

Mental Health and AOD Workforce Wellbeing Grants

Guidelines

Background

Workforce wellbeing is a priority as our whole community faces significant change and uncertainty as result of COVID-19. This grants program offers a funding pool of \$320,000 for the provision or purchase of workforce wellbeing supports that can be accessed or offered to individuals, teams, and/or organisations across the Clinical Mental Health, Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) workforces.

The grants will provide funding for workforce wellbeing activity that is not currently being provided through other channels such as national program and employer wellbeing provisions. If you require a copy of the *Healthcare Worker Wellbeing resource list* developed by the department please email a request to:

Hannah.bushell@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Applications for grants may target one, two or all three workforce groups:

Workforce group	Available funding pool (GST incl.)
Clinical mental health	\$150,000
AOD	\$85,000
Mental health community support services	\$85,000

Proposals for grants of all amounts will be considered, from small grants to larger amounts within the available pool.

Purpose

The purpose of the grants is to:

- Identify workforce wellbeing requirements as a result of the impact of COVID and initiatives to address these requirements.
- Identify gaps in workforce wellbeing supports currently being offered.
- Provide funding for initiatives to support workforce wellbeing of the targeted groups.
- Promote collaboration and information sharing about workforce wellbeing resources across mental health and AOD key workforce agencies.

Timeline

Applications open	9.00am Friday 22 May 2020
Applications close	5.00pm Friday 5 June 2020

Eligibility

Who can apply:

- AOD or mental health services and employees
- Providers of wellbeing products/initiatives/services

Funding is available for wellbeing supports for employees of Victorian public specialist mental health services, Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSSs) and state-funded Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) services.

Funding for successful applications must be paid via invoice before 30 June 2020, and ability to provide an invoice is an eligibility requirement.

Exclusions

- Grant applications will not be accepted from individuals for the sole benefit of that individual.
- Proposed supports must not duplicate existing wellbeing offerings that are able to be accessed by the target group or supports that employers are responsible for providing.

Examples

Examples of types of supports that could be funded by the program include:

- Additional supervision or co-reflection – 1:1 or group
- Catering/support for events
- Expansion of EAP services
- Webinar with wellbeing experts
- Establishment or improvement of facilities that support wellbeing
- Online wellbeing support opportunities
- Purchase of equipment/sensory items
- Worker wellbeing zones/rooms
- Training and development

Assessment of applications

A collaborative governance group including Centre for Mental Health Learning, Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA), Mental Health Victoria, and industrial bodies will have oversight of the project / evaluation process in a manner consistent with other departmental grant programs.

Applications will need to indicate which workforce group the initiatives is targeting. Successful applications that target two or more workforce groups will be funded from the available pool for each applicable group.

In kind contributions from agencies or providers will be considered favourably

Projects that are able to support cross sector collaboration and wellbeing (e.g. across AOD and mental health) will be considered favourably.

Grants assessment criteria

The application demonstrates:

1. The impact of COVID on target group wellbeing 10%

2. Expected benefits arising from the project 20%
3. Reach to workforce – numbers that stand benefit from the initiative 10%
4. Meets a demonstrated gap/need 20%
5. Experience of provision of initiative and/or evidence of efficacy 10%
6. Value for money 20%
7. Evaluation of impact 10%

The final decision on applications funded through the grants will be made by the department based on advice from the panel.

Applications

All applications must be:

- From an eligible agency or provider
- Endorsed by the agency
- Submitted via the below link by COB by Friday 5 June 2020.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wellbeinggrants>

Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 15 June 2020.

Invoices for successful applications activity must be received by 30 June 2020.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to provide reporting requirements articulated in funding confirmation advice.

A final report should be submitted that includes summary of deliverables, evaluation findings and funds expended upon completion of the project.

Conditions of funding

- Funding will be provided on receipt of an invoice payment request to the Manager, Workforce, Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health and Drugs Branch
- The funds provided are one-off based on the submission to these grants.
- The funds must not be used for any purpose other than that for which the grant was made.
- Projects should be delivered and acquitted within 12 months (30 Jun 2021). Failure to complete the project within the specified time, may see a recall of allocated funds.
- The project works must not duplicate any other successful request for funds from any source. If other contributing organisations fail to provide funding or there is an increase in project costs, the Victorian Government is not obliged to provide this funding.
- The project(s) will be directly managed by the health service / agency organisation in a manner that reflects government procurement and probity guidelines.
- Project reports will be made to the department as required.