

# Innovation Grants Guidelines



## Background

As Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation looks towards Greater Melbourne's future, we remain focused on opportunities to address the key issues and challenges facing communities now and beyond.

From this perspective we define social innovation 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 the 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 the defined outcomes within our Impact Areas.** This year, each Impact Area is focused on specific outcomes. Please see below.

Examples of the kinds of projects that we are interested in funding can be found [here](#) 

### 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.

Further information regarding each Homelessness & Affordable Housing outcome [here](#)

### INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY & JOBS

**Outcome 3.** Enable our transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy that serves people and planet.

In this Innovation Round we seek to support:

- Activities that effectively communicate the evidence that the shift to an inclusive and sustainable economy is both possible and desirable
- Projects that support the implementation of innovative local transition solutions that benefit the community, or
- Initiatives that identify and develop the necessary economic, social and environmental policy innovations to enable an inclusive and sustainable transition

### HEALTHY & CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**Outcome 3.** The health and community sectors can support community resilience to climate change.<sup>2</sup>

In this Innovation Round we seek to support:

- Increasing the capabilities of community and health organisations to understand and respond to the health implications of climate change.
- Building community awareness and capabilities regarding climate and health to prevent and alleviate adverse health outcomes
- Innovative, collaborations between community, health, food, and environmental organisations responding proactively to the population health implications of climate change

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

<sup>2</sup> See IPCC Ar6 Ch 18 Climate Resilient Pathways <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/chapter-18/>

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## 1. Grant Types

The following grants are available in each Impact Area:

### Seed Innovation Grants

#### 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.

### Scaling-up Innovation Grants

#### Up to \$150,000

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:

- Alignment with the Foundation's **Granting Principles**
- Alignment with one or more of the Foundation's **Impact Area Outcomes** (as per the above)
- Suitability of project design, outcomes and targets
- 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
- Extent to which the proposed innovation addresses the climate change challenges of emissions reductions, just transition, and/or equitable resilience and adaptation
- Extent to which the innovative solutions test, scale or include opportunities for those facing disadvantage
- Extent to which the innovation addresses more than one Foundation outcome.

## Timeline



### ENQUIRIES OPEN

12 Aug - 2 Sep 2024

Innovation Grants enquiries can be submitted via our

[ONLINE ENQUIRY FORM](#)

### FULL APPLICATIONS INVITED

26 Aug – 18 Sep 2024

### OUTCOME NOTIFICATIONS

Mid December 2024