

Online information and applications

<http://healthycommunities.lgsa.org.au>

www.artsandhealth.org

Applications Close

Friday 30 October

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Community

Healthy Communities grant scheme and the Arts

Councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) can apply for grants for health promoting initiatives that address health inequities. Grants will range from up to \$20,000 for individual councils and up to \$80,000 for groups of councils. Using the Arts is an innovative and effective way to promote health among vulnerable communities.

It has been noted that "key markers for how a community is sustained by arts practice....generally include categories that measure impact on a range of personal, social and community attributes, including health" (http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/docs/quotes_stats_and_facts.pdf). The Healthy Communities grant scheme recognizes the link between the Arts, community well-being and physical health and encourages councils to utilize their existing cultural development capacity to promote health. Cultural development allows communities to explore health issues through a multitude of creative media.

Eligibility

The initiatives must focus on communities of identity and geography that are more vulnerable to ill health. These communities include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds
- People living on a low income
- People living in rural or remote areas
- People living in disadvantaged urban areas

Initiatives must address one or more of the following state health priorities:

- Healthy weight
- Responsible drinking
- Tobacco control
- Falls prevention for older people

Applications

Councils can use an online application process on the LGSA's new Healthy Communities website (details above right).

Successful councils will be required to demonstrate evidence of need and potential effectiveness of the initiative, systematic planning and the sustainability and integration of initiatives into existing functions.

Applicants must propose initiatives that will deliver on both strategic and operational levels.

Developing plans, policies and partnerships with communities and other organisations is encouraged, as well as developing programs and projects which promote health.

The grant scheme is part of a broader NSW Health funded Healthy Local Government Program which the Associations will be developing over the next three years to improve the public health capacity of councils.

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