



Sector strengthening grant program

GUIDELINES

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PART A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

A.1 Key dates

Milestone	Date
Applications open	1 August 2023
Closing date for applications	31 December 2023
Notification of successful recipients	Within 7 days of receipt of application
Funds available (project commencement)	Immediately upon approval
Project completion	30 June 2024

A.2 How to apply

Read these guidelines and complete the relevant sections of the application form.

For collaborations with other organisations, including sub-contracting or partnership arrangements, you are required to complete one application form per proposed project.

All applications must include:

- detailed budget
- detailed quote/s
- relevant supporting documentation
- written confirmation of commitment from any organisation involved in the collaborative approach.

Organisations must be Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) member organisations in order to apply. For information on how to apply to become a member organisation contact Nathan Evans on nathan.evans@ahnt.org.au or 0428 094 626.

Late applications will not be accepted unless negotiated prior to the due date.

PART B. SECTOR STRENGTHENING GRANT PROGRAM

B.1 Overview

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states that Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions in several areas including housing (UN, 2007).

Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap all signatories have agreed that 88 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will live in appropriate housing that is not overcrowded by 2031.

All parties of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations are better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are often preferred over mainstream services. Building the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled housing sector is a key pillar to achieving this target.

The NT Aboriginal Community-Controlled Sector is currently characterised by small organisations and driven by individuals who are highly knowledgeable and passionate about serving their community, and who employ a broad skillset and an in-depth community understanding to achieve outcomes.

As part of its commitments to the national Closing the Gap agenda, the NT, through its Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) has provided funding to AHNT to assist growing the governance and capacity of the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Housing sector.

Accordingly, the AHNT Aboriginal Community-Controlled Sector Strengthening Grant Program has been established to provide AHNT member organisations with a one-off grant up to \$15,000 to build their organisational governance and capacity and support the establishment of a well-regulated, sustainable and resilient remote housing and homelands sector in the NT.

AHNT Aboriginal Community-Controlled Sector Strengthening Grant Funding covers:

- Activities that support AHNT member organisations to achieve registration as a Registered Community Housing Provider with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH). For example, procuring consultancy services to assist your organisation.
- Activities that support AHNT member organisations with existing or proposed Local Decision Making (LDM) Agreements with the Northern Territory Government.
- Activities that support ongoing capacity and/or governance building, including:
 - engaging the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program (AGMP) to deliver governance training; to build on the organisation's corporate and cultural knowledge base;
 - attending seminars or conferences, for example the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) workshops.
 - purchasing information communication technology upgrades to strengthen organisational capacity and governance; or any other activity deemed eligible to build governance and capacity.

B.2 Eligibility

Eligible organisations comprise:

- Existing housing, homelands and town camps service providers who are current registered members of AHNT.
- Organisations who deliver housing, homelands and town camps services and are in the process of becoming registered AHNT members.

B.3 Project priority

Projects eligible for funding include must meet align to a priority area set out below. Priorities are ranked: 1 (highest priority) - 4 (lowest priority).

Priority	Criteria
1	Activities that support AHNT member organisations to achieve registration as a community housing provider with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).
2	Activities that support AHNT member organisations with existing or proposed Local Decision Making (LDM) agreements with the Northern Territory Government.
3	Projects that support ongoing organisational capacity and/or governance building, including supporting staff to undertake Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) courses and programs; attending seminars or conferences; purchasing information communication technology upgrades to strengthen organisational capacity and governance.
4	Any other activity deemed eligible to build governance and capacity, for example (but not limited to), procurement of consultancy services or engaging tertiary institutions to undertake research that investigates and reports on governance and capacity building opportunities.

What cannot be funded

The following are examples of projects that are not eligible:

- Staff wages
- Ongoing operational costs
- Commercial or business activities such as tourism ventures, or faith-based activities
- Administrative expenses beyond the capped amount
- Infrastructure repairs and maintenance projects for housing on homelands and town camps.

B.3.1 Timing

Projects must be completed by the end of the financial year 2023–24.

B.3.2 Funding

The maximum total project cost that organisations can apply for under this program is \$15,000. However, consideration will be given to projects exceeding \$15,000 on a case-by-case basis.

Organisations may use no more than 15 per cent of the total funding amount for administrative costs and overheads directly involved with project delivery.

Where a funding contribution from an external source is included in the project cost estimate, applicants must provide verifiable evidence that this contribution has been secured. This

includes funding from other levels of government, including the Australian Government, or contributions from Land Councils, Local Government or NGOs.

Funding must be spent by end of 2022-23 financial year. Carry forwards will be considered on an 'as needs' basis.

PART C. Selection criteria

All projects must pass the following criteria to be considered:

Category	Criteria
Fit for purpose	<p>Application must set out the key activities to be undertaken to build organisational capacity and governance.</p> <p>Key deliverables and milestones must be appropriate for the size and type of project.</p>
Value for money	<p>Project must be value for money when compared to similar projects of size and type.</p> <p>Funding request must include a breakdown of the project cost into the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials cost• Detailed training/coursework cost• Detailed ICT cost and installation• Detailed consultancy cost• Detailed travel cost (if appropriate)• Quotes from sub-contractors (if appropriate).
Ready for commencement	<p>Application must demonstrate that the project is ready for commencement within a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>Applications must show appropriate consultation with residents and other stakeholders, including land councils (if appropriate).</p>

PART D. Performance and reporting requirements

Applicants must complete and submit all reports required as specified in these guidelines and funding agreement. If AHNT considers the form or content of a report is not adequate for its purposes, AHNT can request the service provider to submit a revised report within 30 business days (unless specified otherwise). Where necessary, AHNT reserves the right to request any reports to be submitted at shorter intervals than stated.

Organisations must allow copies of reports and materials developed through the Program to be viewed by the following parties (as required):

- AHNT and/or persons authorised by AHNT
- OAA
- the Commonwealth Auditor-General; and/or
- the Commonwealth Director of Evaluation and Audit or person(s) authorised by them.

All reporting to AHNT must be submitted to nathan.evans@ahnt.org.au.

Funds will be paid in accordance with payment schedule outlined in the executed funding agreement.

Enquiries regarding the grant program should be directed to Nathan Evans on 0428 094 626 or email nathan.evans@ahnt.org.au.