

## FACT SHEET – RAPID RESPONSE FUND

On 20 April 2020, the ACT Government announced \$3 million in funding to support people facing homelessness or domestic and family violence arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding will allow the specialist homelessness sector and domestic and family violence services to expand their operational capacity and relieve the pressure of additional need during COVID-19 and throughout winter.

### Rapid Response Fund

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Funding of \$1 million in grant funding has been allocated to support community services organisations adapt and adopt to innovative and essential business changes, including staff safety fixtures and technology requirements to continue operations remotely.

### Questions and Answers about the Rapid Response Fund

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Organisations must be an incorporated, not-for-profit entity including:

- organisations that lease properties under the Housing Asset Assistance Program (HAAP)
- specialist homelessness services providers
- specialist domestic and family violence services
- an existing Community Legal Centre
- all non-government organisations who are currently funded by the Community Services Directorate (CSD).

#### **When will funding be available?**

The grants are now open through the [ACT Grants Portal](#) under 'Health and Community Wellbeing Grants'. Grant applications will be assessed regularly by the Community Services Directorate to ensure funds are out rapidly into the community.

Grant applications under the Rapid Response Fund will be backdated to **Monday 16 March 2020**, when the [ACT declared a Public Health Emergency](#).

#### **Is funding capped?**

Funding is not capped but applications will need to demonstrate how a Rapid Response Grant will assist an eligible organisation to respond to issues arising as a result of COVID-19. A total grant pool of \$1 million is available.

#### **What can the funding be used for?**

The Rapid Response Fund is targeted to provide financial support for frontline community organisations to:

- continue to respond to the immediate crisis and deliver essential services and client support for vulnerable people in the ACT community
- address and manage increased complexity of client needs arising from COVID-19 crisis
- support staff to work remotely or in different environments
- adapt services to continue this work in the absence of face-to-face engagement or direct service delivery
- build infrastructure and organisational and/or staffing capacity to address the current impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

## **What is not eligible under the Rapid Response Fund?**

Grant applications will be assessed against specific eligibility and assessment criteria and some exclusions will apply.

Grants applications must not be eligible for other funding under another ACT Government or Commonwealth package or provision, including (but not limited to):

- emergency and food support provided through the Canberra Relief Network
- supply of personal protective equipment supply (NOTE: CSD funded organisations can apply for PPE to [CSDPPE@act.gov.au](mailto:CSDPPE@act.gov.au))
- crisis accommodation
- home schooling support

Grant applications under the fund will not be eligible to fund new programs or resources, unless the support required is a direct result of COVID-19.

Grant applications under the fund will not be eligible to pay existing debts. However, organisations can be reimbursed for supports required as a direct result of COVID-19 (for example, the purchase of laptops or mobile phones purchased after 16 March 2020).

## **More information**

For more information on COVID-19 support for Canberrans facing homelessness or domestic and family violence, please email [quality@act.gov.au](mailto:quality@act.gov.au).