

Small Communities Awareness Fund

Purpose of the Program

The NSW Government announced the Building the Country funding package in November 2008.

The Small Communities Awareness Fund is \$450,000 over five years to help small communities in rural and remote NSW to supplement or establish an internet website promoting their town and tourism attractions.

Grants will be provided to community based organisations involved in local community promotion that demonstrate a clear community benefit in their application. Funds of \$5,000 are available per community for eligible projects that demonstrate community in-kind contributions and who have not received similar funding in the past.

The funding application process is open all year round.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications for funding to support an existing or establish a community based website will need to:

- be a community with a population of 10,000 or less
- be an incorporated body, community based organisation sponsored by government or local government (excluding Chambers of Commerce – *(who are eligible under the Small Chamber of Commerce Fund for assistance)*)
- demonstrate clear community benefit, list potential partners
- demonstrate the proposed website does not duplicate with an existing local community based promotion website
- demonstrate the proposed website builds on an existing local community based promotion website (if applicable to your community project)
- demonstrate the community or individual groups within the community has not received similar funding for a promotional website in the past
- identified in-kind contribution to the project
- demonstrate that funds will be expended within 6 months of receipt of the grant

What will be funded

- Website development technical assistance, software and development costs only

What will not be funded

- Chambers of Commerce (*who are eligible under the Small Chamber of Commerce Fund for assistance.*)
- stand alone website development that competes with an existing local community based promotion website
- non trade qualified labour costs
- ongoing recurrent expenses
- purchase of capital equipment such as printers, computers, etc
- expenses normally covered by local councils
- communities that have received similar funding in the past – this applies to any group or committee within a town or village.

How to apply

Applications can be made to the Office of Rural Affairs by **post** only. There is no closing date for fund applications.

Enquiries can be made on free call 1800 801 738 or email: susan.belcher@ruralaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Please use the attached application form - space provided on the application form is a guide only additional space can be used for each question.

**Post Applications to:
Small Communities Awareness Fund
Office of Rural Affairs
PO BOX 1314
ORANGE NSW 2800**

Conditions of funding

By accepting a grant, the grantee agrees:

1. That funds will only be used for the agreed purpose
2. Applicants successful in securing funding will need to comply with a number of conditions. These conditions will be detailed in a funding letter of offer to the sponsoring organisation. Conditions relate to:
 - publicity
 - general operations
 - financial reporting
 - providing documentation.
3. To submit **evidence of expenditure confirming that grant funding has been expended as agreed** to the Manager, Office of Rural Affairs within six months of receipt of the grant.
4. To return **unexpended grant funds** via a cheque made payable to the "Small Communities Awareness Fund" at the above address.

Any personal information provided to the Office of Rural Affairs is voluntary and protected by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). The information is essential to determine your eligibility for assistance under the Community Halls Renewal Fund. The information may be used to send you communications such as newsletters, flyers and invitations about community capacity related activities.

Fund Management

The Office of Rural Affairs (ORA) administers the fund on behalf of the Minister for Rural Affairs.

The ORA will assess whether specific requests will be forwarded to the Minister for Rural Affairs for consideration.

Unsuccessful applications will be notified in writing.