2026-27 Manila Community Grants Application

Form Preview

Overview

* indicates a required field

The Community Grants Program is a flexible small grants program funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The program supports locally led activities that improve development outcomes for communities in eligible countries. Community Grants are designed to assist organisations and community groups to deliver practical, sustainable and impactful activities that respond to local needs and priorities. This may include activities such as training, service delivery, community development initiatives and small-scale infrastructure projects.

What is the Direct Aid Program in the Philippines?

The Community Grants Program in the Philippines is called the Direct Aid Program (DAP) Philippines. The DAP will support activities that align with the objectives of the Australia-Philippines Development Partnership Plan (DPP) 2024-29 to promote prosperity, stability, and resilience.

Amount and timeline

DAP provides grants with a minimum amount of PhP1 million and a maximum of PhP1.5 million per approved project with a 12–24-month implementation period. Successful projects are expected to commence implementation immediately.

DAP funding should cover direct projects costs, including activities to support organisational capability to comply with DFAT’s safeguards and risk management requirements. Safeguards compliance is a condition of the grant agreement.

Who can Apply?

Consistent with Australia's locally led development approach, DAP will prioritise organisations that are Philippine-managed, engaged in local development, and duly registered with either the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), or the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

DAP funding is generally not available to:

- United Nations agencies or other multilateral organisations
- partner governments or government agencies
- Australian non-government organisations
- private businesses
- communities located in Australia.

Who are priority sectors?

The DAP aims to address the needs of marginalised populations. The proposed project/ activities should prioritise the participation and respond to the needs of the following sectors:

- disadvantaged women
- persons with disabilities
- indigenous peoples
- members of the LGBTQIA+ community
- poor farmers and fisherfolks
- urban poor communities, and
- environmentally vulnerable localities

What activities are eligible for DAP Support?

In the Philippines, DAP will support activities that align with Australia and Philippine government objectives to promote prosperity, stability, and resilience (DPP 2024-2029). Proposed activities should align with any of the three priority areas below:

Climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods

Objectives:

- Bolstering inclusion and sustainable economic growth
- Increasing institutional and community resilience to social and economic and climate-related shocks

Focus Areas

- access to sustainable food systems / food security
- climate adaptation / mitigation
- disaster resilience
- environmental and biodiversity conservation
- renewable energy access
- sustainable agriculture
- sustainable livelihoods

Inclusion, protection, rights and wellbeing

Objective: Increasing institutional and community resilience to social and economic and climate-related shocks

Focus Areas:

- community health
- disability inclusion / equity
- gender equality
- indigenous peoples' rights,
- LGBTQIA+ inclusion
- social protection
- water and sanitation
- youth development

Locally led economic empowerment

Objectives:

- Bolstering inclusion and sustainable economic growth
- Increasing institutional and community resilience to social and economic and climate-related shocks

Focus Areas:

- income generation for marginalised groups
- women's economic empowerment
- skills development / capacity training / training

What items are not eligible for funding?

Generally, the following items are not funded:

- salaries of permanent staff of the implementing organisation
- fees for consultants and advisors, where they constitute a major cost component
- grant programs run by other government organisations
- micro-credit schemes or any other project that involves return of money or loans for cash
- administrative costs not directly related to project implementation
- international travel as part of the project
- Australian or overseas study tours
- purchase or rental of property or land
- purchase of vehicles
- routine, recurring, and/or running costs including office rent, electricity, water, phone/ internet subscriptions
- routine maintenance and repairs (including equipment such as photocopiers, computers, stoves, fridges, etc)
- commercial/for profit ventures
- sponsorships of major sporting tournaments or cultural displays that do not have a clear developmental benefit
- supporting partner government activities
- promoting Australian commercial or political interests

How are projects selected for funding?

Successful projects must meet the following criteria:

- ODA eligibility, and a clear development focus with direct benefits to local communities;
- responsiveness to specific needs of vulnerable or marginalised groups;
- achievable, practical, and tangible results within the implementation period;
- evidence of sustainability with demonstrated community commitment to support and sustain project outcomes;
- evidence of the ability to identify and manage risks and implement safeguarding requirements associated with project activities;
- substantial counterpart contributions (labour, technical inputs, materials, administrative support, assets, or cash), with demonstrated ability to sustain any recurring costs;
- appropriate institutional arrangements with partner communities, LGUs, and/or private sector actors;
- ability to provide timely and reliable project reporting; and
- integration of GEDSI, child protection, PSEAH safeguards, and environmentally sound practices.

Funding and Accountability

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with DFAT and comply with all reporting, safeguarding and accountability requirements.

Recipients may be required to:

- maintain accurate financial records
- provide progress and completion reports
- participate in monitoring activities or site visits
- demonstrate compliance with child protection, safeguarding and other DFAT policy requirements.

Submission Details

Please submit completed proposals via SmartyGrants no later than Sunday 20 December 2026 (Philippine time).

For queries about the guidelines, deadline, or questions in the form, please email DAP.Manila@dfat.gov.au. You may also call +63 2 7757 8262 during business hours.

Please note the DAP will only contact shortlisted organisations for further information, if necessary. Also, the DAP will notify applicants of the outcome of the application round but will not provide feedback on individual application.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility requirements and assessment criteria, and funding decisions will be made by DFAT following assessment of applications.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government official or an external member of an assessment committee
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation that is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program.

You are asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the DFAT Community Grants team in writing immediately.

Applicants must declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest associated with this application.

To the best of your knowledge, are there any perceived or existing conflicts of interest relating to your application? *

○ Yes ○ No

Outline any perceived or existing conflicts of interests *

Word count:

Instructions and References

This form is to be completed by the applicant online. All applications must be accompanied by a fully costed project budget.

Information on this application can also be found at the Direct Aid Program Philippines webpage of the Australian Embassy in the Philippines website - Direct Aid Program

Please refer to the followings notes and references to help you prepare a proposal that is aligned with Australia's development program | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

1. Activities related to the building and construction of small infrastructure projects should meet or exceed Australian standards wherever reasonably practicable to do so. Departure from Australian WHS standards on the basis that meeting such standards is not "reasonably practicable" should only be accepted where it is defensible to do so, supported by a clear, persuasive, and documented explanation. In such cases, the project should meet the highest standard that is reasonably practicable, with hazard mitigation measures supported by a hazard identification and risk assessment report identifying the residual risks of injury and illness to any workers or third parties, and proposed mitigation strategy.
2. If the project involves working with children or has direct and indirect contact with children, the organisation must have a current child protection policy or code of conduct to be eligible. For information on child protection policy, seeChild Protection Policy | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3. Projects must play an active role in addressing the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. For further information see Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (dfat.gov.au)
4. Australia's International Development Program - Australia's development program | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
5. Australia's *International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy (IDEARS)*, launched in November 2024, outlines how we will harness our expertise and resources to tackle the challenges ahead and advance disability equity and rights now and into the future. Australia's International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy: Advancing equity to transform lives

6. The Australia-Philippines Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) - Australia–Philippines Development Partnership Plan | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade translates in to action the development priorities Australia shares with the Philippines. The DPP reflects the principles and priorities agreed in the Philippines-Australia Strategic Partnership and supports the priorities presented in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.
7. Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy - Environmental and social safeguards | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
8. Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy - Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
9. Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that no support or resources are provided to any entity subject to sanctions (by the United Nations Security Council or the Australian Government).
10. Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that the work conducted in relation to this project is undertaken in a safe manner and complies with all applicable local laws, standards and policies that relate to health and safety.

11. In line with Australia's International Development Policy's transparency commitment, DAP's list of successful applicants will be published in Australia's Development Portal at Australia's Development Portal

Organisation Details

* indicates a required field

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Type of Organisation *

Physical Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Postal Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Website

Must be a URL.

Primary Contact Details

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Contact Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

This is the person we will correspond with about this grant.

Position *

e.g., Manager, Director or Fundraising Coordinator.

Primary Phone Number *

Work Phone Number *

Email Address *

Must be an email address.
This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

Previous Funding

Have you previously received funding from the Australian Government for the activity you have proposed in this grant application? *

○ Yes ○ No

Past Projects

Please provide details of recent projects your organisation has received funding for and implemented.

Project Title / Funding Program	Contact Person	Start Date	End Date	Total Funding Amount (AUD)
		Must be a date.	Must be a date.	Must be a number.

Describe your organisation's experience delivering activities similar to the one proposed *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Referee Details

Applicants ***must*** attach letters of support from two referees.

Organisations ***must*** ensure that their nominated referees do not have an actual or potential conflict of interest when acting as a referee. In particular, organisations ***must*** ensure that referees:

1. are not employees of the organisation, or the holder of a current executive office (or similar position) within the organisation, or have a business association with the organisation or a subsidiary organisation of the organisation;
2. nor their immediate family members, have no direct financial interest in this activity;
3. are not current or Former DFAT Employees;
4. are available to be contacted by DAP Philippines and;
5. are able to provide comments in English.

DFAT reserves the right to check with nominated referees and with other persons as DFAT chooses the accuracy of the information provided by the organisation and the quality of past work performed by the organisation.

Referee 1 *
First Name | Last Name

Referee 2 *
First Name | Last Name

Position *

Position *

Organisation / Agency *

Organisation / Agency *

Primary Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number.

Primary Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number.

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Referee Report *
Attach a file:

Referee Report *
Attach a file:

Project Details

* indicates a required field

Summary

Project Title *

Must be no more than 250 characters.

Brief Description *

Word count:
Must be no more than 250 words.
Provide a short description of your project - what are you out to do?

Start Date *

Must be a date.

End Date *

Must be a date.

Project Country *

Project Location *

Municipality/City, Province, Region

Objectives

Which of the following are objectives of this project? *

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Community Health
- ☐ Cultural or sporting activities
- ☐ Disability Inclusion
- ☐ Economic Empowerment
- ☐ Education (General)
- ☐ Education (Infrastucture)
- ☐ Gender equality
- ☐ Water and Sanitation
- ☐ Access to Sustainable Food Systems / Food Security
- ☐ Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation
- ☐ Disability Equity
- ☐ Disaster Resilience
- ☐ Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation
- ☐ Income Generation / Sustainable Livelihoods
- ☐ Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- ☐ LGBTQIA+ Inclusion
- ☐ Renewable Energy Access
- ☐ Skills Development, Training or Capacity Building
- ☐ Sustainable Livelihoods
- ☐ Women's Economic Empowerment
- ☐ Youth Development

Why does this work need to be done? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.
Describe the specific issue or need you want to address (200 words recommended)

How was this need identified? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Project Plan

Project plan and timeline

Provide an outline of a project plan with indicative timelines for your proposed activity

Activity	Brief Description of Activity	Proposed Start and Completion Date
		Must be a date.

Project Outcomes

Outcomes are the changes you expect to occur for the beneficiaries of your initiative. In general, outcomes can be framed as an increase or decrease in one or more of the following:

- Skills, knowledge, confidence, aspiration, motivation (these are generally **immediate** or short-term outcomes)
- Actions, behaviour, change in policy (these are generally **intermediate** or medium-term outcomes)
- Social, financial, environmental, physical conditions (these are generally **long-term** outcomes)

Immediate outcomes occur directly following an activity (within 1 month); intermediate outcomes are those that fall between the immediate and long-term (between 1 month and 2 years); and long-term outcomes are those we expect to see years later (more than 2 years after the activity).

We also want to learn more about the beneficiary groups you think your initiative will affect (**Primary** and **Indirect**), who you will work through to reach those groups or achieve your outcomes (**Intermediaries**), and how you propose to assess whether your anticipated outcomes have been achieved - what you will measure and how (**Indicators**).

List your initiative's anticipated outcomes and provide information in the following table. Leave blank any fields that do not apply to your initiative.

Click "Add More" to insert additional lines. Click "Maximise" to view a larger version of this table.

Anticipated Outcomes	Indicator	Verification Method

Beneficiaries

Estimated number of direct beneficiaries *

Must be a number.

How were they involved in the project design? *

Risk and Safeguards

* indicates a required field

Working with Children

DFAT has a zero-tolerance approach to child exploitation, abuse and harm. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate their commitment to protecting children through their activity, including with support from DFAT. Applicants are asked to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy.

Direct Aid Program considers a child to be a person under the age of 18 years.

Please refer to the definitions below to assist with clarity.

- **No contact with children (No standards to apply):** Activities with no anticipated interaction with children

For example: Office-based roles, one-off delivery of corporate goods, service or a trade or remote, desk-based policy advice or writing

- **Incidental or Minimal contact with children (Essential Child Protection Standards to apply):** Activities where interaction with children is limited, indirect or incidental

For example: The focus of the activity is solely engaged with adults but is in a setting where children may be present, for example institutional settings such as health centres, attendance at public diplomacy events or delivery of goods/services, where children may be present under the supervision of parents/carers.

- **Direct, sustained, or significant contact with children (Comprehensive Child Protection Standards):** where children are anticipated to be regularly in attendance or a beneficiary of activity.

Will this project involve contact with children? * ○ Yes ○ No

Child Protection Policy

Attach a copy of your Child Protection Policy if you have one.

If not, download DFAT's Child Protection Policy and upload a signed copy.

Level of contact *
○ Incidental or minimal contact with children
○ Direct, sustained or significant contact with children

Child Protection Policy *
Attach a file:

Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)

Does your organisation have measures in place to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment *

○ Yes ○ No

Describe the measures your organisation has in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

PSEAH or Code of Conduct Document

Attach a file:

Attach a copy of your PSEAH Policy or Code of Conduct if you have one.

Environment and Social Safeguards

Does the project have the potential to create environmental or social risks or impacts? *

○ Yes ○ No ○ Unsure

Describe any environmental or social risks or impacts associated with the project. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Project Risk Management

Outline the risks of this project proposal and planned mitigation strategies.

Click "Add More" to insert additional lines.

Risk Type	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation Strategy

Budget

* indicates a required field

Project Funding Summary

Total Amount Requested *

Must be a number.

Currency

Note: Ensure all costs and contributions quoted in the budget are in Philippine Peso (PHP).

Applicant's contribution *

Must be a number.

Other Donor Contribution *

Must be a number.

Total Project Income

This number/amount is calculated.

Detailed Budget

Enter 0 where not applicable.

Budget Item	Applicant Contribution	Contribution from other donors	DFAT Contribution	Total Cost
	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	This number/amount is calculated.

Totals

Applicant Contribution

This number/amount is calculated.

Other Donor Contribution

This number/amount is calculated.

DFAT Contribution

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Budget

This number/amount is calculated.

Balanced Budget Check

- Positive numbers in validation - not all income has been accounted for in your budget. Increase or add amounts in the budget table.
- Negative numbers - your budget is higher than income. Decrease or remove amounts in the budget table.

[Total Budget less Total Project Income]

This number/amount is calculated.
This number/amount is calculated and must be equal to zero (0).

[Total DFAT Contribution] less [Total Amount Requested from DFAT]

This number/amount is calculated.

Sustainability

Describe practical steps and specific plans to ensure sustainability in terms of organisational/institutional capacity as well as financial/technical viability of the project. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Submission Acknowledgement and Certification

* indicates a required field

Applicants ***must*** agree to each of the following items to complete the Organisation's Certification.

*

☐ I am duly authorised by the Organisation to make this declaration. I make this declaration on behalf of the Organisation and on behalf of myself.
☐ I have read the information provided in the Community Grants Guidelines.
☐ The statements in this proposal are true to the best of my knowledge
☐ I acknowledge that if the Organisation is found to have made false or misleading material claims or statements in this proposal or in this certification, DFAT will reject at any time any proposal lodged by or on behalf of the Organisation.
☐ I acknowledge that this proposal will be assessed on its merits, and compared to other proposals, and that it may not be funded, or it may not be funded at the amount requested.
☐ I warrant that the Organisation will use its best endeavours to ensure that all personnel involved in the Activity are of good fame and character.
☐ I warrant that the Organisation will use its best endeavours to ensure: that individuals or organisations involved in implementing the Activity are in no way linked, directly or indirectly, to organisations and individuals associated with terrorism; and that the Grant is not used in any way to provide direct or indirect support or

resources to organisations and individuals associated with terrorism.
☐ I warrant that the Organisation is not: listed on a World Bank List or a list maintained by any other donor of development funding;
☐ I warrant that the Organisation is not subject to any proceedings or informal processes which could lead to listing on a World Bank List or a list maintained by any other donor of development funding;
☐ I warrant that the Organisation is not the subject of an investigation by the World Bank or any other donor of development funding.
☐ I warrant that the Organisation will have regard to the Australian Government guidance “Safeguarding your organisation against terrorism financing (homeaffairs.gov.au)”.
☐ I warrant that neither the Organisation nor any of its employees, agents or contractors have been convicted of an offence of, or relating to fraud or corruption, including bribery of a public official, nor are they subject to any proceedings which could lead to such a conviction.
☐ I undertake that the Organisation will not permit any of its employees, agents or contractors, to work with children if they pose an unacceptable risk to children’s safety or well-being. Refer to www.dfat.gov.au/childprotection.
☐ I warrant that none of the personnel who are involved in the Activity have been convicted of a criminal offence relating to child abuse, nor are they subject to any proceedings which could lead to such a conviction.
☐ I warrant that the Organisation has not received grant funding for this Activity from another source other than that declared in this proposal.
☐ I warrant that this proposal has not been prepared with the assistance of any current DFAT employees or Former DFAT Employees or with improperly obtained information.

Authorised Representative

Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position *

Date Signed *

Must be a date.

Attachments

SEC/CDA/DOLE/DSWD Registration Documents (certificate and by-laws)

Attach a file:

Track Record (list of implemented projects both ongoing and past projects in the last five years). If funded, kindly indicate donor and form of assistance

Attach a file:

Statement of Availability of Counterpart Resources (notarized)

Attach a file:

Audited Financial (income and expenses) Statement for the past two years (notarized)

Attach a file:

Latest Bank Statement of Account Certificate (indicating account name, account number, bank branch and address)

Attach a file:

Letters of Recommendation from Government/Non-Government Organisations involved with proponent organisation

Attach a file:

Board Resolution designating its authorised representative to represent the organisation and stating that the organisation is requesting financial assistance from the Embassy

Attach a file:

If applicable, certificate of good credit standing from any private and government lending institution from whom the association/cooperative has availed credit

Attach a file:

If applicable, lay-out or blueprint of proposed project involving construction (e.g., water system, building)

Attach a file:

If applicable, map/sketch of project site

Attach a file: