

Community Innovation Fund



The Community Innovation Fund

SSI has established the Community Innovation Fund to enrich the capacity of community members, leaders and groups to build a stronger, more vibrant and resilient life together in south-west Sydney.

The Fund relies on the community to shape its own priority areas and determine what projects will be delivered. All initiatives supported by the Fund will be driven by the communities it serves to support.

The Fund is sponsored by SSI and seeks to work collaboratively with [NSW Settlement Partnership](#) members (Core Community Services, Melkite Catholic Welfare Association), as well as community leaders and groups.

An intensive consultation process with the community was undertaken to inform the selection criteria's priority areas. It aimed to understand the community's hopes and challenges and provide a narrative about what kind of community its members want to live in.

The Scope

Resources: SSI will invest \$50,000 each round towards funding community projects. SSI resources will also support applicants and provide planning and project management tools, coaching and access to SSI facilities as required or requested by the grant recipients. NSP members are encouraged to work together and contribute in-kind resources.

Grant size: Up to \$10,000 per project

When: Round 1 – APPLICATIONS CLOSED

Round 2 – Will be announced in 2018

Communities: The Fund supports recently arrived refugee communities of south-west Sydney (Fairfield, Liverpool and surrounds).

Guiding Principles

Collaboration: The Fund brings together community members, leaders, groups and un-funded associations for the common purpose of building a stronger, more vibrant and resilient community. Individuals and groups are encouraged to work together to develop projects collectively to help drive an environment of community cooperation and collaboration, and avoid competition within and across target communities.

Strength-based: Members of the south-west Sydney target communities are encouraged to focus on their community's strengths and assets in order to propose concepts, projects and collaborations that address an issue of concern to them and their community.

Leadership and Community Engagement: The Fund will foster a culture of community empowerment and independence and help develop champions within communities. It will encourage people to fully participate in their communities and will provide an opportunity for communities to decide the nature of support they receive according to the impact it will have on their issues of priority.

Innovation: The Fund will look for innovative ideas from the communities to support their aspirations.

Self-determination: SSI resources will be dedicated to fund and coach those activities as required, however all projects will be led and delivered by the community groups themselves, driven by their own vision.

Selection Criteria

Community surveys, consultations and engagement have informed SSI's understanding of what the communities' hopes and challenges are and of the kind of community people who are newly arrived want to live in.

Applications for funding should address one or more of the priorities listed below.

1. Utilising the existing strengths in the community — family and community support as well as skills and qualifications that people have within the community.
2. English language support.
3. Volunteering, local work experience and activities leading to employment.
4. Understanding and help with career pathways and recognition of prior learning.
5. Helping each other retain existing community norms and values that support and enhance community cohesion.
6. Activities to engage different groups of people, such as the elderly, women, youth and children.
7. Engaging people in meaningful conversations, interaction with neighbours and involvement in the wider Australian society.
8. Cooperative involvement in events that cross boundaries of race, culture and religion, which build and enhance community connections.
9. Help with mental wellbeing: moving from a fear of the future to engaging in possibilities for the future.
10. Information and understanding of Australian values and societal norms, including day-to-day social etiquette.
11. Initiatives that help address living expenses.
12. Initiatives that enable people to travel independently.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The activities proposed by the applicant must benefit residents in south-west Sydney (Fairfield, Liverpool and surrounds) who represent refugee communities that have arrived in the last three years.
2. Applicants can be groups, organisations or individuals who have a connection to south-west Sydney.
3. Local service providers or other funded bodies are not eligible to apply.
4. The primary focus of the proposed project must address one or more of the priorities identified above and be clearly aligned with the guiding principles.
5. All applications must be received within the identified deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

Assessment of Applications

Applications are reviewed by an independent panel consisting of one representative from local members of the NSP (Core Community Services, Melkite Catholic Welfare Association), the SSI Community Engagement and Capacity Manager and the project consultant.

The decision of the independent panel will be final and cannot be appealed.

What can the funding be used for?

You must use the funds to deliver an approved project that meets the funding guidelines and the funded activity as defined in your grant agreement.

You can use the grant to pay for:

- Incentives to volunteers and on-costs which can be directly attributed to the provision of the grant program in the identified service area or areas as per the grant agreement;
- Volunteer training or related capacity building activity that is relevant, appropriate and in line with the grant program;
- Operating and administration expenses directly related to the project as per the grant agreement, such as:
 - Stationery, printing and photocopying;
 - Project related local transportation costs;
 - Venue hire.

The grant money cannot be used for activities such as:

- Construction works or capital expenditure;
- General ongoing administration costs such as electricity, phone and rent;
- To cover any costs incurred in the preparation of your funding application;
- Projects that have already commenced or are completed.

A second funding round call out will be made in 2018. Anyone wanting to discuss their innovative project ideas please contact Kat O'Neill at 02 8799 6745 or koneill@ssi.org.au.