

NSW Premier's Department

NSW Government Strengthening Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Grants Program

Guidelines

March 2025

Grant Program Details	
Opening date and time	10 March 2025
Closing date and time	11:59pm, 11 April 2025
Application outcome date	24/05/2025
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	12 months from execution of funding agreement
Evaluation timeframe (for successful applications)	Evaluation process commences at the execution of the funding agreement
Decision-maker	Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group
NSW Government Agency	Premier's Department
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts, excluding GST)	\$400,000 (incl. GST) total funds available. \$200,000 individual grants (incl. GST)
Enquiries	connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

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1

Overview of grant/grants
program

1 Overview of grant/grants program

Young people are recognised as playing an important role in the prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE). Contemporary research promotes a strengths-based approach which channels its efforts on building the resilience of young people to violent extremism, rather than only addressing vulnerabilities and risks.¹ This approach recognises the need to improve the resilience of whole communities, building positive influences that increase the capacity of young people.

ASIO's recent report "Young people and violent extremism: a call for collective action"¹ identifies that a whole-of-society response including early intervention, is the most effective way of countering violent extremism amongst young people.

The NSW Government is investing \$1.6 million over four years in a community grants program to support youth resilience to violent extremism.

NSW Government agencies conduct a broad range of programs and activities to counter violent extremism and prevent terrorism.

In addition to these, the NSW Government delivers a specialised Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program that spans multiple areas of government, with input from health, education, police, justice and multicultural agencies.

The program aims to:

- promote stronger social cohesion
- provide support and advice for vulnerable people
- divert and disengage people with extreme views
- provide leadership and engage with the community.

More information is available about the NSW approach to countering violent extremism at **Attachment A**.

1.1 Grant Program Objectives

The Premier's Department (the Department) will administer the NSW Government Strengthening Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Community Grants Program, totalling up to \$400,000 (including GST).

There are four Program objectives:

1. **Building resilience to hateful and extremist influences** online and offline, including through offering pro-social support activities and establishing networks and platforms where boys and young men can safely discuss and reflect on their diverse views and experiences.
2. **Providing youth-centred mentoring activities** for young people that promote healthy relationships, mutual respect, empathy and civic participation.
3. **Providing mentor training** to ensure mentors are appropriately equipped with the skills and methods to identify, engage and support vulnerable young men who may be at risk of engaging in violent extremism.
4. **Providing referral pathways** to appropriate government and community support services as identified and required through the program.

¹ <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/NSW-DPC-Youth-Resilience-Report.pdf>

The grants are targeted to projects that work with young men and boys, because young men are disproportionately affected by violent extremism, both as victims and perpetrators².

Grants for community-based initiatives addressing one or more of the above program areas will be made available from the NSW Government's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Program, in Premier's Department.

Grants will be assessed through a competitive grant application process to a carefully selected organisation or organisations that meet rigorous funding criteria.

The grant through this program is a one-off payment with no guarantee of further funding after the completion of the project.

Successful projects will need to be delivered within 12 months from execution of funding agreement.

Successful organisations will need to enter into a funding agreement.

The Department is responsible for administering this grant opportunity in accordance with the NSW Grant Administration Guide <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/grants-administration-guide>.

1.2 Grant value

A total of \$400,000 (inclusive of GST) will be available under the NSW Government Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Grants Program.

Individual grants of up to \$200,000 (inclusive of GST) will be awarded.

² <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/7/447094.pdf>

2

Selection criteria

2 Selection criteria

This grant is only available for not-for-profit organisations based in NSW that have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Applicants should demonstrate their not-for-profit status by being one of the following:

1. incorporated non-government organisations (not-for-profit)
2. registered Associations under an Act of Parliament
3. registered cooperatives under an Act of Parliament
4. a company limited by Guarantee
5. a company limited by shares (non-profit distributing)
6. a community-based organisation registered or established under an Act that is not-for-profit
7. an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth) or
8. a Local Aboriginal Land Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)

Only eligible applications will proceed to assessment.

2.1 Assessment criteria

Each application will be considered on its merits, based on how well it meets the assessment criteria and how it is ranked against other applications. Assessments are conducted by an independent assessment panel.

Each application is assessed against the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates how the proposal addresses the Program Objectives and aligns with the NSW CVE program logic (see below at 5.4)
2. Demonstrates a commitment to improve social cohesion and enhance multiculturalism.
3. Demonstrates the capacity to engage youth from diverse groups, including cultural capacity.
4. Demonstrates why the applicant organisation is especially equipped to carry out the project.
5. Demonstrates that the applicant can deliver the project on time and on budget.
6. Demonstrates strong collaborative relationships and has a track record of working with other organisations.
7. Demonstrates how provision of the grant would be consistent with the principle of value for money. See the budget template in the application form. This involves conducting an evaluation of the program in line with the NSW CVE program logic at 5.4 and setting out the costs and benefits of the project.

Supporting documents for your applications will need to include the following:

1. Application form
2. Draft project budget (budget template included in the application form)
3. Final reports, evaluation or other supporting documents of similar projects delivered by the organisation.

2.2 Ineligibility criteria

The following organisations are not eligible to apply for funding under this program:

1. individuals and sole traders
2. local councils
3. state and federal government departments and associated entities
4. for profit organisations and commercial enterprises (TBC).
5. organisations with National Redress Scheme sanctions
6. if your organisation:
 - a. is subject to a winding up order or has an appointed administrator
 - b. has a pending/ongoing legal case
 - c. is bankrupt

Types of costs that funding cannot be used for, include:

1. seeking funding for an existing project
2. supplementing, increasing, or continuing ongoing service delivery that is the core business of the organisation
3. an organisation's operating costs including office rent and administration costs
4. reimbursement of expenses already incurred
5. covering existing debts or budget deficits of the organisation
6. party political activities
7. purchase of TVs, alcohol, tobacco products, gaming services, computer software, entertainment streaming
8. capital works and equipment purchases (for example, purchase of phones, computer hardware, laptops, tablets, routers, modems, webcams, entertainment systems, etc. will not be funded)
9. commercial or fundraising activities
10. celebration of national or independence days, with the exception of key Australian days including ANZAC DAY, Australia Day, and NAIDOC week
11. cash prizes or gifts

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme has been created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme includes sanctions against those organisations who have been named and failed to join the National Redress Scheme. If your organisation has redress sanctions, then you cannot apply for Grant funds.

The Department may seek confirmation or clarification regarding a project's activities and funds sought as part of this program before the grant is awarded. The Department, at its sole discretion, may take other factors into account to determine that an organisation is ineligible for funding. These factors may include, but are not limited to, personal or business issues that could cause reputational damage or other risks to the NSW Government, and poor past performance of the organisation or their key project personnel.

3

Application process

3 Application process

3.1 How to apply

Grants will open on 10 March 2025 with applications submitted no later than 11.59pm 11th April 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications via [Smarty Grants](#).

Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will not be progressed for assessment after the grant round has closed, please read the assessment and eligibility criteria well before completing your application.

3.2 Support available to applicants

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document has been compiled for applicant's reference and is available as part of this grant information package.

These FAQs address common questions related to the grant application process and eligibility.

All queries not addressed by the FAQs must be submitted in writing to our team, via email to connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

4

Assessment process

4 Assessment process

4.1 Assessment of grant applications

Applications will be assessed by a panel convened by the Department. The panel is made up of representatives from other NSW Government agencies with subject matter expertise in community grants, community programs, countering violent extremism and social cohesion.

Panel members will need to declare actual and/or potential conflict of interest before participating in the assessment of applications. Any identified conflicts will result in a panel member being excluded from the assessment process for that application.

Applications will be first reviewed against the eligibility criteria.

After its review, the panel will provide a written assessment report to the Director, Connected Communities, on any proposals it considers should be awarded the grants.

The Deputy Secretary of the Premier's Department of the Delivery and Engagement team is the decision-maker for this grant and will decide on consideration of recommendations of the panel. The Deputy Secretary's decision is final in all matters, including:

1. the grant approval
2. the grant funding to be awarded
3. any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

4.2 Notification of application outcome

Applicants will be advised in May 2025 of the outcome of their application in writing via email.

Successful applicants will be notified and advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing via email and provided the opportunity to discuss the application outcome.

4.3 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (Guide) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide). This information is also open access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act)*, which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998 (NSW)*.

5

Successful grant applications

5 Successful grant applications

5.1 Grant agreement

Grant recipients will be required to:

- attend an initial inception meeting
- contribute to program evaluation including an outline of how the program will be evaluated and use of standardised data collection tools aligned to the NSW CVE Program Logic.
- deliver their project by a date agreed with the Department
- acquit funds by a date agreed with the Department
- participate in forums and materials the Department may produce to share updates, insights, and learnings.

If funding is awarded, the Department Program Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant funding and outlined in the agreement.

Applicants will be required to:

- review the Terms and Conditions and declare in their application that they have read and understood them
- acknowledge that an agreement based on the Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant
- if awarded a grant, agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions in acquitting the grant.

Successful applications for funding must be delivered on time and on budget. No extensions to the completion deadline will be provided.

5.2 Grant payment

Payment will be made in instalments in line with the grant deliverables as set out and agreed upon in the grant agreement.

5.3 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision of progress and completion reports are a condition of funding.

Throughout the process and at completion, grant recipients will be required to provide:

1. regular progress updates against agreed to deliverables and timelines
2. acquittal letter, signed by the CEO and Chair
3. a draft report that summarises the key learnings from the project, and includes an evaluation of the project, within three weeks after the project is completed.
4. The draft report should be no longer than seven pages, excluding key feedback received from participants, and the evaluation of project

5. The evaluation should assess if the project was successful in achieving at least one of the project outcomes.

5.4 Evaluation

The Premier’s Department oversees the NSW Government CVE Program. The Department expects that all programs and initiatives funded under the CVE Program are evaluated.

The NSW CVE program logic outlines the program areas, initiative outcomes, program outcomes and ultimate aims of the NSW CVE Program.

Projects proposed under the *NSW Government Strengthening Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Grants Program* must align to the NSW CVE Program Logic.

Please note: proposals do not need to meet all outcomes listed on the program logic, but must identify at least one (1) program outcome or initiative outcome that the proposal will address.

In the program area of support and advice for vulnerable people under which these grants fall, initiative outcomes may be that:

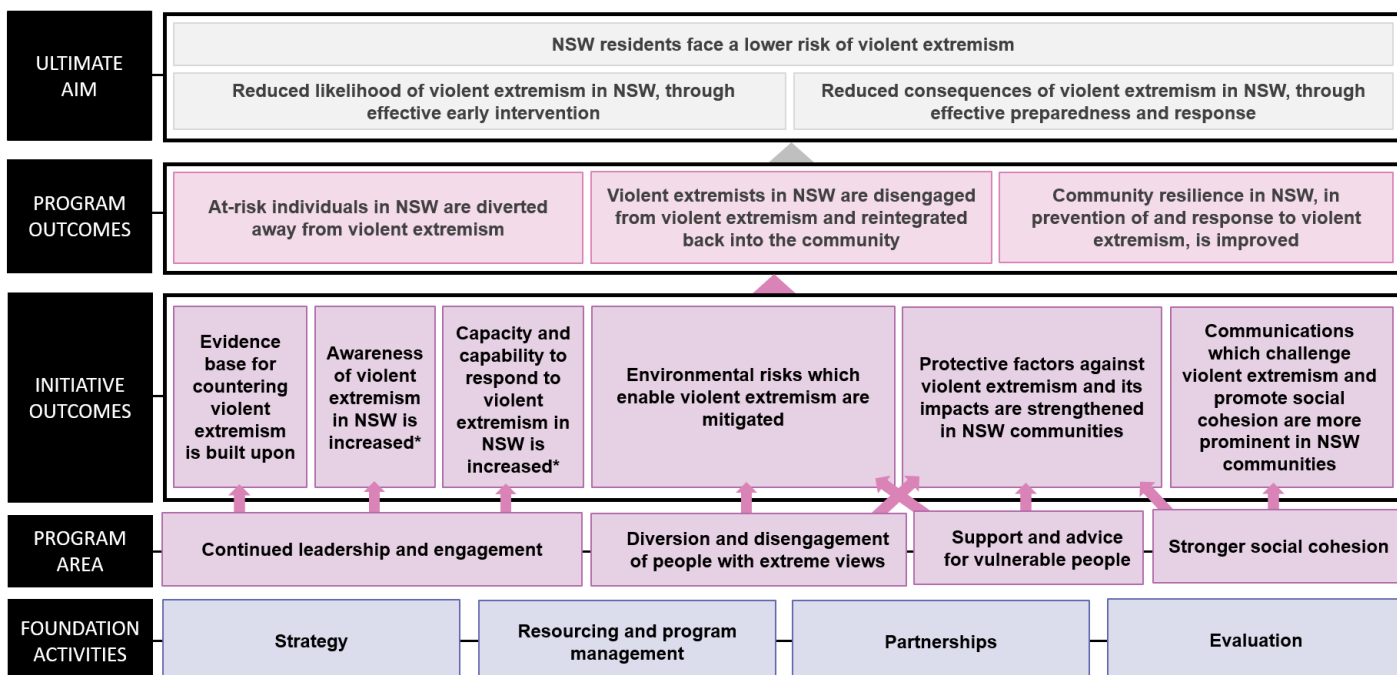
- “protective factors against violent extremism and its impacts are strengthened in NSW communities” and/or
- “environmental risks which enable violent extremism are mitigated”.

An appropriate program outcome may be that “community resilience in NSW, in prevention of and response to violent extremism, is improved”.

It is expected that the program logic be used as a guide to conduct an evaluation of the successful grants recipient’s programs.

Further resources to assist with evaluation can be found on the [NSW Government CVE Evaluation Tool](#). The 2019 NSW Countering Violent Extremism Program Evaluation can be found [here](#).

NSW CVE PROGRAM LOGIC



*Among NSW Government agencies, non-government organisations and the community

6

Additional information and
resources

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Disclaimer

The terms and conditions for the grant will be contained in the funding agreement.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Applicants are required to pay the Department back unspent funds or those not spent in accordance with the funding agreement.

The Department accepts no responsibility for your project, irrespective of the funding provided by the agency to support the project, and irrespective of its listing on the Department website or other NSW Government publications.

Organisations are responsible for meeting their duty of care and all other obligations to project participants and other stakeholders.

6.2 Access to information

The GIPA Act provides for the proactive release of government information by agencies and gives members of the public an enforceable right to access government information held by an agency (which includes Ministerial offices). Access to government information is only to be restricted if there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

The NSW Legislative Council has the power to order the production of State papers by the Executive Government. Standing Order 52 provides that the House may order documents to be tabled by the Government in the House. The Cabinet Office coordinates the preparation of the papers – that is, the return to order. The return to order may contain privileged and public documents. Privileged documents are available only to members of the Legislative Council.

Note that documents submitted as part of a grant application may be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.3 Public liability Insurance

Funded organisations are required to provide a valid Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of \$20 million in the name of the applicant before funding can be released.

The funded organisation is responsible for ensuring that it has appropriate insurance coverage in place for the project, equipment or activities, and its day-to-day operations. Funded organisations that employ staff must comply with relevant industrial relations and workplace health and safety requirements.

6.4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Support and contact

Q: Can we request an extension for final delivery?

A: Premier's Department will consider extending the delivery timeframes of scheduled activities on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Do proposals require letters of support as references?

A: Applicants do not need to provide letters of support. Applicants may choose to upload a reference to previously successful projects of a similar nature to support their proposal.

Q: How much involvement will the Premier's Department have?

A: The Premier's Department expects to meet regularly with successful applicants to track the progress of the project against deliverables set out in the funding agreement. The frequency of meetings will be agreed upon by all parties involved.

Q: Do proposals need to address all focus areas listed in the grant guidelines?

A: Applicants may choose one or more focus area; each proposal will be assessed on the merit and ability to meet outcomes rather than the breadth of areas applicants focus on.

If you would like to discuss these requirements further, please contact:
connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au placing "NSW Government Strengthening Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Grants Program Enquiry" in the subject header.



7

Attachments

7 Attachment A

Fact sheet

NSW Government Strengthening Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism Grants

NSW is a strong, welcoming and connected society in which different views, faiths, backgrounds and cultures are respected. But globalisation, the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters, overseas conflicts and social media mean more people are exposed to harmful, hateful and violent views, with a small number of individuals wishing to cause us harm, divide us and threaten our safety.

The NSW Government is committed to building on the strengths of our communities to foster social cohesion and reduce hate and extremism so that every person living in our state feels safe.

Countering Violent Extremism program

NSW Government agencies conduct a broad range of programs and activities to counter violent extremism and prevent terrorism.

In addition to these, the NSW Government delivers a specialised Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program that spans multiple areas of government, with input from health, education, police, justice and multicultural agencies.

The program aims to:

- promote stronger social cohesion
- provide support and advice for vulnerable people
- divert and disengage people with extreme views
- provide leadership and engage with the community.

The NSW CVE program was started in 2015 following the 2014 Lindt Café siege and the fatal shooting of a NSW Police employee in Parramatta in 2015.

It is one of Australia's leading CVE programs, taking an evidence-based approach to building social cohesion and community harmony. This reflects the idea that when we respond to and recover from terrorism and violent extremism in a way that supports community harmony, we also reduce the likelihood of incidents of violent extremism and terrorism in the long term.

The key features of the program, and allocated funding, are summarised below.

Stronger community cohesion



\$4.1 million

- Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) cohesion program
- Online resilience initiatives targeting young people

Support and advice for vulnerable people



\$3.3 million

- Student wellbeing and support programs in schools
- Community advice and referral services
- Improved police capability to identify and respond to bias crime
- Enhanced response to mental health factors

Divert and disengage people with extreme views



\$3.2 million

- Integrated case management programs
- Targeted interventions and support for returning families of foreign fighters
- Targeted disengagement programs for young people in detention and adults in custody

Continued leadership and engagement



\$3.1 million

- Engagement with business, local government, academic and community stakeholders
- Research-to-practice initiatives and capability to respond to emerging issues
- CVE training and evaluation, and program governance

Initiatives of the CVE program

Stronger social cohesion

- **The Premier's Panel on Hate and Extremism** addresses the safety concerns of diverse communities in NSW. It considers hate and extremism in all contexts, including hate crimes, racial and religious bullying in schools, and hate and extremism online.
- **The Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) grants program** supports community-driven projects to engage young people and promote community harmony. In the first 5 years of the program, it reached more than 50,000 young people through 39 projects.
- **Remove Hate from the Debate** is an online campaign with resources to support young people to speak out against hate speech.

Support and advice for vulnerable people

- Wellbeing and support programs in schools address anti-social and extremist behaviour among students, including wrap-around support through the NSW Department of Education's **Incident and Report Hotline**.
- **The Step Together community advice and referral service** is a helpline and digital support service focused on the early prevention and awareness of extremism, delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

- Specialist mental health capability, including NSW Health's **Fixated Threats and Assessment Centre**, provides advice and education in the context of violent extremism and fixated threats.
- NSW Police Force's **Engagement and Hate Crimes Unit** improves the force's capability to identify and respond to bias crime. This includes training for frontline police officers, improvements to databases, additional intelligence and analysis resources, and online campaigns to raise awareness of hate crime.

Divert and disengage people with extreme views

- DCJ's **Engagement and Support Program** is a voluntary initiative that supports people to make positive changes and avoid a pathway to violent extremism.
- Young people and adults in custody are diverted and disengaged from extreme ideologies through Corrective Services' **Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)**, and specialised case management for young people in Youth Justice facilities.
- DCJ's **Integrated Support Program** provides targeted intervention and coordinates support for women and children of foreign fighters.

Continued leadership and engagement

- The NSW Government **collaborates closely with Australian Government agencies** including Home Affairs, the eSafety Commissioner, and law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
- We also **engage with businesses, local government, communities, academics and international partners** to support their efforts against violent extremism and to develop further measures.
- The NSW Government undertakes **research-to-practice initiatives and roundtables** to ensure our CVE programs are responsive to emerging trends and issues, and align with best practice.
- **Evaluation and training programs** support our capability in responding to violent extremism and build a strong evidence base for NSW programs.