



# INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

## Background

**For 99 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. This includes a long-standing commitment to addressing homelessness and increasing the supply of affordable housing.**

Social innovation is defined as “a novel proposal or solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than present solutions and for which the value created accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals.” (Centre for Social Innovation, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University). Innovation can be incremental testing of new processes, products and services, which can result in a small, modest or transformational change.

Whether it is piloting or scaling a new program, service delivery model, social enterprise or developing policy & research for systems change, 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.**



### Education & Employment

*Reduce education and economic inequality*

#### OUTCOMES

- Reduced current and emerging skills and capabilities gaps to improve life and work readiness.
- Increased economic inclusion, resilience and workforce adaptability.



### Environment & Sustainability

*Reduced urban impacts on the natural environment*

#### OUTCOMES

- Increased energy efficiency and climate resilience of vulnerable households.
- Secure, healthy and sustainable food systems.



### Healthy & Resilient Communities

*Increased community resilience to withstand major social and health challenges*

#### OUTCOMES

- Increased cross-sector collaborations strengthening community resilience to extreme weather and disasters.
- Increased capacity of health organisations to respond to the health impacts of climate change.



### Homelessness & Affordable Housing

*Alleviate homelessness*

#### OUTCOMES

- Increased supply of quality affordable housing.
- Interventions that prevent entry into or entrenchment in homelessness.

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## 1. Grant types

### SEED INNOVATION GRANT

- Up to \$50,000 grant

These grants support the researching, testing or piloting of a new idea or approach. This includes 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

## 2. Eligibility

Eligible organisations applying under the Healthy & Resilient Communities and Homelessness & Affordable Housing Impact Areas are:

- Organisations that are 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 Education & Employment and Environment & Sustainability Impact Areas:

- 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 innovative solutions support community resilience in response to the current COVID-19 environment as well as climate change, or potential future natural hazards, such as bushfires, heat, and floods
- Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, the extent to which the innovative solutions test, scale or include employment opportunities, especially for vulnerable groups, young people and/or women.

## 4. Timeline

### ENQUIRIES OPEN

1 March – 22 March 2022

Innovation Grants enquiries can be submitted by completing our **ONLINE ENQUIRY FORM**

### FULL APPLICATIONS INVITED

8 March – 29 March 2022

### OUTCOME NOTIFICATIONS

Late June 2022