relate solely to the Collie Futures Small Grants Program in Western Australia, an initiative under the Election Commitment of the Collie Futures Fund (CFF). The CFF was a key regional development announcement of the 2018-19 State Budget with further announcements in 2021-22. The CFF aligns with the State's agenda for economic growth and diversification, job creation and strong opportunities for Collie. The Collie Futures Small Grants Program is guided by the Collie Futures Economic Advisory Group.

1. Program overview

The Collie Futures Small Grants Program (CFSGP) is part of the wider Collie Futures Fund and aligns with the endorsed *Economic Development Action Plan for the Collie and Bunbury Regions 2020–2026*, aimed at driving the economic growth and job opportunities for Collie, Bunbury, and the surrounding communities.

2. Objectives of the program

The CFSGP will support projects that aim to stimulate the local economy and support community needs. Small grants will be available to support new opportunities for enterprise and industry that provides an economic benefit to the Collie region (within a journey to work zone of up to 50kms from the Collie townsite/CBD) to:

- Increase jobs,
- Increase productivity,
- Expand or diversify new business streams,
- Develop skills or capabilities, and
- Foster co-investment opportunities and partnerships.

Funding for events will be considered where they demonstrate an economic benefit the Collie region (within a journey to work zone of up to 50kms from the Collie townsite/CBD).

3. How will the program operate?

Applicants can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 and are encouraged to provide a **cash** co-contribution to the project.

The Assessment Panel will consider potential projects to be supported through the CFSGP, under the Collie Futures Fund.

See Section 12 of these guidelines for information about how applications are assessed and Section 13 for information about the process.

4. What are the program priorities?

- Projects must align to one or more program objectives as outlined above.
- Projects must demonstrate an economic impact within a journey to work zone of up to 50kms from the Collie townsite/CBD.

5. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

Organisations eligible to apply include:

- Existing enterprises (with a focus on Micro and Small to Medium Enterprises). Please see the link for the definition of MSME's [https://www.aph.gov.au/About Parliament/Parliamentary Departments/Parliamentary Library/pubs/rp/rp1516/Quick Guides/Data](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1516/Quick_Guides/Data)
- Not for Profits (including voluntary and community groups) which:
 - have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and/or
 - are an incorporated body or has equivalent status (e.g. represented by an incorporated auspicing body).
- Incorporated bodies which:
 - have an Australian Business Number (ABN), and
 - are a company incorporated in Australia, and/or
 - a trading corporation¹ (e.g. trading trust).
- Local Government Authorities

Joint applications are acceptable, provided there is a lead applicant as the main driver of the project that is eligible to apply. There must be a formal arrangement in place between all parties.

Organisations not eligible to apply are:

- State or Federal Government Authorities,
- Government Trading Enterprises (GTE's),
- Individuals (without an ABN), or
- Trusts (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust where it meets the eligibility requirements set out above).

¹ Please note that the receipt of grant funding may have tax implications. We suggest consultation with your tax professional. For a Trust to be an eligible applicant there must be a clear relationship outlined in the Trust Deed which stipulates the trustee's role in relation to the proposal/application of funding.

6. What qualifies for funding?

Eligible expenditure items include:

- Development of new business streams that diversify or expand existing businesses,
- Development of new technologies aimed at providing a net economic benefit to the Collie region (e.g. prototype design, construction, and testing),
- Research development (e.g. market research and/or feasibility studies),
- Training courses and/or skills development,
- Business case development, and
- Events that demonstrate a clear economic benefit to the Collie region.

7. What does NOT qualify for funding?

The following items of expenditure are not eligible for funding under CFSGP:

- Recurrent costs (e.g. operating, maintenance and office costs such as rent, insurance, telephone etc),
- Ongoing salaries/employment of new or existing staff,
- Retrospective payments,
- Core business e.g. purchasing off-the-shelf software or costs of generic software associated with the normal administrative functions of the business; recruitment activities; design and printing of sales promotion materials and advertising and general legal advice, or
- GST payments (this applies to GST registered organisations only).

8. How to apply

Applications from eligible organisations must be submitted online using the SmartyGrants portal available at <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/CFSGP-rollingfund>.

Within the application form, applicants can upload as many files as they wish with a maximum upload of 25mb. It is recommended to keep each file under 5mb.

Further details on the application process are available on the South West Development Commission's (SWDC) website at <https://www.swdc.wa.gov.au/grants-funding/collie-futures-fund> or by contacting SWDC.

9. Corrections

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete and correct. SWDC will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure of an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies, or errors in an application.

If an applicant discovers any material discrepancy, ambiguity, inconsistency, or errors in their application, they should contact SWDC by email at joanne.dean@swdc.wa.gov.au or telephone (08) 9734 2322.

SWDC may request clarification or further information from an applicant and allow them to remedy any discrepancy, ambiguity, inconsistency, or errors in an application.

10. False and misleading information

Applicants should be aware that the giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*.

11. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises where a person makes a decision or exercises a power in a way that may be, or may be perceived to be, influenced by either material personal interest (financial or non-financial) or associations.

Applicants are required to advise whether any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest exist in relation to their application.

If a conflict of interests arises, or appears likely to arise, the applicant must:

- Make full disclosure of all relevant information relating to the conflict by contacting Jo Dean at SWDC on (08) 9734 2322 or joanne.dean@swdc.wa.gov.au,
- Bring it to the attention of SWDC, in writing, if the conflict arises after the application has been received, and
- Outline the steps the applicant intends to take to resolve or otherwise manage the conflict.

If the applicant does not adequately demonstrate the appropriate arrangements are in place to address or manage a perceived or actual conflict of interest, the application may be disqualified.

12. How are applications assessed?

Assessment criteria will be used to determine an application's suitability for funding and relevance to achieving the program objectives.

The CFSGP applications will be assessed through a competitive merit-based process using the following four assessment criteria and weightings:

Criteria	Weighting	Projects that demonstrate:
Demonstrated economic benefit to Collie's economy.	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase jobs • Increase productivity • Expand or diversify new business streams • Develop or enhance skills or capabilities
Co-investment	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of total project cost secured via direct or indirect leveraged funding (cash or in-kind)
Partnerships	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated partnerships or collaboration
Organisational Capability	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial capability • Robust governance structure • Capacity of key personnel

13. What is the Assessment process?

The assessment process aims to identify eligible applicants to whom a grant could be awarded.

The assessment of all applications will be carried out in the following manner:

- Applications will first be assessed for eligibility. Applications determined as ineligible will not be progressed and proponents will be provided feedback,
- Applications will be independently assessed using the program's assessment criteria. Each criterion will have different weightings. Please see section 12 for the assessment criteria and weightings, and
- Recommendations will be presented to the Collie Futures Economic Advisory Group (CFEAG) for endorsement before submission to the Minister for Regional Development for final approval.

14. Notification of funding decisions

Successful applicants will be notified in writing by the Minister for Regional Development and contacted via phone by SWDC.

Applicants should note that successful applicant organisation names, project titles and funding allocations will be publicly announced and published upon final approval from the Minister for Regional Development.

Where an application is unsuccessful, applicants will be notified in writing by SWDC. Feedback on unsuccessful applications will be available on request by contacting the Jo Dean at joanne.dean@swdc.wa.gov.au or (08) 9734 2322.

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the way an application has been handled by SWDC, they can lodge a complaint by contacting Pip Kirby, Director for Regional Development at pip.kirby@swdc.wa.gov.au or (08) 9734 2322. SWDC will not reconsider applications as part of the complaints process.

The complaint will be considered internally by a SWDC officer independent from the original process, and the applicant will receive a response from SWDC.

15. Funding conditions

Successful applicants will be required to sign a financial agreement. The financial agreement must be signed by both parties before the project and/or activities can commence.

Payments will be made electronically into the applicant's nominated bank account.

Milestone payments may be required as part of the agreement and SWDC will discuss this with the recipient when negotiating the financial agreement. Payment amounts and dates will be identified in the financial agreement.

As a recipient of public money, all successful applicants must report on the outcomes of the activity undertaken with the funds received. All reporting requirements will be detailed in the financial agreement. These may include (but are not limited to):

- Periodic financial acquittals; and
- A statutory declaration declaring that funds have been expended in accordance with the grant terms and conditions.

The acquittal requirements will include a final acquittal report to be provided to SWDC on the template provided. All specific items to be acquitted on will be identified in the financial agreement. For grants over \$50,000, the acquittal report **must** also include an independent financial audit completed to Australian Auditing Standards.

Additional reports may be requested by SWDC on the project and will be identified in the financial agreement. Reporting requirements for longer projects will be negotiated with the recipient and detailed in the financial agreement.

If a successful applicant fails to comply with any requirements in the financial agreement, the applicant may be required to repay some or all, of the CFSGP funds received.

Successful applicants will be required to commence their project within 6 months from the funding announcement, unless previously approved by the SWDC.

16. Personal information and disclosure of information in application

SWDC may collect personal information from applicants for the purposes of administration, evaluation, and assessment of an application. If the relevant personal information is not provided by applicants, SWDC will be unable to assess the application for funding.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies and may be published on SWDCs website, provided disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.

SWDCs Privacy Policy is available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website <https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/privacy-policy>.

Applicants may contact SWDC about their personal information or to make a complaint using the following contact details:

Telephone: 1300 374 731

Post: Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development,
Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983

17. Program evaluation

SWDC will conduct an internal review of the program at the end of each round of funding, before initiating further rounds. The review will refine existing grant administration processes, practices, and requirements.

Successful applicants may be requested to provide information to assist in this evaluation.

18. Timeframes

The full assessment process, including submission to the Minister for Regional Development for final approval of successful applicants is expected to take approximately twelve to fifteen (12-15) weeks from the date of submission to notification of funding a decision.

The above timeframe is provided as indicative only and subject to change.

19. Additional Information

Receipt of funding from this program may result in an applicant's business being ineligible for support from other government programs.

Applicants are advised that receipt of grant funding may have taxation implications and that they should seek independent taxation and financial advice from a suitably qualified professional before submitting their application.

GST is payable on grants.

20. Contact us

If you have any questions about the program, please contact:

Website: www.swdc.wa.gov.au
Postal address: PO Box 2000
South West Development Commission
Bunbury WA 6231

Jo Dean Regional Development Officer
Telephone: (08) 9734 2322
Email: joanne.dean@swdc.wa.gov.au