Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program (ACIP) FAQs

What is the purpose of the ACIP grant program?

The program supports Victorian Aboriginal organisations to improve service delivery to communities, improve cultural connectedness and community safety, improve the health and wellbeing of communities, and improve education and economic participation opportunities for communities.

When do applications close?

2pm 14 September 2020.

When will I hear whether I have been successful?

Announcements will be made in late November 2020.

Who is eligible for the grant funding / who can apply?

*Incorporated Aboriginal organisations* including:

- co-operatives
- companies limited by guarantee
- companies limited by shares
- body corporates constituted under section 8 of the Aboriginal Lands Act 1970 (Vic)

*who are registered with*

- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission

*AND*

- possess an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
  - organisations who are not registered for GST can, and must register prior to submitting an application to be eligible
- are financially solvent
- own the project site or have the right to use the project site for a minimum of three years for Repairs and Minor Works, and ten years for Capital Works and Upgrades
Can I apply with an auspice?

Yes.

_Auspice organisations must be_ a local council, _or_ an incorporated organisation registered with:

- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission

_AND_

- possess an ABN
- be registered for GST
- be financially solvent
- be able to demonstrate that the application is made on behalf of an Aboriginal organisation that own the project site or have the right to use the project site for a minimum of three years for Repairs and Minor Works, and ten years for Capital Works and Upgrades
  - evidence required is a copy of the property title, or a copy of the lease agreement
- be able to demonstrate that the community infrastructure project is for the sole benefit of an Aboriginal community
- accept responsibility for submitting the application, entering into and acquitting the funding agreement, and the legal and financial accountability of the community infrastructure project.

How many applications can I submit?

Each organisation can submit _one application_ per round to either the Repairs and Minor Works category, or the Capital Works and Upgrades category.

The application can only apply to _one project site._

What type of projects will be considered for funding in round four of the ACIP?

_Repairs and Minor Works_ might include:

- repair or replace permanent fixtures and fittings
- undertake cosmetic works including repairs, painting, replacing carpets/flooring
- improve communal spaces such as kitchens, amenities and meeting rooms
- improve the environmental performance of the building through, for example, the installation of photovoltaic panels
- improve safety or accessibility to the building.

**Capital Works and Upgrades** might include:
- expand existing community facilities
- undertake structural works to improve a facility's use, layout or accessibility
- renovate and/or remodel a facility to enhance community use
- create culturally appropriate spaces for communities to gather
- improve existing facilities to support service delivery needs
- construct new purpose-built facilities that respond to the needs of Aboriginal communities.

**Feasibility Studies/Business Cases are not being funded in round four of the ACIP**

Due to this being the fourth and final round of the ACIP, the previous category of feasibility studies and business cases will not be offered in 2020-21.

**What will not be considered for funding?**

- land acquisition as an isolated activity
- projects that have already commenced prior to funding agreements being executed
- projects that relate to multiple project sites, locations or physical addresses
- the purchase of temporary or freestanding items including but not limited to furniture, white goods, or technical equipment
- civil works such as drainage, waste, roads and footpaths, carparks and public transport
- infrastructure that a local or state government agency is responsible for constructing and/or maintaining
- construction of infrastructure that does not have a direct community benefit or address an identified community need
- projects that duplicate repairs and maintenance works funded through the First Mortgage and Community Infrastructure Program
- projects that have been funded in former rounds of the ACIP.
What types of support material do I need to submit with my application?

Each category’s specifics are slightly different, please refer to pages eleven and twelve in the 2020-21 ACIP guidelines for a detailed list; some support materials that are required are:

- proof of registration with CAV, ORIC or ASIC
- letters of support from local businesses or communities (or auspices if applicable)
- project plan and budget, and quotes from contractors are all great support materials to submit
- in the Capital Works category, the application must include a fully scoped and costed feasibility study or business case.

How much funding is available for each grant?

There are two categories:

- Repairs and Minor works provide up to $150,000
- Capital Works and Upgrades provides from $150,000 to $1,500,000 in funding.

Will my organisation be required to match funding?

No, but organisational and/or in-kind contributions will be looked upon favourably.

If successful, how long does my organisation have to commence the project?

- Repairs and Minor Works projects must commence within six months of the funding agreement being executed
- Capital Works and Upgrades projects must commence within eighteen months of the funding agreement being executed.

How do I submit an application?

Applications will be accepted via the online grants portal which can be accessed via the following URL links. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.
Prior to submitting an application, organisations must contact the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) ACIP team to discuss their application (refer to contact information below).

The URL links for the online grants portal are:

**Repairs and Minor Works:**
https://delwp1.force.com/publicform?id=ACIP1920RMW#no-back-button

**Capital Works and Upgrades:**
https://delwp1.force.com/publicform?id=ACIP1920CW#no-back-button

If you have an existing application for the 2020-21 ACIP, you can return to the grants online portal to complete your application via the following link:
https://delwp1.force.com/GrantsPortalLogin

**What is the assessment criteria for applications?**

Assessment criteria is set out in the guidelines which can be found at:

**Machinery of Government changes**

As of 1 July 2020, Local Government Victoria no longer sits with the Department of Environment, and, Water and Planning (DELWP), and has moved to DJPR. This transition will not affect the administration of round four of the ACIP. We will continue to use the DELWP processes and portals and advise organisations of any changes that might occur.

The ACIP will continue to be administered by Local Government Victoria on behalf of Aboriginal Victoria.

**Who can I contact for further information, help in completing my application, or to discuss my application prior to submission?**

Please email acip@delwp.vic.gov.au

One of our team members will be in contact with you.

If you are experiencing any issues with the online portal application form, please contact the DELWP GEMS team at:

grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au