Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants

Questions and Answers from the July information webinars

1. **When will the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants round open?**

   The SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants is not currently open and it is anticipated that a grant round will open between July and December 2021. Prospective applicants are encouraged to keep an eye on GrantConnect for further information, including additional questions and answers for all applicants as part of the grant opportunity documents once the round opens.

2. **Why is the Department of Social Services (the department) emphasising the difference between outputs and outcomes for the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants?**
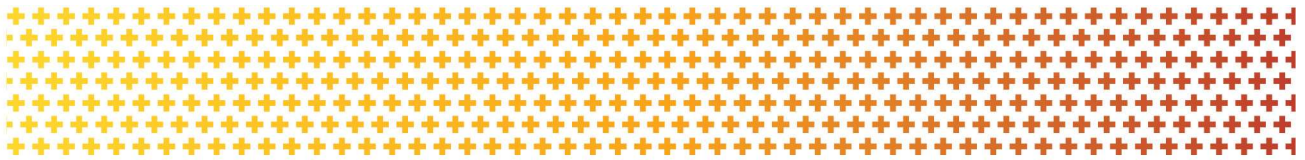
   The department is interested in understanding what outcomes are being achieved for all funding it administers. The outputs delivered are important however the outcomes – the specific benefits and positive changes achieved through the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants funding, is equally important. Measureable outcomes achieved tell the department how effective program funding has been.

3. **Can proposals address the issues of combinations of target cohorts? For example, will the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants include interventions for vulnerable women who are also part of the unemployed target cohort?**

   Yes. Proposals for funding under the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants can address different combinations of the broadly defined SARC target cohorts, as long as the proposal still meets the objectives of the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants.

4. **Can a project proposal take a focus on sub-set of a cohort or does it have to address the entire cohort as defined in the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants cohort descriptions in?**

   Proposals for funding under the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants can address particular narrow subsets of the broadly defined target cohorts, as long as the proposal still meets the objectives of the SARC Activity– Inclusive Communities Grants. Part of the overarching objectives of SARC include addressing the needs of vulnerable people of working age (15 to 64 years).

5. **Can organisations apply for funding to support cohorts of people living overseas or is the grant going to focus solely on Australia-focused programs?**

The SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants aims to provide benefits to vulnerable people residing in Australia. Proposals that seek to work with beneficiaries who are residing overseas would not address the policy intent of the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants. Organisations interested in working with participants overseas may explore grant opportunities provided through other avenues such as potentially through the Department of Home Affairs [Fostering Integration Grants program](#).

6. **Can organisations apply for funding to support an existing program or project or is it exclusively for brand new projects?**

Existing initiatives as well as brand new projects may be considered for the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants funding.

7. **Is the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants exclusively for intervention based proposals or could proposals that involve data collection or research also be considered?**

The SARC Activity has been consolidated from 3 streams to one: Inclusive Communities Grants. This means that there will not be a specific national research stream for the upcoming round. Proposals for data collection or research may still be considered as long as they are able to articulate how outcomes will be achieved within the 2 year timeframe and also meet the overall objectives of the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants. Organisations seeking funding for research proposals may also wish to explore opportunities advertised on [GrantConnect](#) by using the search term "research".
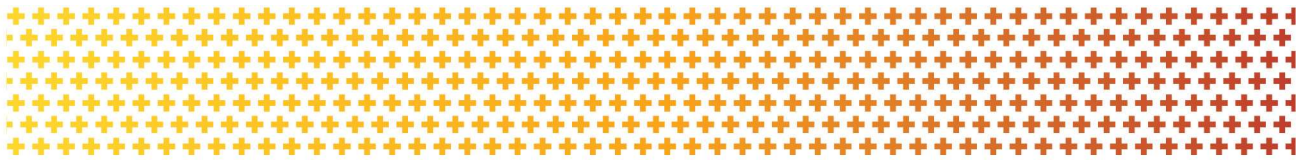
8. **Can proposals that seek to address system change be considered or is it exclusively for individual change interventions?**

Proposals that aim to achieve systemic change may be considered as long as they are able to articulate how outcomes will be achieved within the 2 year timeframe and also meet the overall objectives of the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants. These may be projects that demonstrate proof of concepts within the 2 year project timeframe.

9. **Is a formal graphic version of a Program Logic required as part of the application for the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants funding?**

No. Applicants will need to provide descriptions of the proposed activity that explain the causal links between activities and measurable outcomes. This can be done through narrative such as a series of "if..then.." statements.

An example of this is: If we provide support for vulnerable and disadvantaged women then they will gain the necessary skills and understanding to be able to gain and maintain employment. Through developing new skills women can become more empowered and develop their independence, increasing their options in life and contributing to overall wellbeing.

10. Can organisations propose projects that operate through partnerships and/or consortia?

Project proposals that operate through various partnership and/or consortia models may be considered for the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants funding.

11. Are organisations able to draw on other evidence of disadvantage in addition to utilising the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)?

Yes. In proposals, organisations are encouraged to draw on SEIFA as well as any additional relevant data and evidence to demonstrate need and high disadvantage. The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile 1 to 3 will be used by the department as a key determinant of areas of high disadvantage.

12. Will reporting under the Data Exchange allow sufficient insights into benefits for individuals level changes or are the results going to be aggregated up to the group cohort level?

The upcoming round of the SARC Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants will mandate the Data Exchange (DEX) Partnership Approach. As part of the Partnership Approach, organisations will gain access to a number of additional reports. The DEX Client Outcomes report allows grantees to apply filters and drill down from an aggregate group level to an individual client level, where paired SCORE changes for an individual can be viewed over time. The 'filter' feature of the DEX reports allows grantees to find insights at the aggregate level based on client demographics, location, outcome domain, and so on. Additional information on the DEX and reporting requirements will be provided in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

13. Where should I go for further information?

Prospective applicants are encouraged to keep an eye on GrantConnect for further information, including additional questions and answers for all applicants as part of the Grant Opportunity Documents once the round opens.

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au