



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 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 expansion and development in regional communities. Up to \$150,000 in funding is available for individual projects that drive sustainable jobs and workforce solutions, enhance productivity, build skills and capabilities, and stimulate new investments and industry diversification in the Wheatbelt 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 you are considering an application, please first read the RED Grants program guidelines. The guidelines are available on the Wheatbelt Development Commission website at <https://wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/regional-economic-development-grants/>

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

<https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/WheatbeltREDGrantsRound8>

If you plan to submit an application, the WDC recommends starting the online application form as soon as possible. This ensures that you will receive important updates sent to all Round 8 applicants before the round closing date.



If you have difficulty accessing the application form or lodging an application through the SmartyGrants platform, please contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission on (08) 9622 7222 or email grants@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission to discuss project eligibility before commencing an application.

4. What is the closing date?

Applications for Round 8 of the Wheatbelt RED Grants program open Friday, 17 October 2025 and close at 5pm on Friday, 9 January 2026.

Please note that the SmartyGrants system will close automatically at the specified time on the closing date. Once closed, 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 \$150,000 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 based outside of 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 for an exemption 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 as part of 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 evaluates all applications through a competitive, merit-based process. Applicants should anticipate up to six months from the round's closing date for the RED Grants approval process. Factor this into your project planning and start dates accordingly. If you commence your project before the assessment and approval process is complete, your application may be deemed 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.

If your application is successful, you will need to sign a Grant Agreement with the State Government that details the grant's terms and conditions. All projects require approval and a signed Grant Agreement before they can begin. No payments will be made retrospectively; any costs incurred before the Grant Agreement is executed will be considered ineligible.

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 Regional Development Commission (RDC) 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 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.



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**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



13. When is the next round?

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

14. What are Project Outcomes?

Outcomes describe the intended economic effects expected from delivering your RED Grants project. The outcomes included in your application should be realistic, as successful applicants are required to report on their achievement at the acquittal stage.

When completing an application, you will be prompted to quantify the expected 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).