



ACT

Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Future Skills for Future Jobs Grants Program

Information Session, 12 March 2019

Questions and Responses

1. Where can I find the ACT Skills Needs List?

The ACT Skills Needs List is available on the Skills Canberra website at https://skills.act.gov.au/skills_needs_list.

2. If our project addresses a skills need identified on the ACT Skills Needs List, do we need to provide any additional evidence?

The ACT Skills Needs List is determined using extensive evidence informed through the Forecasting of Industry Needs and Entitlement tool and consultation with stakeholders. Where a project is supported by the ACT Skills Needs List, applicants should contextualise their evidence to the project and specific industry sector.

3. Is there a requirement for 50/50 co-contribution by applicants?

There is no specific criteria for co-contribution. Applicants and any partnering organisations are encouraged to demonstrate co-contribution to the project in any relevant form – such as financial, time, resources or facilities. EOIs should demonstrate each party's vested interest in successfully achieving the project outcomes.

4. What is considered a pre-apprenticeship program?

Pre-apprenticeships may include a range of Certificate II pathway qualifications. Projects may also support a range of employment-related training, such as skill sets.

5. How will funds be dispersed once a project has been approved?

Funding will be paid to successful applicants under the terms of a Deed of Grant. Project milestones and associated payment arrangements will be negotiated between the ACT Government and funding recipients as part of the co-development process and Deed of Grant negotiations.

6. Can an organisation submit multiple EOIs for related projects, or various stages of a project?

There is no limit on the number of EOIs an applicant can submit, providing the EOIs are for different project proposals, or for specific services to be delivered by a partnering organisation or consortium. Multiple EOIs submitted for various stages of a project may be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the nature of the project. If related EOIs are submitted, the applicant/s must ensure the project demonstrates a strong return on investment in the form of training commencements.

7. When is the application closing date?

EOIs must be submitted via SmartyGrants (<https://innovation-connect.smartygrants.com.au/FutureSkillsForFutureJobs>) by 11:59pm on Wednesday, 20 March 2019.

8. What are the benefits of submitting the optional project plan and risk management plan?

The EOI form provides the opportunity to upload additional documentation, such as a project plan and risk management plan. This documentation is optional, but if provided, will provide additional information to support the EOI and will assist to streamline the co-development process for successful EOIs.

9. How is the evaluation criteria addressed by the expression of interest?

EOIs will be assessed against the evaluation criteria detailed in the Program Guidelines.

Applicants should consider the evaluation criteria when preparing their EOI, and ensure the criteria is addressed throughout the EOI responses.

10. Does it matter which RTOs and GTOs we use, and how many can we use?

Applicants are encouraged to partner with as many stakeholders as considered necessary to successfully deliver the proposed project outcomes. This may include any organisation with a physical address or a physical presence in the ACT. Where there are national organisations involved in the project, the delivery of services, training and employment outcomes must be demonstrated in the ACT. Where a project includes nationally recognised training, the RTO/s delivering the training must hold an ACT Funding Agreement.

11. What are the reporting requirements?

Reporting and acquittal requirements will be specified in the Deed of Grant for each approved project. This will include acquittal of funds and reporting against payment milestones, and may also include reporting project and/or training outcomes beyond the term of the project.

12. Is there a matrix that will be used to assess the applications against?

EOIs will be assessed against the evaluation criteria. Each criterion is weighted equally.

13. Could you use the funding to purchase machinery?

The purchase of machinery may be considered, providing the purpose of the machinery is clearly described in the EOI. Applicants must demonstrate how the purchase of machinery can directly contribute to project outcomes and the Program objectives, and ensure the project demonstrates a strong return on investment in the form of training commencements.

14. Will additional funding rounds be available?

EOIs will be received in six week rounds, until available funding is exhausted. Advice on additional funding rounds will be provided following the evaluation process for the current funding round.

15. If the project does not get approved for the first round of funding, will you receive feedback and can you apply for the next round?

Unsuccessful applicants will be invited to seek feedback on their EOI. Unsuccessful applicants may re-submit their EOI in subsequent funding rounds, should funding be available.

16. Can an organisation work on multiple projects?

Yes, an organisation may be involved in more than one project and may submit separate EOIs for multiple project ideas.

17. Will funding be available beyond 2018-19?

The current funding allocation of \$2 million is available for 2018-19 only. It is not yet known if future funding will be available.

18. Will Skills Canberra provide marketing for the projects?

Media and marketing opportunities will be considered during the project co-development process.

19. Can a project commence once the project is approved, but before a Deed of Grant is executed?

A Deed of Grant will need to be executed with the ACT Government prior to funding. Funding will not be available for expenses incurred prior to signing the Deed of Grant.

20. Will I have an opportunity to provide further information on my EOI once it has been submitted?

EOIs that meet the eligibility criteria will be provided to an evaluation panel for assessment. Applicants will be invited to deliver a brief presentation of no more than 15 minutes (including questions) to the evaluation panel.