

GRANTS WEEK 2024

Allied Health New Service Grant **It's Nice, A Bit Different, A Bit Unusual**

The Allied Health New Service Grant is unlike a lot of the other opportunities on offer from RWAV. Rather than helping you get to development or educational activities, it exists to help address some of the set-up costs that stand in the way of rural allied health care reaching new communities, and help you to expand an existing service or establish a new one. No two communities or businesses are the same, so your idea on how to meet the health need in your area can be unique and creative. It might look like transforming a storage space into a room you can treat people in, partnering with community groups to run group classes, or getting mobile to reach people that may not be able to come to you – or something entirely different!

This grant is also different from most because it is competitive – your application is assessed against other applications submitting for funding – but don't be discouraged, you can maximise your chances by listening to this series, reading the guidelines carefully and making sure you submit your application within the limited round of November 4 and November 17, 2024.

Is the Allied Health New Service Grant Right for You?

Let's talk eligibility. If you are or will be providing face-to-face primary care in a rural or remote area of Victoria in one or more of the eligible health professions, keep listening! There is a long list of eligible professions, so make sure to consult the guidelines to confirm yours is there.

You can apply on behalf of an organisation, as a sole trader, or even if you're part of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. Unfortunately, if you're solely employed by a government entity or provide only government-funded services, this grant isn't for you.

Where you plan to offer the care is an important factor. Make sure your plan is based in a Modified Monash Model location 3 or above (check out our info on MMM locations if you aren't sure what that means).

What You Can and Can't Use Funding For

The New Service Grant can be used to purchase the vital equipment you need to get started or branch out. That could be something big like a treatment table, something small like play therapy toys or something virtual, like clinical assessment tools. It can also help cover the costs of the tech you need to provide healthcare, like laptops or tablets. You will need to specify how each of the items contribute to the goals of your plan and help your community access allied health on your application, so make sure each one is relevant.

This grant can't be used for training or professional development, but we have other grants for that so explore our website! Other things that can't be supported include marketing your business, renting your clinic space, purchasing land or vehicles or making permanent upgrades to where you see your clients.

Quickfire Application Tips: Hot and Cold

Applying is highly competitive, so take your time and ensure your application is concise and compelling. We've rounded up the things we commonly see in applications to help you understand what to do (and what not to do)!

- *Providing vague responses?* Cold! The only information we have about your application is what you include in it, so don't leave room for guesswork. We need to be shown that you have a firm understanding of what you can reasonably do with the funds and how this will impact your community. Try to avoid non-quantifiable language like this will increase services by 'a lot' or wait times are 'significant'; instead use numbers, like this will increase services by 1 full time staff member and 20 client sessions per week, or local wait times are '6-8 weeks for this treatment.

- *Getting accurate quotes and costs?* Heating up, and mostly for your benefit. If approved, you cannot be awarded more than the maximum amount of \$10,000 or the total of what you listed on your application. Accuracy is the key to getting the most out of the funding, and don't forget to include costs like shipping and applicable tax.

- *Not including in-kind support with your application?* Very cold – you must provide details of in-kind support, as this opportunity is a collaboration between your organisation and RWAV. In kind support can be anything that will go into

establishing or expanding your service that you are not seeking to claim under the grant, like clinic rental or equipment that you are purchasing out of pocket.

- *Including statistics and evidence with your application?* Hot, hot, hot! We love to see information you've gathered that shows there is a need in your community, and it doesn't need to be very formal. Think about wait times for certain treatments, how far consumers need to travel to receive care and by how much that could be reduced if something was offered locally, or the quantity of people that could receive care each week that otherwise wouldn't if your application was supported.

- *Getting in touch if you have questions?* Hot – we know it can be daunting to put a plan into words, which is why we're here to help. If you're unsure if the plan you have in mind would suit the grant opportunity, or if you have questions about the application questions, you can reach out by phone or email and one of the friendly staff at RWAV can talk it through.