



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 Business innovation stream

*The Business innovation grants will enable business to build scale and capability to be competitive in new or growing markets that create sustainable employment.*

### 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 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 Business innovation stream grants are expected to

- create new local jobs in the region
- contribute to boosting the skills and knowledge of employees and people in the region
- create new or improved business services, products or goods that generate a benefit for the region
- enable local businesses to reach new customers, locally, nationally and overseas
- contribute to boosting the competitiveness, productivity and profitability of regional businesses beyond the period of funding
- allow regional businesses to take advantage of future economic opportunities.

Grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs (grant percentage). You are required to provide the remaining 50 per cent as co-funding towards your project. There is no exemption from the co-funding requirement in this stream.

In the Business innovation stream the minimum grant amount is \$50,000. 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
- have at least \$100,000 in eligible expenditure
- expand or grow your business
- be ready to commence work within 12 weeks of executing the grant agreement.

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)
- be non-tax-exempt
- and be one of the following entities:
  - a company, incorporated in Australia
  - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust.

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

- income tax exempt
- an individual, partnership or trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, state and local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- a Regional Development Australia committee
- a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or higher education provider.

## What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- acquiring, installing, constructing and commissioning new machinery and equipment
- fit out, alterations and/or extensions to existing premises related to the new machinery or equipment
- acquiring and developing new technology such as computer software and hardware
- nationally recognised accredited or tailored training that is directly related to the project
- training required to navigate export barriers and/or access foreign markets.
- expanding your business operations or opening new outlets in an eligible region
- moving your business from other areas of Australia to the eligible region. You must demonstrate that there are no significant negative impacts to the location you are moving from.
- feasibility studies to support new business activity.

## 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 create for your business and 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 quarterly payments 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 **Business innovation 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**.