

Program Guidelines

Companion Animal Welfare Grants Package – Grant Guidelines – Companion Animal Care and Rehoming Competitive Grant

A. COMPANION ANIMAL REHOMING GRANTS – OVERVIEW, PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND FUNDING MEASURES.

Program Overview

The NSW Government has announced a companion animal welfare grants package to deliver improved companion animal welfare outcomes in NSW through the delivery of several non-government-focused, grants-based initiatives.

These Guidelines specifically relate to the one-off \$5 million funding available to support companion animal care and rehoming services delivered by OLG approved rehoming organisations, or registered charities that provide animal rehoming services in NSW. This is a competitive grant where approved rehoming organisations and registered charities can submit applications for up to a maximum of \$100,000 per organisation.

There have been substantial and progressive improvements in companion animal rehoming in NSW and in the reduction of euthanasia rates. These successes are largely due to changing community attitudes towards companion animals, the efforts of Government, local councils and approved rehoming organisations, and improved outcomes for companion animals entering the pound and rehoming sector.

Rehoming organisations and registered charities support councils to deliver positive companion animal welfare outcomes but often find it challenging to fund their activities as they rely heavily on a volunteer workforce, public donations and government grants.

The NSW Government seeks to support approved companion animal rehoming organisations and registered charities with delivery, care and rehoming services by assisting these organisations to cover the costs associated with caring for and rehoming companion animals and improve companion animal welfare across the State.

The grant will be administered in accordance with these guidelines and the [NSW Grants Administration Guide 2022 \(the Guide\)](#).

Closing date for applications will be Monday 24 April, 2023 at 5.00pm. There will be no extensions to this closing date.

Program outcomes

Approved rehoming organisations and registered charities will need to demonstrate in the grant application how project/s contribute to the following outcomes:

- Reduction of unnecessary euthanasia and increase successful rehoming of companion animals in NSW; and

- Support responsible and sustainable delivery of companion animal rehoming services in NSW that represent value for money; and
- Support existing local councils to deliver positive companion animal welfare outcomes, including complementing existing council services in their local area.

Eligible funding measures

Funding can be used towards one or more of the following measures:

- the purchase of equipment such as bedding, crates, leads, etc for the service
- the upgrade or expansion of rehoming and welfare services for companion animals
- veterinary treatment, including desexing, microchipping, vaccinations and any other medical treatments
- the provision of services to deliver training or rehabilitation for a dog or cat
- support the reasonable repair, maintenance and capital works upgrade and/or build new animal care facilities
- support the reasonable operating expenses directly associated with the provision of animal care and rehoming services (e.g. purchase of food, medication, bedding) but excluding workforce payments such as salaries and wages.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Potential grant recipients have been identified for this funding stream based on the following eligibility criteria. Only entities which meet these criteria are eligible to submit an application for this companion animal welfare grant.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Organisation must be either a currently approved rehoming organisation which has been assessed by the Office of Local Government (OLG), or a registered charity who provide animal rehoming services in NSW.
2. No members, staff or carers of the organisation have ever been charged, convicted or been subject to a penalty notice in respect of, an offence against the:
 - Animal Research Act 1985
 - Companion Animals Act 199
 - Companion Animals Regulation 2018
 - Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986
 - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
3. No members, staff and carers of the organisation have ever operated a premises where animals have been kept or controlled and been subject to a Council order relating to the care and control of animals.
4. No members, staff and carers of the organisation have been declared bankrupt within the past ten years or been subject to any other insolvency administration or fraud convictions.

C. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Evaluation of the funded projects will be critical in determining their success. Outcomes will therefore need to be identified in the application for the project.

Proposals for the companion animal welfare grants will be considered against the following criteria, which will inform OLG's recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

- Application demonstrates value for money in the use of public funds linked to support companion animal care and rehoming services delivered by approved OLG-accredited rehoming organisations or registered charities in NSW.
- Organisation has demonstrated capacity/capability to deliver the project/s (if applicable) OR able to deliver the activity for which funding is sought.
- Application demonstrates clear link to program outcomes .
- Organisation has demonstrated compliance with relevant legislation in regard to annual financial reporting and/or has obtained an unqualified auditor's opinion for the 2021/2022 financial year.
- Availability and proximity to other companion animal rehoming services within the local government area and the region in which the service is located.
- Conflicts of Interest, if any, have been disclosed and can be appropriately managed.

Supporting Information Requested

- Number of animals cared/controlled through the organisations' facilities in the last 12 months, and estimated number of animals care/controlled through the organisation's facilities
- Evidence of financial status of the organisation (2021/22 financial statements and auditor's opinion)
- Conflict of Interests disclosure

D. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Conflict of Interests will need to be disclosed and appropriately managed. Applicants must disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts as part of their response. The disclosure must also include conflict mitigation strategies for assessment.

E. PROBITY ADVICE

All applications will be subject to due probity reviews as part of the assessment proces.

In accordance with the NSW Grants Administration Guidelines, DPE will obtain any necessary probity advice for the companion animal welfare grants and will provide this advice to the Minister for Local Government.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

All successful applicants will be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreements are signed and take effect.

G. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

OLG manages grant funding for the Companion Animal Welfare Package and ensures all funding is appropriately managed and acquitted in accordance with section 6.6 of the NSW Grants Administration Guide.

Payment of approved grant funding may be in the form of an upfront portion of seed funds and subsequent progress payments upon completion of project milestones and project acquittals as agreed between the parties.

The structure of grant funding payments will be at the discretion of the administering agency (OLG) in consultation with the grant recipient and will be determined based on the funding amount and type of project.

All projects should be completed on or before 30 June 2024.

Before any funds are awarded, recipients must:

1. Sign a deed of agreement outlining the funding terms and conditions, including regular reporting and acquittal of grant payments.
2. Agree to use the funds for the stated purpose for which the funding was awarded.
3. Submit a signed Statutory Declaration as per the Oaths Act 1900, from an authorised person of the organisation, confirming statements submitted to OLG in the application.