



Multicultural NSW

STRONGER TOGETHER FESTIVAL AND EVENT GRANTS 2026-27



STRONGER *together*

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

The **Multicultural NSW Stronger Together Grants Program** supports multicultural festivals and events across NSW. We invest in community events and activities that foster community harmony and celebrate cultural diversity as a precious part of our identity and way of life.

The **Stronger Together Festival and Event Grant Program** supports multicultural and multifaith community groups to produce festivals and events that celebrate and embrace our state's vibrant cultural diversity.

In 2026-27, Multicultural NSW will be opening **only one** round of the **Stronger Together Festival and Event Grant Program** for festivals and events held between **1 October 2026** and **30 September 2027**.



Festival and Event Grants range from **\$5,000** to a maximum of **\$20,000**.



Funding is open for application for festivals and events held between **1 October 2026 – 30 September 2027**.



Applications close at 4pm on Monday, 13 July 2026. There are no extensions available for this deadline.

Selection criteria

Applications must address how festivals and events will:

- promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding. They must engage a broad cross-section of the NSW community
- ensure NSW's multicultural communities can celebrate, preserve and share traditions
- be accessible by the general public and are for all communities of NSW.

- submit an application using the Multicultural NSW SmartyGrants portal before the closing date
- deliver the festival or event within the delivery timeframe for the grant. This information is in the grant guidelines and application form
- promote the Multicultural NSW and NSW Government funded event or project on their website and social media platforms.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Stronger Together Festivals and Events grant, applicants must:

- be located within NSW
- show how the festival or event will present cultures and traditions
- outline how they will measure success and outcomes, including collecting attendance data to be shared with Multicultural NSW post event
- show co-contributions from other funding sources towards the festival or event. It is unlikely that an application will receive a grant if there is no co-contribution
- confirm past and current funding sources for the past three years
- have acquitted all prior grants awarded by Multicultural NSW
- be a non-profit sharing organisation
- show that the festival or event is cost effective and viable with an accurate budget
- have all appropriate insurances and licences

What items cannot be funded?

The following activities are excluded from receiving grant funding:

- political activities
- commercial or fundraising activities
- local councils, unless they have partnered with a community organisation
- films and writers' festivals
- celebration of national or independence days of countries other than Australia. Activities planned for key Australian days including ANZAC Day, Australia Day, Clean Up Australia Day and NAIDOC week can apply and are eligible to receive funding
- single faith religious rituals or promotions. Multi-faith events which involve people from more than one religion can apply
- activities that are dependent on recurrent annual funding
- applications that support core business or operating costs of the organisation. This includes supplementing, increasing or continuing ongoing service delivery.

Grant funding will not be awarded to any organisation that:

- does not demonstrate a commitment to NSW Multicultural Principles
- has redress sanctions as described in the National Redress Scheme
- is subject to a winding up order or has an appointed administrator
- has a pending or ongoing legal case
- is bankrupt
- has no sound financial management and governance.

Multicultural NSW may seek confirmation or clarification regarding a festival or event and funds sought as part of this program before funds are released.

Project budgets and use of funding

A detailed budget must be provided in the grant application.

In-kind contributions should also be outlined in the grant application.

The budget income and expenditure must balance.

Multicultural NSW strongly encourages co-contributions from applications towards the festival or event. It is unlikely that an application will receive a grant if there is no co-contribution.

Funding restrictions apply for the following items:

- **Catering.** No more than 20% of the budget can be used for catering
- **Administration.** No more than 10% of the budget can be used for administrative costs related to the grant funded project delivery. Administration costs include organisation staffing
- **Insurances.** No portion of the grant funding can be used towards insurance costs, including, but not limited to, Public Liability Insurance, Workers Compensation Insurance and Volunteers Insurance
- **Capital expenditure or purchases.** No portion of the grant funding can be used towards capital expenditure or purchase costs. Including, but not limited to, building costs or maintenance and equipment purchase
- **Cash prizes or gifts.** No portion of the grant funding can be used towards cash prizes or gifts, including gift vouchers
- **Independent audit fees.** No portion of the grant funding can be used towards financial independent audit fees.

Assessment criteria – what are we looking for?

Application meets eligibility criteria and is not an excluded activity

Applications from ineligible organisations or for excluded activities are not eligible for consideration.

Application form is complete and submitted on time

Incomplete applications will not be progressed for assessment.

Applications that are not submitted online through the Multicultural NSW SmartyGrants portal before the closing date will not be progressed for assessment.

Applicants need to register with SmartyGrants to apply. If the organisation has used SmartyGrants to apply for a grant with Multicultural NSW before, they will already be registered.

Attachments are uploaded through the online application form.

Application is appropriate to the Program

Successful applications will clearly and convincingly show:

- how the festival or event will deliver the grant aim
- how the festival or event meets the grant criteria.

Application demonstrates capacity to successfully deliver the festival or event

Successful applications will clearly demonstrate the organisation's capacity to deliver the festival or event within the available delivery period and within budget.

Applications should clearly identify resources that will be committed to ensure the festival or event is a success.

Application presents good value for money

Successful applications will clearly demonstrate value for money with a well-considered, proportionate, clearly itemised budget.

Grants will be awarded for festival and events from a diverse range of community organisations, for a diverse range of activities and approaches, and in diverse localities across New South Wales.

Applications are assessed in comparison to all other applications and in comparison to similar applications in terms of locality, cultural focus, and type of activity or approach.

Multiple applications

Eligible organisations can submit more than one application for different festivals or events. If successful, organisations will only receive one grant within the same funding round.

Available funding pool

Multicultural NSW always receives more funding requests than the amount of funding available. Successful applications will be of a high standard.

The limited funding pool and competitive assessment process mean that even strong, well-prepared applications cannot always be supported.

Due to the high volume of applications, Multicultural NSW only provides general feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Funding agreements

Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant funding agreement. Successful organisations are required to:

- review and understand the funding agreement Terms and Conditions
- acknowledge that an agreement based on those Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant
- ensure that if a grant is awarded, they will agree to comply with these Terms and Conditions in acquitting the grant.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 4PM MONDAY, 13 JULY 2026

For more information, visit <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/stronger-together-events-festivals/>