

Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants 2024-25

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants?

In 2023, the NSW Government committed \$15 million to support the safety and security of places of worship and other places where faith communities gather regularly.

The Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants (the Grants) provide funding for eligible organisations to implement security measures at places of worship and other eligible places where faith communities gather regularly.

The Grants aims to enable faith communities to:

- Come together safely to profess, practice and maintain their faith and religious heritage, without fear of racial or religious intolerance;
- Reduce the risk of harm to people or damage to property;
- Build community resilience, wellbeing and cohesion.

The Grants takes a resilience-based approach to safety and security by supporting the following measures under four categories at places where faith communities gather:

Resilience measures 1 and 2

- **Prevention** (PROTECTION)
- **Preparedness** (PLANNING AND CAPABILITY)

Resilience measures 3 and 4

- **Response** (INCIDENT MANAGEMENT)
- **Recovery** (WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE)

Can an organisation apply for grant funding for more than one resilience measure?

Yes, an eligible organisation can apply for grant funding under one or more of the resilience measures in one application. Eligible organisations can also submit more than one application for different measures. If successful, organisations will only receive one grant within the same funding round.

Can an organisation that received funding under the Safe Places for Faith Communities Program - Grants Round 2023-24 apply in this new grants round? Must it apply for different security measures?

Organisations that received funding under the Safe Places for Faith Communities Program - Grants Round 2023-24 are eligible to apply in this new grant round for different security measures.

Activities that are dependent on recurrent funding are not eligible. Applications for security measures that were funded in the 2023-24 grants round are not eligible.

Can an organisation apply for grant funding for resilience measures that will be implemented in multiple eligible places, including different places where different faith communities gather?

Yes, an eligible organisation can apply for grant funding for resilience measures that will be implemented at multiple eligible places (including different eligible places where different faith communities gather) in one application.

The eligible organisation must show that it manages and/or has the legal and institutional authority to implement funded measures at all eligible places for which the grant funding is to be used. Legal and institutional authority to implement funded measures can be demonstrated as appropriate, an example would

be to provide a formal agreement between the applicant and relevant parties.

Can an organisation apply for grant funding for security measures at multiple buildings in the same eligible place?

An organisation can apply for grant funding for security measures that will be implemented for one or more buildings in the same eligible place in the one application. Buildings that are not eligible, such as living accommodation, cannot be included in the application.

Can an eligible organisation submit multiple applications for different eligible places at different locations under the same ABN?

Yes, eligible organisation submit multiple applications for different eligible places at different locations under the same ABN.

An eligible organisation can also submit multiple applications for different security measures at the same eligible place, however, if successful, organisations will only receive one grant per eligible place within the same funding round.

Can an organisation apply for a grant if the place of worship or eligible place is rented?

The organisation must show that it manages and has the legal and institutional authority to implement funded security measures at the place of worship or eligible place for which the grant funding is to be used.

What is the minimum amount of grant funding that can be applied for under the Program?

The grant amount available for application is \$5,000 to a maximum of \$250,000, exclusive of GST

Is the grant amount to be awarded inclusive of GST?

No, the grant amount awarded is exclusive of GST.

Are co-contributions and/or matching funding by the applicant a requirement to be eligible for a grant?

Co-contributions and/or matching funding are optional and there is no minimum or maximum amount if a co-contribution and/or matching funding is included. Co-contributions and/or matching funding can help to demonstrate capacity and value for money, which are criteria we are looking for when assessing grant applications.

What kind of previous and current funding sources need to be declared in the application?

Please list any government grants received by the organisation for the past three years. You can also list any other funding sources that demonstrate your organisation's capacity to manage grants and external funding sources.

Are in-kind contributions included as part of the total grant amount when determining if the application is up to \$50,000 (Pathway A) or more than \$50,000 (Pathway B)?

No. In-kind contributions and support are not counted towards the total grant amount requested by an applicant in determining the funding thresholds for Pathways A and B.

What are the financial reporting requirements for an organisation receiving a grant from Multicultural NSW?

If the grant amount received by an organisation is less than \$20,000 excluding GST, an income and expenditure statement signed by two authorised delegates of the funded organisation is acceptable.

For a grant amount of more than \$20,000 excluding GST, an independently audited financial statement is required. Independent auditing costs cannot be covered with funding received through the grant.

How might an applicant demonstrate the need for Wellbeing and Resilience measures such as training in first aid, psychological first aid and trauma-informed pastoral care?

Successful applications will clearly and convincingly show the need for the grant, with supporting evidence as appropriate. For funding requests of more than \$50,000 (Pathway B), supporting evidence may include current risk assessments, health and safety audits, security capability assessments, incident reports, and community feedback or demand. For Wellbeing and Resilience measures, it might also include training needs assessments for staff and volunteers, health and safety committee recommendations, or any other evidence demonstrating the need for training or other capacity-building activities for staff, volunteers or religious workers.

Can an organisation apply for funding for a multi-faith program promoting interfaith dialogue to enhance community harmony?

Applications that aim to build community awareness, cohesion, resilience and wellbeing can include multi-faith activities, however, these activities must relate to the safety and security of places where faith communities gather.

Eligible costs for Resilience measures 3 and 4 – Response (Incident Management) and Recovery (Wellbeing and Resilience) – include:

- 24/7 safety and wellbeing support services for religious leaders, chaplains, staff and volunteers who support places of worship and other eligible places
- Incident management training and emergency drills or planning for religious leaders, staff, volunteers, chaplains, and community members who attend eligible places.
- Cyber-safety measures and training addressing the risk of online hate and threats for managers of digital and social media channels and religious service livestreams.
- Training in first aid, psychological first aid and trauma-informed pastoral care for religious leaders, chaplains, staff and volunteers who support places of worship and other eligible places.

Is more than one quote required for each budget item included in the application?

Quotes are not required to be included as part of the application.

Applications that demonstrate sound financial practices, including probity and procurement processes (such as seeking more than one quote when purchasing goods or services) would clearly show capacity and value for money, which are criteria we are looking for when assessing grant applications. All applications must outline how the proposal is cost effective and viable with an accurate and balanced budget. Successful applications need to demonstrate value for money with a well-considered, proportionate, clearly itemised budget.

Can an applicant apply for grant funding for security for a one-off, large-scale event?

Security measures for a one-off event may be eligible for grant funding under the Program if the applicant is an eligible organisation and the security measures are being implemented at a place of worship or other eligible place where a faith community gathers regularly. The project must be completed, and funds expended, by 30 June 2026. Successful applications will clearly demonstrate value for money, which for the grants assessment panel may include considerations such as an enduring benefit to the community. Note that funding is not available for security personnel/guards.

Why is a place of worship eligible but not a chapel or prayer room?

Chapels or prayer rooms that are managed as part of a larger premise such as a hospital, shopping centre, airport or government or corporate office are not eligible places under this Program because they are not places where faith communities gather regularly and are not ordinarily managed by non-profit sharing organisations. A chapel or prayer room may be exempted from this exclusion if the eligible applicant demonstrates that it meets the criteria for a place of worship or other eligible place where a faith community

gathers regularly.

Are places of worship or other eligible places that are currently under construction, with construction due to be completed within the Program funding period, eligible to apply?

No, capital infrastructure projects that have already started are not eligible under the Program. New security measures at recently completed (or soon to be completed) places of worship or other eligible places may be eligible if the applicant can demonstrate they are not part of an existing capital infrastructure project or budget, and are not already being funded through other grants or funding sources. The project must be completed, and funds expended, by 30 June 2026.

Is a community services organisation that provides regular religious services eligible to apply for a grant?

Eligible organisations under this Grants are non-profit sharing organisations or registered charities that manage places of worship or other eligible places. If a community service organisation can demonstrate that it meets the requirement of an eligible place (such as a religious community centre that is a place where faith communities gather regularly to profess, practice or maintain their faith or religious heritage), it would be considered eligible for grant funding under the Grants.

Can an organisation apply for solar panels and a battery to support an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) in the event of an extended power outage/failure, which could compromise security measures at an eligible place?

Routine operational expenses and ongoing operating and maintenance costs (beyond one year for new equipment funded under the grant) are not eligible for funding under this program. Power supply is considered to be a routine operational expense and is therefore excluded from funding under this program.

Are maintenance costs eligible under this Program?

No, routine operational expenses and ongoing operating and maintenance costs are not eligible for funding,

Maintenance costs for one year from the installation date for new security equipment purchased with the grant are eligible under the Program. The project must be completed, and funds expended, by 30 June 2026.

Can I apply for a grant under the Grants to repair, replace or provide maintenance to the roof of a premise used for religious purposes?

No, routine operational expenses and ongoing operating and maintenance costs and general building improvements are not eligible for funding under this grant program.

Can an organisation apply for funding to build bathrooms or other rooms at an eligible place under this grant?

No, general building improvements are excluded from receiving grant funding.

Is an organisation managed by a Trust under a PTY LTD company eligible to apply for a grant?

For-profit organisations and commercial enterprises are not eligible to apply for funding. To be eligible for grant funding under the Grants, the applicant organisation must be a non-profit sharing organisation or registered charity. The applicant organisation must also have the legal and institutional authority to implement the security measures at the place of worship or eligible place for which the grant funding is to be used. A registered charity that operates under a Trust would be considered eligible if it meets the above criteria.

Are places of residence for clergy or religious staff and their families that are co-located with a place of worship or other eligible place also eligible for funding?

No. Living accommodation is not an eligible place under this Grants.

Are the required supporting documents such as registrations, ABN, insurances etc, provided by the applicant organisation or by the eligible place where the security measures will be implemented?

Required documentation must be from the applicant organisation.

The applicant organisation must also show that it manages and has the legal and institutional authority to implement funded security measures at the place of worship or eligible place for which the grant funding is to be used.

Can a successful applicant claim for additional security costs incurred that may relate to events happening overseas?

Successful applications will clearly and convincingly show the need for the grant, with supporting evidence as appropriate. Community sentiment or demand relating to the domestic impact of events happening overseas may form part of that supporting evidence is appropriate.

Grant funding will not be provided for supplementing, increasing or continuing ongoing service delivery.

Refer to the Safe Places for Faith Communities Grant Guidelines under Section 4 for details on eligible costs and excluded costs. Excluded costs include:

- Capital infrastructure projects that have already commenced.
- Activities, equipment or supplies that are already being funded through other grants are not eligible.
- Activities that are dependent on recurrent funding.
- Security personnel/guards

Is a day care facility, where activities include teaching religious values and traditions, eligible to apply for a grant?

No. A religious day care facility is not an eligible place under this Grants.

Is a religious school eligible to apply for the grant?

No. A religious school (primary or high school) is not an eligible place under this Grants.

An eligible place may be a seminary, theological college, or other specialist religious educational institution that is used for training clergy or other qualified religious specialists.

Can an applicant use internal risk assessments, or do they need to come from an external auditor?

Yes, an internal risk assessment is acceptable.

For grant funding requests of \$50,000 or more (Pathway B), an evidence-based security risk assessment is required as supporting documentation for the grant application.

The evidence-based risk assessment may draw on internal and/or external assessments and can be based on current risk assessments, health and safety audits, security capability assessments, incident reports, community sentiment or demand and/or other evidence demonstrating the need for the grant, ensuring they are thorough, comprehensive, and align with industry standards or best practices.

Is there a list of approved providers for evidence-based risk assessments?

No. The evidence-based risk assessment may draw on internal and/or external assessments and can be based on current risk assessments, health and safety audits, security capability assessments, incident reports, community sentiment or demand and/or other evidence demonstrating the need for the grant.

How many forms of supporting evidence are needed to support the evidence-based security risk assessment under Pathway B?

There is no minimum amount of supporting evidence required for the evidence-based risk assessment under Pathway B.

Examples of supporting evidence could include current risk assessments, health and safety audits, security capability assessments, incident reports, community sentiment or demand and/or other evidence demonstrating the need for the grant. Applicants can select which type of document(s) they are providing as supporting evidence.

Does an organisation need to address all of the Program objectives in the application, even if only applying under one Resilience measure?

No, the application form only asks applicants to respond to relevant questions relating to the Resilience measure for which you are applying.

Can the grants assessment panel recommend some measures in the application but not others, or does it only assess the application as a whole?

The grants assessment panel assesses the application as a whole, based on assessment criteria included in the grants guidelines. The panel does not make recommendations for some measures but not others in the same application.

If an organisation applies for a security measure under the wrong option in the application form, will the application still be assessed?

The grants application form provides guidance for applicants and will not ask you to complete sections on Resilience measures that are not relevant to your application. If information is provided in the wrong section, the application will still be assessed if it is otherwise eligible.

What is the timeframe for the announcement of successful applicants?

The Program aims to support projects commencing in the first half of 2025. Successful applicants will be notified in due course.

Is there a list of the approved grants under the Safe Places for Faith Communities - Grants Round 2023-24?

A list of the approved grants under the Safe Places for Faith Communities - Grants Round 2023-24 will be published in the Multicultural NSW Annual Report 2023-2024.

Will Multicultural NSW provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants?

No. Multicultural NSW does not provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Are there more rounds of funding planned for the Grants?

The total grant program funding is \$15 million. In this funding round, \$5 million is available for applications. The next grants round will open in the 2025-26 financial year.

Does Multicultural NSW have a contact email address where further questions can be sent for clarification during the application process?

Please direct any further questions about the Program to safeplacesgrants@multicultural.nsw.gov.au