

Home and Living Demonstration Projects – Round 2

Empowering Participants: Information, Assistance and Connections Grant Round

Questions and Answers

General

What is the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) trying to achieve through this round?

The objectives of this grant opportunity are to empower participants to exercise more informed choice about their home and living decisions, thereby improving choice and control for NDIS participants.

How will the NDIA achieve its objectives?

We will test and evaluate different models of delivering high quality information, assistance and connections support to participants looking to explore their home and living (H&L) options.

We are looking for innovative projects that allow participants to explore and understand their H&L possibilities. Innovation will come from projects being designed with and informed by participants and people with lived experience. Projects must:

- empower participants to be confident and informed customers
- promote genuine independence and inclusion, and
- leverage the available network of services including community and mainstream in new and creative ways.

Eligibility

Are NDIS participants eligible to apply for the Empowering Participants: Information, Assistance and Connections Grant Round?

This round is not open to individuals. Applicants must be a company, corporation, or organisation with a registered ABN. Please read the [Grant Opportunity Guidelines on the NDIS website](#) for more information on eligibility requirements

Are participants who are part of Round 1 projects able to participate in a Round 2 project?

Yes, participants who are part of a demonstration project as part of [Round 1: Better Practice SIL on the NDIS website](#), can be part of projects being delivered through Round 2. Further information on how participants can connect with a Round 2 provider will be released in the second half of 2023.

Why are providers registered to deliver home and living supports excluded from applying?

To avoid any potential conflict of interest, registered and unregistered providers delivering home and living supports to NDIS participants are excluded from applying for this grant round. We want to avoid situations where an organisation delivering a project refers participants to its own organisation to purchase H&L supports. The NDIA also acknowledges the recent findings of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, [Own Motion Inquiry into Aspects of Supported Accommodation \(PDF 2.6MB\)](#). The Inquiry Report acknowledges the importance of participants being supported with decisions independent of the provider/s who deliver their supports.

How have we determined the ineligible registration groups?

Registration groups and associated support items which are exclusively used for the delivery of home and living supports have been used.

A registered or unregistered provider who currently delivers supports and claims from support items under either;

- 0115 – Assistance With Daily Life Tasks In A Group Or Shared Living Arrangement, or
- 0131 – Specialist Disability Accommodation, and
- has done in the past 2 years

will not be eligible to apply for a grant in this round.

Can organisations outside of the disability sector submit a proposal?

Yes. Organisations from outside of the disability sector may submit an application. However, applicants must not currently, or for the duration of the project, be delivering home and living supports to NDIS participants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with participants to understand their direct experience and needs so that applications can be shaped by participants. Please check the eligibility requirements in the [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#) for further information

Are consortia proposals possible?

The NDIA welcomes proposals from consortia where there is an identified 'lead organisation' who will work with the NDIA on behalf of the consortium and enter into the grant agreement. Members of the consortia must not currently, or for the duration of the project, be delivering home and living supports to NDIS participants.

Are NDIS Partners in the Community eligible to apply?

NDIS Partners in the Community (PiTC) can only apply to deliver a project outside of the geographical region they are currently contracted to deliver in.

Scope and Design

Is there a minimum number of participants that the project must involve?

No. However, applicants are encouraged to include the optimal number of participants that will maximise project outcomes and provide value for money for the Commonwealth Government.

How will the NDIA ensure participants with different support needs are included in the demonstration projects?

Evaluation and selection of demonstration projects will consider representation of participants with different types of support, functioning and participation needs.

Specific focus will be placed on diverse groups for this round. This is on the basis that there are specific needs to address and lessons to learn in testing ways of providing information, assistance, and connections to people who identify as part of these groups.

This means that we will fund at least one project tailored to each of the following diverse groups, or any combination, where applications of sufficient quality are received:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse peoples. and
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual, Plus (LGBTIQA+) community.

How can we demonstrate that we have engaged with participants in developing our application?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with participants to understand their direct experience and needs so that applications can be shaped by participants. In responding to Assessment Criteria, you are required to provide:

- Evidence of engagement with participants prior to application
- An engagement strategy for connecting with participants as part of this project.

Your participant engagement could be demonstrated by providing a written explanation confirming how you have involved participants through, for example, using existing participant governance groups or through one-to-one engagement.

Can the demonstration project be designed for future (not current) participants?

Projects should take into account the needs of current and future NDIS participants. Project providers however must work with current participants of the NDIS who have an access decision and a NDIS plan.

Is there a possibility that participant's plans will be amended as a result of a grant project?

No. Participants who have a current home and living decision and budget, who wish to explore alternative home and living options will need to consider possibilities available to them within their approved budget. Plan reassessments will occur within the natural cycle and will not be included as part of the grant projects.

Are applicants required to maintain vulnerable persons and working with children checks for the life of the project?

If you are successful, all personnel working on the project must maintain a Working with Vulnerable People registration.

If your project is targeting people under the age of 18, all personnel working on the project must maintain a Working with Children Check.

Is it possible to target a group of young people in out of home care in a project?

Yes, provided the organisation working with this cohort is eligible to apply.

Outcomes and Evaluation

What will the outcome measures be for the demonstration projects?

The NDIA is currently developing an evaluation framework for the Home and Living demonstration projects. The outcomes will be shared with the selected organisation to inform their data collection.

Implementation

Will the Agency provide support to manage any issues that are identified during implementation of the demonstration projects?

Yes, the NDIA will provide assistance to providers while the demonstration projects are being implemented.

Funding

Can my organisation make an in-kind contribution to project delivery?

Yes, we will accept organisations providing in-kind support to assist with their projects. However, in-kind contributions will not be taken into account when assessing an application.

If I apply for a total of \$80,000 for a two-year project, does that mean I will get \$80,000 each year?

No, successful grant amounts are not annualised budgets. Grants will be paid in instalments in accordance with reporting requirements over one or two-year periods.

If funded, what will be the reporting requirements?

Grant recipients will be required to provide quarterly reports, and a final report will be required at the conclusion of your grant activity.

When will the funding period start?

It will commence from when the grant agreement is executed, which is likely to be around July 2023.

Application Process

Will I receive a receipt or other acknowledgement advice when my application is submitted?

Yes, you will receive an email which acknowledges that your application has been received by the NDIA within two working days.

Can I apply for an extension to the application deadline?

You must submit your application prior to the published closing date. The NDIA may accept late applications where unforeseen or exceptional circumstances prevented you from submitting before the close date. A late application request must be submitted in writing to: SPC2473infoassistconnect@ndis.gov.au.

I have questions about the grant round. Who can answer them?

If you have questions about the grant round, please send them to the NDIA via email at SPC2473infoassistconnect@ndis.gov.au. Questions about the round must be sent to the NDIA no later than 13 April 2023, 5pm AEST. The NDIA will respond to emailed questions within four working days through the form of an Addendum which will be published to the [NDIS website](#).

Can I submit more than one application?

No, there is a limit of one application per organisation.

Can I submit an application and be a member of a consortium?

Yes, provided you are not the lead member of the consortium.

How are applications submitted?

Using the [application form](#). The form must be completed and emailed to SPC2473infoassistconnect@ndis.gov.au. If the form is not accessible for you, please contact the NDIA at SPC2473infoassistconnect@ndis.gov.au to discuss submitting your application in audio or visual format.

Is there any support available for completing an application?

If you have questions, please contact the NDIA at SPC2473infoassistconnect@ndis.gov.au

Am I able to review a copy of the grant agreement before submitting an application?

Yes, a copy of the draft [grant agreement is available here](#).

Who makes the final decision on which applications will be funded?

The decision making is the Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA.

Can I appeal against the decision not to fund my application?

No, the decision cannot be appealed.

Eligible Expenditure

What is eligible expenditure?

Eligible expenditure is detailed in section 5.3 of the [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

Is expenditure related to preparing the application eligible for funding?

No, you cannot use the grant to pay for costs relating to preparing your application.

Other

Where can I find out more?

You can find out more by:

- Visiting the [NDIA website](#), or
- Attending the online information session of this grant round being held on 23 March. [Please click here to register](#).