

# Strong Roots for our Futures

## Funding Options



This fact sheet provides information on the three funding options for Traditional Owners available under the Strong Roots for Our Futures Program:



Open to all Strong Roots eligible applicants, whether an incorporated group or not



Open to Strong Roots eligible, incorporated groups with an ABN



Open to all Strong Roots eligible applicants, whether an incorporated group or not

These options were developed in response to advice provided by Traditional Owners throughout the co-design of the Program, whereby Traditional Owners raised concerns about the barrier posed by the requirements that recipients must meet to receive grants.

### **Flexible Support for Traditional Owner-Led Projects**

Regardless of the funding option, Strong Roots only supports projects that are Traditional Owner-led and we always provide flexible support. That means that your group initiates, develops and leads your project. Strong Roots will provide support and will respond to the needs and requests of Traditional Owners.



## Option One: Strong Roots administered project funding

### What does it mean to have Strong Roots administer your project funding?

If your application is successful, your project will be approved to receive all or part of the funding applied for. These funds are held and managed by Strong Roots. You will not be required to sign a funding agreement.

### How does this work?

Your group leads and manages your project, including developing your project application and budget. You implement the project and you contact suppliers, request quotes and arrange provision of goods and services. Your group organises the invoices from suppliers to be provided to Strong Roots, and we pay suppliers directly. You are also responsible for following the approved budget and discussing proposed changes with Strong Roots. Invoices provided to Strong Roots for expenses not approved in writing by Strong Roots cannot be paid.

### Who can access this option?

All Strong Roots eligible applicants, whether incorporated or not.

### Is this option right for my group?

When Strong Roots administers your project funding:

- *Your group does not sign a funding agreement*

Your group will not need to sign a funding agreement because it will not be transferred the approved project funding. You will need to follow the approved project plan and budget, and you will need to notify us if you wish to make changes. We will work flexibly with your group to support your project.

- *Strong Roots shares the financial administration*

We hold the funding, make payments for goods and services directly to suppliers, and financially acquit the project funding. This will reduce the amount of administration for your group. Although, your group will still need to organise for invoices from suppliers to be sent to Strong Roots for payment. This option may be preferred by incorporated groups who want to focus on project management and prefer to share the administration burden with Strong Roots.

## Option Two: Direct grant

### What is a direct grant?

Successful applicants receive approved project funds for approved activities and purposes set out in a funding agreement that your group and Strong Roots both sign.

### How does this work?

We work with you to draft a funding agreement. Once agreed on and signed by you and us, we transfer the project funding to your nominated bank account. You are then responsible for implementing the project, managing the funds and reporting to Strong Roots as set out in the funding agreement. We are responsible for making the payments set out in the funding agreement and supporting you.

### Who can access this option?

Strong Roots eligible, incorporated groups with an ABN.

### Is a grant right for my group?

When you receive a direct grant:

- *Your group must sign a funding agreement*

The funding agreement sets out legal obligations that both your group and Strong Roots must adhere to during the life of the project and funding agreement. All Victorian Government departments use the Victorian Common Funding Agreement. You can view the terms and conditions here: <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement-templates>. Managing your group's obligations under a funding agreement will require some time and resources in addition to implementing your project.

- *Traditional Owners manage the project and financial administration*

Your group will implement the project and manage the grant funds. You will need to follow the approved budget, make payments to suppliers, track expenditure and provide an expenditure report to Strong Roots when the project is completed. This may particularly suit organisations who have previous experience in project and financial management. A grant may also suit incorporated groups who want to develop capacity in financial and grants management. If your group would benefit from support, we can work with you to support your understanding of the funding agreement and to support your group to meet your legal obligations.



## Option Three: Auspiced grant

### What is an auspiced grant?

If your application is successful, a corporation with whom your group applies for a grant, receives and manages approved grant funding on behalf of your group.

### How does it work?

You apply for a grant with your auspice organisation. If your application is approved, your auspice organisation must sign a funding agreement with Strong Roots, after which approved grant funds are transferred to your auspice organisation.

### Who can access this option?

All Strong Roots eligible applicants, whether incorporated or not. Your auspice organisation must have an ABN.

### Is an auspiced grant right for my group?

When you are awarded an auspiced grant:

- *You must work closely with your auspice organisation*

Your group has responsibility for managing its relationship with your auspice organisation. You will need to work closely together to ensure the project is completed, reported on and acquitted. You will need to discuss with your auspice organisation your respective roles and responsibilities.

- *Your auspice organisation must sign a funding agreement*

Strong Roots will still work directly with your group and the auspice organisation to support your project. However, our legal relationship is with your auspice organisation and the auspice organisation has legal responsibility to ensure the project funds are spent and the project is completed, as set out in the funding agreement.

- *The administrative burden will be shared with your auspice organisation*

Because your auspice organisation will hold and manage funds, your auspice organisation will bear some of the administration burden of the project. The auspice will make payments for your approved project costs, track expenditure and provide financial reporting to Strong Roots for the project. You will need to agree with your auspice organisation who will complete project reporting.

## Contact Us

We would love to hear from you to talk about these options and to answer any questions.

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For more information please visit:

<https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/strong-roots-our-futures-program>

