



The Big Feed Community Grants 2026 Application Guidelines



Good Food Deeds for Australian Communities

At The Big Feed, we believe that the most powerful and lasting solutions to complex food challenges come from within local communities. Community-led, place-based, initiatives build on the unique strengths of local people, responding to needs with greater precision, dignity, and adaptability.

The Grant Program operates under a conventional and robust governance framework, with clear eligibility criteria, independent assessment, and documented decision-making processes. Alongside this, we offer an optional online Community space that supports peer learning and connection. Participation in the Community is entirely voluntary and has no influence on funding decisions. This approach allows us to maintain probity and fairness while also building capability and resilience across rural and regional communities, including for applicants who may not ultimately receive funding.

Our core mission is to support the delivery of "Good Food Deeds" across the country. We know that small, local groups often have the passion and vision but lack access to traditional funding streams. This program is for you and the people who live alongside you or your organisation and the community you serve.. We believe your efforts can have an outsized impact, and we welcome your application. These guidelines will help you understand what we're looking for and how to apply.

Projects with Heart and Impact

The following criteria have been developed to ensure our grant supports projects that align directly with The Big Feed's mission. We are looking for initiatives that have the greatest potential to create meaningful, sustainable change at the community level.

Key Focus Areas

Your project must address at least one of our four key focus areas:

- Food Security: Projects that improve access to healthy, affordable food for communities experiencing food insecurity.
- Single Mothers: Programs that deliver food & financial literacy education, equipping single mothers with the skills to improve the health and wellbeing of their families.
- Home Carers & Support Workers: Initiatives that offer support to home carers or workers, ensuring they have access to the resources and knowledge needed to support those under their care, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities.
- Disaster Preparedness: Initiatives that build community resilience to natural disasters by ensuring sustainable and accessible food systems and emergency response plans.



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Guiding Principles

Beyond the focus areas, your project should reflect our core values:

- Community-led and place-based: Your project must be shaped by and for the people in your own community, addressing a clearly identified local need.
- Meaningful Youth Engagement: All projects must engage young people in their design, delivery, or as key beneficiaries, giving them a role in shaping their community's future.
- Digital Technologies: Where relevant, we encourage the thoughtful and ethical use of digital technologies to support engagement, inclusion, learning, and impact..
- Equity and Inclusion: Your project must be designed to be a safe, accessible, and inclusive space for all, particularly for underrepresented members of your community.
- Potential for Impact: We are looking for projects that can demonstrate clear, tangible benefits and positive outcomes for the community.

Participatory Grantmaking

Participatory grantmaking is an approach where funders intentionally create space for applicants and communities to connect, learn, and share knowledge, rather than treating grantmaking as a purely transactional process.

At The Big Feed, this does **not** mean delegating funding decisions to applicants or removing formal assessment. It means pairing a conventional assessment process with an open Community space that supports learning, transparency and opportunities to build relationships.

Geographic Focus

The Big Feed Community Grants are specifically targeted at rural and remote communities across Australia. We recognise that these communities often face unique challenges related to food access, economic stability, and disaster preparedness, and we are committed to supporting local solutions.

When determining eligibility, we refer to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), as used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which is the leading Australian indicator of remoteness. We also refer to other relevant indicators of rural wellbeing like access to housing, demographics, and we take into account any natural disasters that may have occurred.



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Who is Eligible to Apply?

The Big Feed is committed to supporting a diverse range of changemakers. We believe that great ideas can come from anywhere and that passion and local knowledge are just as important as formal structures. We welcome applications from a broad spectrum of applicants who are driving positive change in their communities. You are welcome to apply if you are an:

- Individual Changemaker
- Organisation (such as a not-for-profit or charity)
- Partnership or Collaboration
- Community Group or Club

We strongly encourage applications from small, grassroots initiatives. If you are a passionate local leader or a small group with a powerful idea, this grant is designed for you. Now that you know who can apply, the next section clarifies what types of projects are not eligible for this funding round.

3.0 What We Don't Fund

To help you save time and effort, we want to be transparent about the types of projects and activities that fall outside the scope of The Big Feed Community Grants. This is not a judgment on the merit of these projects, but a way to ensure our funding is directed toward our specific goals.

We are unable to fund:

- Projects that do not directly align with our Key Focus Areas.
- Projects primarily benefiting communities outside of rural and remote Australia.
- Retrospective funding for activities that have already taken place.
- Projects with a primary political or religious purpose.
- Academic research projects.
- General fundraising events or donations to other charities.
- Projects that discriminate against or exclude members of the community.

If your project is a good fit, the following section outlines the key dates and stages in our application process.



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Timeline

Our multi-stage application process is designed to be respectful of your time while giving us a deep understanding of your vision. We are committed to an approach that is light on paperwork and heavy on storytelling, because what matters most is your passion, your community's needs, and the difference your project can make. Here is the timeline for the 2026 grant cycle:

1 Sep – 30 Nov 2025: Register an Expression of Interest

This is the first step. You will fill out a simple form to briefly tell us about your idea. You will also receive an invitation to our online community to connect with other applicants.

1 Dec – 31 Dec 2025: Shortlist Selected & Invited to Apply

A shortlist of projects will be selected and invited to submit a more detailed application. Those that don't make the shortlist will remain supported within our community and receive feedback.

1 Jan – 30 Apr 2026: Grant Applications Submitted

Applying for a grant takes effort. You'll need to set aside time to clearly explain your project idea, gather basic information about your group or community, and think through a simple budget and plan. It's a chance to reflect on the impact you want to make and put your vision into words. While it does require care and preparation, we aim to keep the application light on paperwork and heavy on storytelling because what matters most is your passion, your community's needs, and the difference your project can deliver.

1 May – 31 May 2026: Finalists Selected & Invited to Showcase

A judging panel of Giving Circle members and experts will assess the grant applications and invite the finalists to showcase their project. Selected projects will then share their ideas and tell their stories so the voters can gain a deeper understanding.

1 Jun – 30 Jun 2026: Voting to Select a Winner

A series of voting rounds will determine which project wins the grant.

1 July 2026: Grant Winner Announced!

The winning project team can celebrate before the important work begins. If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you have any questions about the guidelines or the application process, please reach out to our team at hello@thebigfeed.org.au.