



# 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 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 investment 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 must be submitted online using the SmartyGrants application form. A link to the application form can be found on the Commission's RED Grants page (link above).

If you plan to submit an application, the Commission recommends starting the online application form as soon as possible. This ensures that you will receive important updates sent to all Round 9 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](mailto: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 9 of the Wheatbelt RED Grants program open Tuesday, 27 October 2026 and close at 5pm on Thursday, 14 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).

Proponent cash contributions will be considered as part of the application assessment process. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate significant



leveraged funding for the project, including co-contributions from the applicant. Third-party cash contributions may be counted towards the co-contribution; however, funding from other State Government sources will not be eligible to meet the 50% co-contribution requirement for 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 eligible applications through a competitive, merit-based process. Meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding. Applications are assessed against the published criteria, regional priorities, available funding and the strength of the evidence provided.

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.

Applicants should anticipate up to six months from the round's closing date for the RED Grants approval process. Applicants should factor this into their project planning and start dates. If you commence your project before the assessment and approval processes are complete, your application may be deemed ineligible.

If your application is successful, you will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the State Government, which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant. All projects must receive approval and have a Grant Agreement executed before commencing. Grant funding will not be provided retrospectively, and any costs incurred before the Grant Agreement is executed will not be considered eligible project expenditure.

**10. What type of applications are unlikely to be competitive?**

Applications may be less competitive if they deliver limited economic benefits beyond the applicant, do not clearly align with the program objectives, or lack sufficient evidence and supporting documentation to substantiate the proposed project and its anticipated outcomes.

Applicants should explain what additional economic activity their project will generate in the Wheatbelt region and why grant assistance is appropriate.

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

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

An unsuccessful application does not necessarily mean the project lacks merit; funding is competitive and subject to available funds and the assessment criteria.

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.

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

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

**15. 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).