

Community Innovation Fund



The Community Innovation Fund

SSI 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 Community Innovation Fund asks the community to propose ideas and projects that support newly arrived refugees in Liverpool and Fairfield areas.

The Fund relies on the community to shape its own priority areas and determine what projects will be delivered. All initiatives supported will be driven by the communities it serves to support. It aims to move away from prescriptive interventions and use strength based models. The selection criteria were developed from an intensive consultation process with the community to define their aspirations and challenges to shape their own priorities.

The Fund is designed to remove barriers to funding for those who can “do” but wouldn’t typically attract grant funding. Its specially designed application process which allows ideas to be supported without making it necessary for applicants to have perfect grant-writing skills or to be impeded by burdensome grant structures once funded.

The fund is sponsored by SSI and works collaboratively with [NSW Settlement Partnership](#) (NSP) members (Core Community Services, Melkite Catholic Welfare Association, Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre), Fairfield and Liverpool City Councils.

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.

Support is available to develop ideas and prepare applications. Those who receive sponsorships are offered tailored coaching and mentoring to implement their idea.

The Scope

Resources: SSI will invest \$50,000 each round towards funding community ideas. SSI resources will provide tailored mentoring and coaching to support sponsored projects. NSP members area available to support development of ideas, applications and auspice to assist with implementation.

Sponsorship size: Up to \$10,000

When: Applications open 25th July and close 20 August 2018

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

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 ideas and projects proposed must benefit residents in south west Sydney (Fairfield, Liverpool areas) 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, Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre) and the SSI Community Engagement and Capacity Manager.

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

What can the funding be used for?

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

You can use the sponsorship 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 sponsorship funding 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.