

16 Days of Activism

Grant Program Guidelines

1 July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Communities and Justice acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this document.

We advise this resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

16 Days of Activism

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1 Key Dates and information

Information Sessions	28 and 29 July 2026
Grant applications open	27 July 2026
Grant applications close	31 August 2026
Grant applications assessed	September 2026
Application outcomes advised	October 2026
Grant program results published	October 2026
Successful applicant's contracts issued	October/November 2026
Grant projects delivery timeframe	25 November – 10 December 2026
Final acquittal due	30 January 2027
Decision-maker	DCJ Delegated Decision Maker
NSW Government Agency	Department of Communities and Justice
Type of grant opportunity	Open Competitive
Grant value	Total grant funds: \$100,000 Individual grants: minimum \$2,500 to maximum \$5,000
Enquiries	DFSVprimaryprevention@dcj.nsw.gov.au

2 Overview

16 Days of Activism Grant Program Guidelines

The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide potential applicants with information on:

- the grant program and its intended purpose
- the application and assessment process
- how the funds can be used
- performance, monitoring and reporting requirements for any successful grant application.

It is recommended that the program guidelines are carefully read, along with the FAQs, prior to completing your application.

Purpose of the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program

The NSW Government is supporting the prevention of Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence (DFSV) at the local level through annual grants to communities across the state.

In 2024, the NSW Government launched its first Primary Prevention Strategy - Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028 (the Strategy). The Strategy sets out the framework to address the underlying beliefs and attitudes that tolerate and, in many cases, condone the use of violence against women and children. It prioritises prevention activity in high-impact settings where we live, learn, work and play.

Objectives and outcomes

The 16 Days of Activism Grant Program's focus is on encouraging initiatives aligned with the NSW Government's whole-of-community approach outlined in the Primary Prevention Strategy. Its focus is on primary prevention initiatives undertaken at the whole-of-population level.

There are three key objectives of the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program:

1. Increase awareness in the community about the primary prevention of domestic, family violence and sexual violence by tailoring initiatives to address the four gendered drivers of violence outlined in the Change the Story framework by Our Watch.
2. Reinforce messages about positive behaviours and social norms rejecting violence against women.
3. Engage local groups, organisations – including men's organisations – and schools in leading efforts for change.

Grant applications must demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute to raising awareness of the **prevention** of domestic, family violence and sexual violence in your community by meeting at least one of these program objectives, through an initiative that addresses *at least* one of the four gendered drivers of violence outlined in the Change the Story framework by Our Watch:

1. The condoning of violence against women.
2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life.
3. Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity.
4. Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control.

It is a short-term initiative designed to be delivered during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, running from 25 November to 10 December 2026. All successful initiatives will need to be delivered or targeted at this period of local activism.

Outcomes will be reported against the change achieved in awareness.

Target group

The 16 Days of Activism Grant Program is aimed at local communities via:

- Local Domestic and Family Violence Committees
- Non-government organisations that are a part of the Local Domestic Violence Networks.

This grant is designed to support initiatives with clear and actionable delivery plans across metro, rural and regional NSW that engage a range of different communities and marginalised cohorts during the 16 Days of Activism campaign running from 25 November to 10 December 2026.

Types of initiatives

The following examples illustrate the types of activities that could be eligible in the context of a competitive process. They are provided to help applicants understand how primary prevention can be implemented in practice, in line with the objectives of this grant program. They are not exhaustive – applicants are encouraged to consider their own community's needs and understanding, and their own capacity to deliver.

- **Youth workshops challenging rigid gender stereotypes:** A provider could partner with schools to deliver gender-responsive workshops for young people. These sessions could support participants to examine the explicit and implied gender expectations the students experience, and explore how norms around gender can limit independence, expression and safety through everyday examples. Students could create artefacts that are later displayed publicly to reinforce positive social norms and encourage community reflection.
- **Public installation confronting the condoning of violence against women:** A highly visible public installation that symbolises the number of women killed by gender-based violence year to date can be co-created with community, and when displayed, accompanying materials or media explain how community attitudes that minimise or excuse gendered violence contribute to harm. The installation can prompt sustained community discussion — in person and across social media — reinforcing the expectation that violence is unacceptable and must not be tolerated.
- **Digital campaign promoting positive peer cultures among men:** A prevention campaign could feature local male leaders sharing short, community-driven messages about healthy masculinity, accountability, and challenging harmful behaviours among peers, relevant to the local context. The digital content can be optimised to reach a broad but local audience and model respectful behaviours, encouraging men to reflect on how peer pressure and dominant masculine norms can contribute to gender-based violence, and a call to action for how they can actively promote safer, more respectful communities.
- **Other initiatives could include, for example, engaging older women in activities that challenge rigid gender stereotypes and the condoning of abuse.** Community organisations might host small group discussions or creative sessions with older women to explore how gendered expectations and age-based power dynamics can impact autonomy and safety. These activities could culminate in shared messages promoting respect, independence and equality for older women, helping to reinforce positive social norms within the community.

3 Eligibility Criteria

Grant Eligibility

This grant is open to:

- Local Domestic and Family Violence Committees in NSW
- Local Domestic Violence Networks in NSW.

To be eligible the Committee or Network is required to:

- Be a formally recognised forum, preferably, operating with a documented terms of reference. The forum members should consist of organisations, both government and non-government in a local area, who provide services to women and children experiencing domestic, family and/or sexual violence.
- The Committee or Network gives the members the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and to enhance inter-agency responses.
- The Committee or Network has membership from both government agencies and non-government organisations.
- The members have demonstrated expertise in preventing and/or addressing domestic and family violence.
- Provide an up-to-date copy of agreed terms of reference (or other relevant operational information) that clearly articulates your commitment to the prevention, early intervention and response to either domestic, family and/or sexual violence.

Organisation Eligibility

The following are mandatory eligibility criteria for organisations applying for this grant. Further information is provided in later sections of the Guidelines.

- Applicants must have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million.
- Applicants must have no outstanding Redress Obligations under the National Redress Scheme.
- Applicants must not have any outstanding acquittals with DCJ.
- Applicant must be an organisation that delivers projects in NSW.

Sponsoring body/ Joint application

Local Domestic and Family Violence Committees or Networks who are not incorporated legal entities, will need to nominate a sponsoring body to receive the grant funds on their behalf. The sponsoring body must be an incorporated legal entity.

Alternatively, a joint application may be submitted by the Committee/Network and the legal entity.

Which ever arrangement is used it must be made clear in the application.

The role of a sponsoring body, or legal entity in a joint application, is to:

- Accept the grant monies on behalf of the funded project and if sponsoring, pass on the monies to the funded applicant in accordance with the grant conditions.
- Provide project management assistance to the funded applicant.
- If required, the sponsoring organisation may include the applicant under their public liability insurance.
- Ensure the required reports and financial acquittal information is provided to DCJ at the completion of the project.

Ineligible applicants

You are not eligible if you are:

- Unincorporated organisations or groups without an eligible sponsor organisation.
- Organisations that have not met project requirements, including acquittal and reporting, for funding received from DCJ in the previous two years.
- Organisations with Redress Obligations under the National Redress Scheme that have not joined the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.
- Have any overdue acquittals with DCJ.
- Do not have a minimum of \$10 million Public Liability Insurance.

National Redress Scheme

The NSW Government will not award a Grant Funding Arrangement to a non-government organisation with Redress Obligation (or to any of its Related Entities) if that non-government organisation:

- has declined to join the Scheme, or
- at the expiry of six months after the time, it is notified to join the Scheme, has failed to do so.

Visit the website for further information about the National Redress Scheme sanctions.

Insurance

Grant recipients must have a minimum of \$10 million Public Liability Insurance.

Applicants will be asked to provide a Certificate of Currency for this insurance in the application form.

Additionally, applicants should maintain adequate insurance appropriate to the activities/services funded under this grant, to cover any liability that might arise.

If your organisation is not covered by the appropriate insurance, you will need to approach another organisation (such as your local council or an incorporated not-for-profit) to sponsor your application so that your project will be covered under their insurance.

4 Assessment Criteria

Grant Assessment Criteria

Eligible organisations must meet the following assessment criteria to be considered for funding:

- Provide a broad outline of your initiative.
- Demonstrated ability to meet the eligibility criteria
- Address this grant program's purpose and objectives.
- Articulate which target group the initiative will address or benefit
- Outline who will participate in the project, including an identified sponsoring body for any local DFV or DFSV committee or network.
- Demonstrate how you have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience in DFSV primary prevention to complete the project/initiative during the campaign period and within budget.
- Demonstrate value for money, budget should be clear and cost effective.

Prioritisation

Priority for funding under the grant program will be given to projects that demonstrate a primary prevention scope of practice, specific to one of the four gendered drivers of violence as noted in the Program Objectives and Outcomes. Applications may also be prioritised to ensure geographic distribution across NSW to ensure an equitable spread of funds and projects in regional, rural and remote areas, and to ensure that there is not a duplication of funded services delivering primary prevention activities.

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.
 - culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or racially marginalised backgrounds.
 - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA+) communities.
 - people living with disability, dementia, chronic disease or mental illness.
 - rural or regional communities
 - older women (55 years +)
-

5 Grant Funds

Funding amounts

Applicants can apply for a one-off grant between **\$2,500 and \$5,000**.

Funding must support initiatives delivered during the **16 Days of Activism campaign (25 November – 10 December 2026)** and be fully expended by **10 December 2026**.

Grant funds expenditure

Funds can only be used for expenses/activities directly associated to the grant. Your application must itemise your proposed expenditure in relation to the funding amount requested.

Committees/Networks should, wherever possible, seek in-kind support and/or financial contributions from project partners. Committees/Networks contributions are encouraged this could include voluntary labour, use of existing facilities, equipment or other resources, and/or administration.

Grant fund exclusions

Successful applicants must use the grant funds, including any interest earned, for the purposes of the grant.

Funding cannot be used for the following:

- Any activity of a commercial nature that is for profit
- Existing debt or budget deficits
- Capital works, including building work
- Permanent salaries/wages (costs for temporary tutors/instructors for your program or activity may be included)
- Permanent equipment purchases, for example tables and computers
- Business as usual costs or general operating expenses
- Programs or activities that encourage gambling such as bingo, or the consumption of alcohol
- Programs and activities coordinated by NSW Government Departments and Statutory Authorities
- The same project twice. For example, two different organisations cannot apply for funds for the same program or activity.

6 Application process

Before you start your application, in addition to reading these Guidelines, please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document and consider attending an information session.

- Applications close on **31 August 2025 at 5:00 pm**.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Applications for this grant are submitted and managed using the *SmartyGrants* portal.
- Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility and assessment criteria outlined in this guide.
- If you are using a Sponsoring Body you will need to have details of their authorised signatories and banking account, to complete the application form.
- Evidence that is required to be submitted with your application; Committee Terms of Reference (if applicable), Public Liability insurance Certificate of Currency, copy of bank account statement showing BSB and Account number.
- When your application is successfully submitted you will receive an automated email from SmartyGrants that includes an application ID number. Please keep this reference number and use it in any communications regarding the grant.
- All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.
- You may submit more than one application, however only one initiative from an organisation can be successful.
- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The 16 Days of Activism Grant Program is competitive.

NB. Please ensure that your contact details in SmartyGrants are kept up to date.

Banking details

It is your responsibility provide the correct bank account details for funds transfer, should your application be successful Funds transferred to an incorrect bank account may not be recoverable.

7 Assessment Process

All submitted applications will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria.

An Assessment Panel, including one independent member, will be convened to assess the applications. The Panel will make funding recommendations to the Delegated Officer.

The Delegated decision maker will consider the Assessment Panel's recommendations. The Delegated Department Officer is the final decision-maker for funding as defined in the Initiation to launch Briefing Note.

Partial funding may be offered where an application includes ineligible activities or budget items.

Applicants will be formally notified on whether their application has been successful.

All grant announcements will be posted on the [NSW Grant Funding Finder](#).

8 Successful applicants

Grant Funding Agreement

- Successful applicants are required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with NSW Department of Communities and Justice within four weeks of the grant offer being made.
- The signed Grant Funding Agreement should be returned within two weeks of receipt. If you do not return your grant agreement by the specified date your grant will be forfeited.
- The application, Grant Funding Agreement and acquittal for the grant will be managed using the SmartyGrants management system and Adobe Acrobat Sign.
- Agreements can only be signed by authorised officers of your organisation. This may be a member of the executive/committee as deemed under the Articles of Association or Constitution for a not-for-profit organisation, or the General Manager or delegated officer if you are a council.
- Please note, all applicants must provide individual and unique contact details (email address, phone number, name and position) of the relevant authorised signatories in the application form.
- It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure nominated authorised signatories will be available to sign the funding agreement within the required timeframe.
- Once we receive your signed Grant Funding Agreement via Adobe Acrobat Sign, DCJ will countersign the agreement and return to you by email.

Obligations and reporting

- Any variations to the approved project scope, project location and completion time frames outlined in the original application form must be formally requested and approved in writing before any related work takes place.

To discuss a variation, please contact dfsvprimaryprevention@dcj.nsw.gov.au, the Primary Prevention team or the grantdesignandsupport@dcj.nsw.gov.au if process related.

- All projects must be completed by **10 December 2026**. A Final Report is required to be submitted via SmartyGrants no later than **30 January 2027**. An email notification will be sent to the SmartyGrants nominated User when the acquittal form is available to complete in the SmartyGrants portal.
- Please note that any photographs or videos containing images of participants and/or staff submitted in the Final Completion Report must be accompanied by a signed DCJ still and moving images consent form.
- It is a requirement that all financial records related to grant expenditure and acquittal be retained by the successful applicant for seven years. If the committee changes, these documents must be forwarded to the new incoming committee.

Unspent project funds

If a grant recipient's project is completed and there are unspent project funds remaining, these must be returned to NSW Department of Communities and Justice unless otherwise specified in the grant funding agreement, if more than \$250.

Publication of grant information

The NSW Grant Administration 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 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).

9 Additional information

Feedback and appeals process

If your application is not successful, it does not mean your application is without merit. Funding is limited and not all applications are successful.

There is no appeal process available for this grant program.

Complaint handling

Any complaints should be sent in writing to DFSVprimaryprevention@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Access to information

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.

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.

Before information is released in response to an application under the GIPA Act, there will be an assessment of the public interest considerations in favour of and against disclosure of that information, and there may be consultation requirements that apply.

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.

Ethical conduct

Conflict of interest management

Conflicts of Interest between DCJ and applicants will be managed in accordance with the DCJ's code of conduct, and declarations are made and recorded by all persons involved in performing functions related to the assessment process.

Confidentiality

DCJ staff who assist an applicant with an application will not be involved in assessment for that application.

Information relating to the successful applications, including the name of the applicant, description of the funded project and the funding amount, will be included in:

- Public media releases.
- An announcement on the DCJ website.
- The NSW Grants finder website.
- DCJ social media.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that this publication is free from error and/or omission at the date of publication. The authors, publisher and any person involved in the preparation of this publication take no responsibility for loss occurring to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of information contained herein.

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