



# INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

## Background

**For 100 years, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has been supporting new ideas and approaches that address the key issues and challenges facing the communities of Greater Melbourne and beyond.**

Social innovation is defined as “the process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress.”<sup>1</sup> Innovation can be incremental testing of new processes, products and services, combining of different forms of knowledge and practices, which can result in a small, modest or transformational change. Whether it is piloting or scaling a new program, service delivery model, or social enterprise, or developing new research, Innovation Grants are to test, develop and demonstrate new solutions, big or small.

## Impact Areas

**Innovation projects must align with one or more of our Impact Area Outcomes**

### HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Homelessness or entrenchment of homelessness is prevented.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

The supply of affordable, sustainable and healthy housing is increased.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Increased energy efficient and climate resilient homes for vulnerable low-income households.

### INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY & JOBS

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Enable our transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy that serves people and planet. (See *additional information at the end of this document*).

### HEALTHY & CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Communities shape regenerative and just climate change resilience.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Greater Melbourne's food systems are equitable, healthy, sustainable, and resilient.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

The health and community sectors can support community resilience to climate change and disasters, including pandemics and other shocks.

---

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Social Innovation, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

# INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

## 1. Grant Types

This year, in the **Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities**, and **Homelessness & Affordable Housing** Impact Areas, there are two Seed Innovation and two Scaling-Up Innovation grants.

In the **Inclusive, Sustainable Economy & Jobs** Impact Area there are two Scaling-Up Innovation Grants.

The Foundation is currently also supporting Year 2 of Scaling-up Innovation projects in each Impact Area and supporting other Initiatives where smaller grants have been invited.

### Seed Innovation

*(Homelessness & Affordable Housing; and, Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities only)*

- Up to \$50,000

These grants seek to provide funding to:

- Test a new concept or idea that will lead to a service improvement or an advance in a major community issue
- Research and build understanding of an area or issue
- Inform program design or policy development, philanthropic investment or identify best practice
- Funding to support the initial development phase of a social enterprise

Note: Seed Innovation grants may be considered for Scaling-Up Innovation grants in future years.

### Scaling-up Innovation

- Up to \$150,000 over 12-24 months

These grants support the expansion or replication of a proven innovation with the potential to be transformative on a broader community or systems level. This can include:

- Piloting or scaling-up a new service model or developing social enterprise
- Applying a new approach to improving service effectiveness and/or service quality
- Increasing impact and/or service effectiveness through sharing space or back office support, or other forms of partnership, merger or collaboration
- Building an understanding of an emerging issue or area through applied research (ie research that has application in practice)

## 2. Eligibility

Eligible organisations applying under Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities, and Homelessness & Affordable Housing must be:

- Endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
- Australian charities registered and operating in Victoria, particularly Greater Melbourne

Eligible organisations applying under the Inclusive, Sustainable Economy & Jobs Impact Area:

- Must be endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC)
- Australian charities, particularly those operating in Victoria, NSW, and ACT.

## 3. Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will apply:

- The project alignment with the Foundation's **Granting Principles**
- The project alignment with one or more of the Foundation's **Impact Area Outcomes**
- The suitability of project design, outcomes and targets
- The likelihood that the project will succeed when considering the risks
- Demonstrated capacity and skills of the project team to undertake the project
- Budget is fully justified and represents value for money, and any leverage of other funding or in-kind support is explained
- The extent to which the proposed innovation addresses the climate change challenges of emissions reductions, just transition, and/or, equitable resilience and adaptation
- The extent to which the innovative solutions test, scale or include opportunities for those facing disadvantage
- The extent to which the innovation addresses more than one Foundation outcome.

## 4. Timeline



### ENQUIRIES OPEN

17 – 31 August 2023

Innovation Grants enquiries can be submitted by completing our [ONLINE ENQUIRY FORM](#)



### FULL APPLICATIONS INVITED

7 – 21 September 2023



### OUTCOME NOTIFICATIONS

Mid December 2023

## Note regarding Inclusive, Sustainable Economy & Jobs Outcome

### OUTCOME 3: Enable our transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy that serves people and planet.

In response to recent philanthropic sector frameworks and national policy opportunities (see below), this round will seek proposals that accelerate and amplify strategies promoting a wellbeing economic approach and a fair, fast transition to a low carbon economy. Using our philanthropic toolbox we are interested in place-based transition initiatives, intergenerational fairness and community-led policy advocacy. The Foundation's support is focused on the following approaches:

#### Collaboration, convening & networks

Proposals that convene partners, coalitions, networks and movements towards collective action on new economic thinking and doing.

#### Policy advocacy

Proposals that build capacity, support, scale and amplify wellbeing and just transitions policy advocacy efforts by partners.

#### Strategic Communications

Proposals that contribute to changing the dominant narrative around the economic system to build support for change.

#### Frameworks

- [Australian Environmental Grantmakers network Climate Change Funding Framework](#)
- [Climate Justice Funders Guide](#)
- [ClimateWorks Foundation Funding trends 2022: Climate change mitigation philanthropy](#)

#### Policy opportunities

- [Australia's National Wellbeing Framework – Measuring What Matters Statement](#)
- [Net Zero Economy Agency](#)