

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) GRANTS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program?

The Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program is a State Government initiative that invests in locally driven projects that contribute to economic growth and development in regional Western Australia.

2. What can RED Grants funding be used for?

The RED Grants provide funding to support locally driven projects that contribute to increasing or sustaining jobs, expanding or diversifying industry, developing skills or capability, increasing business productivity and attracting new investment to the regions.

The RED Grant Guidelines, found on the [GDC website](#), outline what funds can be applied to. Further clarification can be sought from the Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC) Grants Officer, Courtney Whitehead on 0467 905 262 or courtney.whitehead@gdc.wa.gov.au

3. How can I apply?

Download the Guidelines and begin your application through SmartyGrants on the RED Grants webpage at www.gdc.wa.gov.au. Applicants must contact the GDC Grants Officer for more information on project eligibility and advice relating to their application, prior to submitting the application form.

4. When is the closing date?

Applications for Round 8 of the RED Grants program open on Friday 17 October 2025 and must be submitted and received through the SmartyGrants system by 5pm Friday 9 January 2026.

5. How much funding can I apply for?

Eligible applicants in the Gascoyne region may apply for funding of up to \$250,000 for each project.

6. What if I am not registered for GST?

Applicants can still apply for grants if they are not registered for GST concessions. Unregistered grant applicants must provide the GDC with a budget for the grant total inclusive of all project costs including GST.

If you are not registered for GST concessions and need further clarification, please contact the GDC prior to submitting your application.

7. Does my organisation have to be regionally based to apply?

The RED Grants are targeted at providing financial assistance to regionally based organisations. The Gascoyne region covers four Local Government Areas (LGAs) including the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne.

Organisations outside the region may apply but will need to demonstrate significant, sustainable regional benefits and a commitment to local decision-making and planning.

8. How much do I need to contribute?

Business applicants must be able to demonstrate a 50% matching cash contribution towards the Project. Other State Government funding will not be considered part of the matching cash contribution. Not-for-profit and Aboriginal owned organisations that can demonstrate in-kind and/or cash leverage may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

9. How are applications assessed and how soon after applying will I know if I am successful or not?

RED Grants are a competitive application process. The GDC undertakes a rigorous assessment process of all applications. Applicants should allow up to six months for the RED Grants approval process which should be considered by applicants during project planning.

The assessment criteria and decision-making process used to assess applications are provided in the RED Grants Guidelines. Assessors are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest.

10. How many applications are funded per round?

There is no limit on the number of applications funded per round, however there are limited funds available in each region.

11. Can I apply for funding in more than one region?

Yes, however applicants will be required to submit separate applications to each Regional Development Commission (RDC) as they will be assessed independently.

Applicants must seek advice on their project proposal from each relevant RDC within which funding is sought. Each region has differing regional priorities, assessment panels and grant funding available. The GDC can facilitate an inter-agency meeting with other RDCs if required, to discuss cross regional projects.

12. If I am unsuccessful this round, can I still apply when the next round opens?

Yes. Upon notification of being unsuccessful, applicants can contact the GDC to discuss the outcome of the assessment and how the application/project might be amended for consideration in any future rounds. Any feedback provided should not be viewed as guarantee of funding.

13. When is the next round?

Future rounds for the RED Grants have not yet been announced. Please contact the GDC Grants Officer on 0467 905 262 or courtney.whitehead@gdc.wa.gov.au to be added to the RED Grants mailing list.