



Australian Government

Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

Business

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FACTSHEET

Regional Jobs and Investment Packages Skills and training stream

The Skills and training stream will support training and upskilling of the regional workforce to meet regional priorities, take advantage of emerging opportunities and withstand major labour market changes. These grants will provide funding to local government bodies and agencies and not for profit organisations.

What does it offer?

The Regional Jobs and Investment Packages (RJIP) is a \$220 million investment by the Australian Government to help diversify regional economies, stimulate economic growth and deliver sustainable employment in ten pilot regions (RJIP regions).

In each region, a Local Planning Committee will develop a Local Investment Plan that outlines industry growth sectors, new market opportunities and future workforce needs. Grants will be available in targeted competitive funding rounds to projects that align with the priorities in each region's Local Investment Plan. Grant funding in each region is available across three streams

- Local infrastructure
- Business innovation
- Skills and training.

The Skills and training stream grants are expected to

- increase training, professional development or skills education opportunities that are aligned with emerging sectors and will support local employment
- boost investment in retraining employees or upskilling jobseekers to enable their sustained employment in growth sectors
- improve regional education facilities and engagement with regional students learning online
- help employers access a skilled workforce that meets the demand for specialised expertise and knowledge in key sectors.

Grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs unless you are granted an exceptional circumstances co-funding exemption. You can fund the remaining 50 per cent of your total eligible expenditure through your own contributions or from state and/ or local government funding.

In the Skills and training stream there is no minimum grant amount. The maximum grant amount is limited to the available grant funding in your region.

How does it work?

To be eligible to apply your project must

- be located within an eligible RJIP region
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- deliver skills and training to learners other than your employees

You may apply for funding if you are located outside of an RJIP region, however you must demonstrate that your project will directly benefit an RJIP region and aligns with that region's Local Investment Plan.

The program does not fund any projects that have already started. You must not start your project until you have an executed grant agreement in place.

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- and be one of the following entities:
 - a local government agency or body as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*
 - a not for profit organisation that is a legal entity and has been established for at least two years prior to the time of applying.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply.

Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply if you are

- a for profit organisation
- a not for profit organisation, established less than two years prior to the time of applying
- an individual, partnership or trust
- a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- a Regional Development Australia committee
- a school or hospital
- a higher education provider or Technical and Further Education (TAFE) body
- a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- tailored non-accredited training or professional development activities
- skill sets from nationally recognised training
- training that is accredited through state and territory systems
- activities that improve access to education or training and make it easier for learners in regional areas to complete their training or education
- workforce studies relating to new training opportunities or workforce planning.

How will my application be assessed?

Grants will be awarded on a competitive merit basis. We will assess your application against the eligibility and merit criteria and all other eligible applications across the three streams within your region.

If eligible we will assess your application against the merit criteria. To be competitive you must score highly against all of the following merit criteria.

- the extent to which your project addresses the Local Investment Plan's investment sectors and strategic priorities
- the level of net economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the project period
- the value for money offered by your project
- your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project.

A Ministerial Panel decides which grants to approve taking into account our recommendations and the availability of grant funds.

What will I need to do if successful?

You will need to sign a grant agreement with the Australian Government.

- The grant agreement requires you to report quarterly on your completed activities.
- We will make an initial payment on execution of the grant agreement. We will make subsequent payments quarterly based on your achievement of milestones, eligible expenditure incurred and our acceptance of satisfactory progress reports.
- Once you have completed the project you will have three months to submit your final report.

How do I apply?

You should read the [program guidelines](#) before you apply.

You can only apply during the opening period listed for your region and we will publish those dates on [business.gov.au](#). The opening dates will depend on when your region's Local Investment Plan is developed and published.

There is a separate application form for each stream. You can find the application forms via the [region's page](#) on [business.gov.au](#).

To apply you must

- complete the online **Skills and training stream** application form on [business.gov.au](#), including submission of all mandatory attachments
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- submit your application by the advertised closing date.

Where can I find more information?

Visit [business.gov.au](#) or call **13 28 46**.