

Available Grants November 2011

Our grants portal is a way for Regional Development Australia Northern Inland to inform communities, businesses and industries within the region of the latest Government, Business and Philanthropic programs available.

1. Regional Industries Investment Fund

NSW Trade and Investment's Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) has been established to drive economic growth in regional NSW as well as enhancing the attractiveness of regional areas. Assistance is available under this fund for projects across regional NSW that result in or promote economic outcomes for the State.

Business Investment Projects

Support is available for investment projects that contribute to regional population growth through the creation of new jobs, or in special circumstances the retention of existing jobs in a regional location. The RIIF aims to encourage business growth by helping businesses overcome impediments to investment projects that will lead to the creation of new jobs in regional NSW.

Local Infrastructure Projects

Support is available for local infrastructure projects that are linked with employment generation investments and deliver industrial projects that have the potential to benefit more than one firm. The RIIF aims to address infrastructure barriers impeding business investment and job creation for specific projects in regional locations. Assistance is directed toward offsetting the costs of specific critical infrastructure for business establishment, expansion or relocation in regional NSW.

Business Growth Projects

Funding is available to assist established small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in NSW to grow and improve their competitiveness. SMEs demonstrating strong growth potential can apply for assistance across a range of activities to assist the development of the business.

Economic Development Projects

Funding is available for projects that build capacity in local regional industries and/or have the potential to generate economic benefits such as employment, business or industry development and/or growth.

For further information on the Regional Industries Investment Fund, please contact your local NSW Trade and Investment office www.business.nsw.gov.au/general-contact/#Regional NSW

2. Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Package

This program aims to improve Australian Apprenticeship retention rates through mentoring and assistance to Australian Apprentices in areas of current and emerging skills need, with a focus on Apprentices who may face barriers to participation.

This package also includes the Australian Apprenticeships Advisers Program, which aims to provide occupation and industry information to potential Australian Apprenticeship candidates, particularly school leavers, to assist them in choosing the right Australian Apprenticeship for them.

The overarching aim of the Mentoring Package is to increase the retention rates of Australian Apprentices, particularly in the first twelve months of training, in order to improve completion rates and support the supply of skilled workers in sectors and occupations where there is a current or emerging need for skills.

Organisations eligible for funding under the Mentoring Package include:

- Professional associations, industry bodies and other lead agents representing a consortia of employers
- Enterprises
- Employment related service providers such as Australian Apprenticeships Centres

For more information and instructions on how to apply, please go to www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

3. Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education Grants

Grants to support community initiatives to change the way Australians drink are now available. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to community organisations to strengthen their capacity to respond to alcohol related harms at a local level.

The following types of projects are strongly encouraged:

- Public education and awareness projects that educate the general public and/or target at risk groups

- Health promotion and prevention initiatives that encourage responsible alcohol consumption and the reduction of alcohol-related harm
- Projects developed and directed by young people and Indigenous Australians
- Development and implementation of Community Alcohol Management Plans in Local Government Areas that are developing their first alcohol management plan

Applications for funding close on Wednesday 30 November 2011. For more information on the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education and a copy of the application form, please go to www.fare.org.au/community/grants-program/

4. RAS Foundation 2012 Community Futures Grant

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation is giving young people who live in rural and regional NSW the chance to secure a \$25,000 grant to deliver a new and innovative community project.

Submissions will be judged on several criteria including innovation, impact on the community and plans for implementation. Applicants must identify an existing community organisation or group they would partner with to deliver their project. Eligible entrants must be 35 or under at 1st May 2012 and projects must be located in rural and regional NSW.

Under the RASF Community Futures Grant program the RASF will consider an idea that delivers strong community benefit and that will result in enhanced economic and social outcomes. Of particular interest are ideas that involve collaboration between people in the community and will deliver a sustained benefit over time. The project ideas that will be considered for funding are only limited by the applicants' imaginations. If the idea delivers real benefits to a community, it will be considered!

For more information and to access the application form, please go to <http://rasf.smartygrants.com.au/CommunityFutures2012>

5. Country Arts Support Program

This program provides grants to arts and community organisations and local arts councils in regional NSW for short term, locally initiated projects. The aims of the program are:

- To assist locally determined cultural activities
- To increase opportunities for regionally based groups to access a diverse range of arts programs
- To enable communities to explore and express their cultural identities
- To encourage communities to work together to develop and participate in cultural experiences
- To bring social and economic benefits to the community through training, employment and promotional activities

- Lead to greater awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity in rural and regional NSW

Applications for funding close on Friday 10 February 2012 with decisions announced on 26 March 2012. Projects must take place between 9 April 2012 and 7 April 2013.

For more information please go to www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp.html or email funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au

Grant Scammer Alert!!

SCAMwatch is warning Australians to continue to be wary of scammers who offer bogus government rebates for the installation of solar panels.

How the scam works:

You receive an unexpected call, email or house visit from someone offering either free solar panels or a government rebate/grant on solar panels following an upfront payment. Scammers may pose as government representatives or mention government affiliation or programs.

The scammer may ask for bank account details or for a fee to be paid before the rebate/grant can be processed. In some instances, these promised rebates have not been paid. The scammer may pressure you into making a hurried decision claiming that the false grants or rebate schemes are due to close soon.

In some instances the scammer may offer free solar panels in exchange for placing advertising signs on your property for a number of months. They will request an upfront fee and claim to repay it over the duration of the advertising.

The scammer may claim to be from a legitimate company which sells solar panels and may even organise to visit your home but will not show up.

For more information about this scam and others, please go to www.scamwatch.gov.au.

Other Grants and Funding Opportunities

RDANI has access to many more grants and funding opportunities. A comprehensive list of these grants can be found at www.grantslink.gov.au

Information on how to write funding applications as well as how to run your project can be found at www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

If you have any enquiries regarding grants or how to apply for them please contact Project Officer Jessica Price-Purnell on (02) 6771 2790 or email jprice-purnell@rdani.org.au