

Big Ideas Grant

What are the Big Ideas Grant?

The Big Ideas Grants initiative is part of Bridge Housing's commitment to working together with residents to improve wellbeing and strengthen community connections.

The Big Ideas Grants have been developed in response to tenants telling us about their ideas to improve their neighbourhoods and bring people together. Under the Grants, tenants or household members can apply for small grants of up to \$100, \$500 or \$1,000 to undertake projects that will bring people together in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Who can apply?

Any Bridge Housing resident (tenants or household member) over the age of 18 can apply for a Big Ideas Grant of up to \$500. If you are running a project in partnership with a community organisation you can apply for up to \$1,000. Residents must have their rent and water charges paid up to date to apply for a grant.

What sorts of projects are eligible?

- Projects which bring people together in their neighbourhoods and communities
- Projects which are as inclusive as possible and open to all sorts of people
- Projects which have a clear benefit to the community
- Projects which can be completed within the timeframe and budget

Some examples of projects are:

- tenant coffee club
- sewing or art skills exchange
- an event for people in your community for Neighbour Day
- installing garden furniture to create a gathering place in a common area.
- a book club



What projects are not eligible?

- Projects that benefit an individual tenant or resident
- Projects which don't include other Bridge Housing tenants
- Permanent alterations to buildings or repairs and maintenance issues
- Ongoing projects that need continuous funding
- Established community projects that are funded by another organisation or individual
- Projects that involve children who aren't accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Purchases of BBQs, electrical cookers, outdoor heaters, fans or pizza ovens.

How much is available for each project?

Nourishing Neighbours (up to \$100)

You will be able to apply for up to \$100 as individuals or groups to host a small meal with your neighbours. Residents can manage payments for project items. Chairs and marquee can be loaned.

Small Grants (up to \$500)

You will be able to apply for up to \$500 as individuals or groups. Bridge Housing will manage payments for project items.

Community Partner Grants (up to \$1000)

You will also be able to apply for grants up to for up to \$1000 if you partner with a community organisation that is working on the project with you. The grant money must be managed by the organisation that you are partnering with.



The Application Process

How do you apply?

You will need to think about your project and submit an application form. But before you do that, there are a few steps you need to complete first.

- 1** Speak with a member of the community team about your idea. We can also help to develop your project or answer any further questions about the application or initiative.
- 2** Discuss the idea with your neighbours and residents in your block and ask them to sign the application to show they have no serious objection to the project happening at your block. This allows people to learn about your project and creates excitement and hype. People are more likely to participate in your project. You can hold a block meeting, door knock and explain your project or write to the residents in your block. Speak with the Community Team if you need support with this step.

Fill in an application form

Request an application form from our Community Team 8324 0836

community@bridgehousing.org.au

Nourishing Neighbour Grants Can be completed Online at

<https://bridgehousing.snapforms.com.au/form/nourishing-neighbours-grant>

Enter as much information as you can.

The Community Team can support you with your application.



- Once you submit your application, Bridge Housing will:**
- Talk to you about your Big Idea
 - Assess your application
 - Respond to your application within 15 days of you submitting your application.

How your application will be assessed

Your application form will be assessed on how well your application form meets the assessment criteria and whether you need some further support to put your idea into action. You may be asked to provide more information about your project before a final decision is made.

If your application is unsuccessful you will be advised by Bridge Housing. We will let you know in writing why you were not successful.



Successful Applicants will be contacted

You will be advised in writing to let you know:

- if your application is successful
- how much money you will be given to run your project and information about how to access the funding
- time frame for your project
- what you need to do when you implement the project activities
- what you need to do at the end of project



What you need to do if your application is approved?

You will need to:

- Sign the project agreement and send it back to Bridge Housing
- involve other tenants in the block, local areas and community in the project activities according the project plan
- collaborate with Bride Housing staff and contractors (if any)
- update Bridge Housing with project progress and any changes of project plan

Where can I find more information?

Contact the Bridge Housing Community Team for more information on 8324 0836 or email community@bridgehousing.org.au.

Further information can also be found on our website www.bridgehousing.org.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT CAN I GET TO PUT MY BIG IDEA INTO ACTION?

We can:

- Explain the application process and give some grant writing tips
- Provide grant writing assistance for people who find it hard to put their ideas down on paper
- Provide project planning assistance for people who have a great idea but aren't sure how to put it into action
- Provide ongoing telephone support if you need advice on any aspect of your project.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A FUNDED PROJECT CANNOT GO AHEAD?

If you are unable to start your project for any reason, you must return all money given to you from Bridge Housing. These funds will then be available for other projects. You will need to reapply if you would like to undertake your project at a later date.

If you cannot complete your project and you have already purchased items for your project you must return them to Bridge Housing, along with any unused funds.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT?

When you have completed your project have it up and running, you will need to return any unused funds to Bridge Housing. At the completion of your project, you will also need to send in photos and a short report on the outcome of your project to Bridge Housing.

Your project may be selected to be included in the Bridge Housing newsletter to inspire other residents to apply for their own grant.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO GO FOR A GRANT OUTSIDE BRIDGE HOUSING?

Residents can ask for grant writing or project planning assistance to help them apply for grants offered outside of Bridge Housing -for example, many local Councils run community and environmental grants. There are also philanthropic grants available to groups and communities. Just contact the Community Team for more information.

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