



# Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### 1. What is the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program?

The Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants program is a State Government initiative that invests in projects to stimulate economic growth and development in regional Western Australia. Delivered locally by the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC), it is a competitive grants program.

#### 2. What can RED Grants funding be used for?

The RED Grants program provides funding to support locally driven projects that will contribute to economic growth in regional communities. Up to \$250,000 is available for individual projects that promote sustainable jobs and workforce solutions, productivity enhancements, skills and capability building, as well as stimulating new investment and industry diversification in the region.

The program guidelines provide more detail on how funds can be used. Further clarification on project eligibility can be sought from the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

### Applications

#### 3. How can I apply?

If considering an application, please first read the RED Grants program guidelines. The guidelines are available on the Wheatbelt Development Commission website at <https://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/working-us/regional-economic-development-scheme/>

Applications from eligible organisations must be submitted online using the SmartyGrants application form link available here:

<https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/WheatbeltREDGrantsRound7>

If you intend on making an application, the WDC recommends you commence the online application form as soon as possible to ensure you receive important updates sent to all Round 7 applicants leading up to the application closure date.



If you have difficulty accessing the application form or lodging an application through the SmartyGrants platform, please contact Rex Drabik at the Wheatbelt Development Commission on (08) 9690 2291.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission to discuss project eligibility. Please phone (08) 9690 2291 or email [grants@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](mailto:grants@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au).

#### **4. What is the closing date?**

Applications for Round 7 of the Wheatbelt RED Grants program open Wednesday, 24 April 2024 and close at 5pm on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

Please note the SmartyGrants system will close automatically at the specified time of the closing date and you will not be able to lodge a late application.

#### **5. How much funding can I apply for?**

Applicants can request funding of up to \$250,000 per project.

#### **6. What if I am not registered for GST?**

Applicants can still apply for grants if they are not registered for GST concessions. Unregistered grant applicants must provide the Wheatbelt Development Commission with a budget for the amount of the grant inclusive of all project costs including GST.

If you are not registered for GST concessions and need further clarification, please contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission prior to submitting your application.

#### **7. Does my organisation have to be regionally based to apply?**

The RED Grants program is targeted at providing financial assistance to regionally based organisations.

Organisations outside the Wheatbelt region may apply, but will need to demonstrate significant, sustainable regional benefits and a commitment to local decision-making, planning and delivery.

#### **8. Can my organisation apply for full project funding?**

As per page 4 of the Wheatbelt RED Grants guidelines, a minimum of 50% cash contribution is expected (not-for-profit and Aboriginal Owned Organisations may be considered on a case-by-case basis). Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate that the project has leveraged funding including co-contribution from the applicant. Proponent cash contributions will be considered in the application



assessment process. Other State government funding will not be considered as part of the 50% co-contribution towards the project.

**9. How are applications assessed and how soon after applying will I know if I am successful or not?**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission undertakes an assessment of all applications using a competitive, merit-based process. Applicants should allow up to six months from the round closing date for the RED Grants approval process. This should be considered by applicants during project planning and commencement timeframes. Should you commence your project prior to the assessment being finalised, your application may be ineligible.

The assessment criteria and decision-making process used to assess applications are provided in the RED Grants guidelines. Assessors are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest.

**10. How many applications will be awarded with a RED Grant per region?**

There is no set number of successful applications. However, there are limited funds available in each region.

**11. Can I submit an application for funding in more than one region?**

Where funding is sought for projects across multiple regions, applicants will be required to submit separate applications to each Regional Development Commission (RDC) as they will be assessed independently.

Applicants should seek advice on their project proposal with each relevant RDC where funding will be sought.

**12. If I am unsuccessful this round, can I still apply when the next round opens?**

Upon notification of being unsuccessful, applicants can contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission to discuss the outcome of the assessment and how the application/project might be amended for consideration in any future rounds.

**13. When is the next round?**

Future rounds for the RED Grants have not yet been announced.



#### **14. What are Project Outcomes?**

Outcomes refer to the intended economic effects that are expected as a result of delivering your RED Grants project. The outcomes you provide in your application should be realistic as you will be expected to report against these if your application is successful.

When completing an application, you will be prompted to quantify the outcomes of your project. Please refer to the *RED Grants Objectives and Metrics table* for guidance (available as a PDF download in the SmartyGrants application form).