ACT GOVERNMENT

2019 ACT ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE) GRANTS PROGRAM

**Information Session
8 March 2019
Canberra Nara Centre**

ACT
Government

INFORMATION SESSION OUTLINE

1. Intention of information session
2. The rationale behind the new ACE Grants model
3. Eligibility questions and answers
4. Clarifying what will and will not be funded
5. Evaluation criteria and application form questions
6. Registering with Smarty Grants
7. Questions

INFORMATION SESSION: INTENTIONS

To clarify:

- the new approach to funding ACE projects

- the requirements in the guidelines

- the application form questions and hints

- the Smarty Grants application process.

To provide helpful hints for:

- focusing your efforts

- developing a successful application.

NEW MODEL FOR ACE GRANTS

The new model for the ACT ACE Grants Program is underpinned by 6 reform directions.

1. Support the sustainability of the ACE sector by enhancing funding security and support for administration costs.

2. Optimise the capacity of ACE providers and promote best practice.

3. Implement a framework for outcomes-focused project design, delivery and reporting to establish a stronger evidence base for the contribution of the ACE sector to the ACT's education and training effort.

4. Promote and share resources for ACE providers to maximise the vocational intent of non-accredited education and training.

5. Facilitate auspicing and partnership arrangements which increase access by individuals to vocationally focused training.

6. Collaborate with the Australian Government to maximise the positive contribution of ACE Providers towards achieving the vocational education and training and employment outcomes sought by the National Partnership Agreement on the Skilling Australians Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the full list of what will not be funded is available on p. 7 of the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Q: Must an applicant organisation be an RTO?

A: No.

If your organisation is not an RTO (and doesn't want to purchase the services of an RTO), then you can submit a project to deliver non-accredited training.

If you have delivered non-accredited training under a previous ACE Grant you can apply to do so again in this round. However, the main difference is that you now need to map your activities to outcomes in selected units of competency under the FSK Training Package.

An example has been provided on the main ACE webpage under *Other resources for applicants*. Go to https://www.skills.act.gov.au/grants and look for the

Completed Example of a Training and Learning Plan. Other information is also available under this tab for ACE Providers seeking a grant to deliver non-accredited training.

Appendix A in the application guidelines also provides links to the FSK units you can choose from for your mapping.

ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)

Refer to the full list of what will not be funded is available on p. 7 of the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Q: Must applicant organisations be not-for-profit?

A: Yes.

Only not-for-profit organisations are eligible to receive an ACE Grant.

However, successful grant recipients can use their grant to purchase services from a for-profit organisation.

If you intend to do so, then, in your application:

- describe the services you plan to outsource
- outline your rationale for outsourcing these services
- itemise the cost of the outsourced services in your project's budget.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED

Refer to the list of what will not be funded is available on p. 7 of the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Duplicative services that are already being delivered in the ACT

It is recommended that you are aware of what training and support is funded under:

- the Skilled Capital program; particularly the skill sets (see the *2019 Skill Set List* on https://www.skills.act.gov.au/skilled-capital)

- other ACT Government grants programs (see Appendix A of this presentation for a list)

Applicants' existing services unless the applicant can demonstrate additional outcomes

- Ensure you list funding from sources other than Skills Canberra for activities proposed or related to your project [NB: This might also support your value for money claim].

- Provide enough detail for the Evaluation Panel to be confident that an ACE grant will support additional outcomes. Assume that the Panel does not have enough knowledge or understanding of your existing services to make this decision without detailed evidence.

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED

For a fuller understanding of what will be funded, refer to the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Non-accredited training

Non-accredited training is eligible for funding if it is mapped to the units of competency in the Foundation Skills (FSK) Training Package.

NB: A key objective of the ACE Grants program is to fund projects that "offer highly supportive pathways into further training and work". Non-accredited training that is mapped to accredited FSKs competencies is, by definition, providing a pathway to accredited training.

Accredited training

Two types of accredited training are eligible for funding:

- units of competency from the FSK Training Package (NB: but not full FSK qualifications, as these are already subsidised under Skilled Capital and CIT Profile funding)
- units of competency from AQF Level I, II or III vocational qualifications (NB: but not skill sets already subsidised under Skilled Capital)

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED (Cont.)

For a fuller understanding of what will be funded, refer to the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Administration and capacity building costs

The 2019 ACE Grants Program is providing extra funding to support ACE Providers to deliver, assess and report training outcomes. The intention of this extra funding is to optimise the capacity of ACE providers, promote best practice and support the sustainability of the ACE sector.

NB: The Evaluation Panel will be looking for projects that offer the best value for money, and these are not necessarily the lowest cost.

Additional funding of up to $10,000 for individual projects and $20,000 for joint projects can be claimed towards a range of costs including (but not limited to):

- costs associated with enhancing the quality of the delivery of ACE activities
- the additional delivery costs associated with assessing and collecting information about participant outcomes
- obtaining advice and training from experts on best practice ways to encourage and support vulnerable participants to engage in an outcomes-based program
- the administration costs associated with reporting individual participants' outcomes
- AVETMISS compliant software and associated training. (For further advice see https://www.ncver.edu.au/rto-hub/avetmiss-compliant-software-register)

NB: In 2019 Skilled Capital is funding some skill sets that may be of interest to ACE Providers, including *Address Foundation Skills in Vocational Practice Skill Set.* The approximate cost of this skill set (after the subsidy has been applied) is currently $180. A $100 completion bonus is paid to eligible participants who complete the *Skilled Capital Completion Survey.*

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WHAT WILL BE FUNDED (Cont.)

For a fuller understanding of what will be funded, refer to the *ACE Grants Program Application Guidelines*

Projects targeting eligible participants

Eligible ACE participants are:

- 17 years or older; and

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen; or

- a holder of a permanent residence visa; or

- a migrant, refugee or asylum seeker holding a temporary or bridging visa providing work and/or study rights.

EVALUATION CRITERIA/APPLICATION FORM

- Relationship between criteria and application form questions

- When is a criterion/question not relevant to my project?

- What about word limits?

- The importance of robust, convincing evidence:
  - consider its reliability and validity
  - is it up-to-date?
  - how does it relate to the ACT context?
  - make clear links between the evidence and your project.

- Should I always provide the evidence suggested in the 'hints'?

EVALUATION CRITERIA/APPLICATION FORM (Cont.)

- Structuring your answer:
  - begin with a summary of your argument
  - then detail each claim
  - for each claim provide supporting evidence and examples
- Satisfactory answers: Claim → 1 piece of supporting evidence → 1 example
- Highly satisfactory answers: Claim → 2 pieces of supporting evidence → 2 examples
- Outstanding answers: Claim → 3 pieces of supporting evidence → 3 examples

SMARTY GRANTS PROCESS

- Registration

- Who do I ask for help?

  – for technical questions about using the online application form, refer to Smarty Grants e.g.

    - download the Help Guide for Applicants or
    - check out Applicant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

  – for other questions about the ACE Grants program, contact Skills Canberra

    - email skills@act.gov.au [Attention: Anita]
    - call 62058555

QUESTIONS

- Further questions on the ACE Grants Program can be sent to skills@act.gov.au

- Written responses to questions will be published on Skills Canberra's website:

  https://www.skills.act.gov.au/grants

APPENDIX A: SOME OTHER ACT GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Economic Development Division Grants Programs

Future Skills for Future Jobs Grants Program	Mature Workers Grants Program
Women in Trades Grants Program	Arts Activities $5-$50k
Arts Activities Up to $5k	Program Organisation funding
Key Arts Organisation funding	Special Initiative funding
Community Outreach Arts Fund	Community Outreach Program
Capital Assistance Program	Community Sport and Recreation Development Program
Inclusive Participation Funding Program	Women's Sport and Recreation Participation and Leadership Program
Motorsport Training and Education Program	Sport and Recreation Operational Program
Nature Play Grants program	Sports Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme
Indigenous Sports Grants Program	Priority Investment Program (PIP)
Venture Capital	

APPENDIX A: SOME OTHER ACT GOVERNMENT GRANTS (Cont.)

Please note this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of ACT Government grants and that some of the grants listed may not be currently available.

Community Services Directorate Grants Programs

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Cultural Grant Leadership Grant New and Emerging Organisation Support Program Reconciliation Day Grant Scholarship Grant
Multicultural	Multicultural Participation Grant
Seniors	Seniors Grant
Veterans	Veterans Grant
Women	Women's Return to Work Grant