



Food Relief Grants Pool Guidelines

May 2026 – April 2027

Funded by



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Grants Program Overview

The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) is administering a \$2 million grants pool funded by the Cook Labor government, to support frontline community organisations in Western Australia (WA) already delivering food relief services and facing rising operational costs and demand pressures as a result of current fuel security challenges.

WA's food relief sector is experiencing increased costs due to rising global fuel prices impacting the ability to deliver essential food relief services to people experiencing food insecurity. The aim of this Grants Program is to provide additional funding to support existing food relief providers, ensuring essential food reaches communities across metropolitan, regional, and remote WA.

The grants program will provide existing food relief organisations with grants of up to \$10,000 (exclusive of GST) for activities aligned with the grant conditions. Funding will be determined based on the organisation's region of service and the instances of support they expect to provide. The Grant Program will be delivered over a 12-month period and will end in April 2027 (or until the \$2 million grants pool has been exhausted).

The Grants Guideline document provides information about the Grants Program and has been prepared by WACOSS.

Eligibility

This section outlines who can apply to the food relief grants pool.

Who can apply

To be eligible, applicants must already be delivering a food relief program in Western Australia and be one of the following:

- an incorporated, not-for-profit community service organisation or association, or
- an unincorporated community group applying through an incorporated auspice organisation.

If there are no eligible providers in a regional or remote area, we may consider applications from not-for-profit community service organisations in those locations, provided they can demonstrate a demand for food relief within their community due to fuel costs and have existing relationships with people experiencing food insecurity.

Who cannot apply

Entities not eligible to apply for funding through this program include:

- Organisations who do not currently deliver an existing food relief program in Western Australia (other than in the circumstances outlined above).
- Commonwealth, State or Local Government agencies.
- Individuals.
- Commercial, for-profit organisations.
- Unincorporated, community sector organisations (unless applying through an incorporated body or a local government authority), and
- Organisations located in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Funding Determination

Grant determination will consider the location of the organisation delivering food relief and the level of support that can be reasonably delivered through the grant. This will help address higher costs in regional and remote areas and ensure the amount of food relief provided is consistent with their organisation's size and scope.

Applicants are required to select the region in which they are applying for funding. Regions will include Metropolitan, Regional and Remote. Organisations are required to submit separate applications if they are requesting funding in more than one region.

Funding regions are defined as follows:

- **Metropolitan:** Accessible metropolitan areas located within the Perth region. Service locations include East Metro, North Metro and South Metro.
- **Regional:** Areas outside the major city of Perth that are not classified as remote. Includes both regional centres and outer regional areas. Service locations include parts of the Gascoyne, Goldfields Esperance, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Peel, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt.
- **Remote:** Areas with very high isolation and limited access to services. Service locations include parts of the Gascoyne, Goldfields Esperance, Kimberley, Midwest and Pilbara.

The level of service expected to be provided through the grant is defined by instances of support. Instances of support refers to the number of occasions where an individual or household receives food relief.

When you apply to the Grants Program you will need to indicate the region where you are applying and how many instances of support you expect to be able to provide through the grant. The following grants will be available to organisations who meet the eligibility and assessment criteria.

All amounts included in the tables below are exclusive of GST.

Metropolitan Organisations

Funding allocation	Instances of Support
\$4,000	Between 50 and 79
\$6,000	Between 80 and 99
\$8,000	Between 100 and 129
\$10,000	More than 130

Regional Organisations

Funding allocation	Instances of Support
\$4,000	Between 45 and 64
\$6,000	Between 65 and 89
\$8,000	Between 90 and 114
\$10,000	More than 115

Remote Organisations

Funding allocation	Instances of Support
\$4,000	Between 40 and 59
\$6,000	Between 60 and 79
\$8,000	Between 80 and 99
\$10,000	More than 100

Grant application limits and eligibility by service location

To ensure equitable access to the grants pool and to support a broad distribution of funding across the sector, the following application limits apply:

Metropolitan service locations

- Organisations may submit one application per metropolitan service area (East, North, South) in Round One.
- A second round may be offered, subject to the availability of remaining funds.

Regional and remote service locations

- Organisations may submit one application per region.
- A separate application must be completed for each individual regional or remote service location for which funding is sought.
- If an organisation submits applications for multiple service locations within the same region, each application must clearly demonstrate how the organisation is working collaboratively with other food relief providers operating in that location.

Applications from organisations who provide food relief in the absence of a physical service location, such as an outreach or phone-based service, will be reviewed in accordance with the eligibility and assessment criteria.

Purpose of these limits

These requirements are designed to:

- Support fair access to funding across metropolitan, regional, and remote communities.
- Encourage collaboration rather than duplication.
- Strengthen local service ecosystems and ensure funding reaches areas of highest need.

Grant Conditions

This section outlines the purpose of the grants and eligible expenses that funding may be used for.

What can be funded through the grants?

To ensure Western Australians experiencing food insecurity have access to food relief assistance where they live, additional funding will be provided to eligible organisations to:

- Assist in meeting the rising operational cost and demand pressures for food relief services due to increased fuel costs.

- Offset unforeseen cost increases in transport, freight and logistics which impact on service delivery.
- Offset unforeseen costs increases in purchasing food.
- Enable continued provision of food relief assistance to Western Australians affected by increased fuel costs, particularly in regional or remote areas.

Grants may assist with a range of items and or activities associated with existing food relief programs. Such activities may include (but are not limited to):

- Additional costs associated with transport, freight, collection or delivery of food relief.
- Short-term cost rises directly associated with increased costs due to rising global fuel prices impacting existing food relief programs.
- Purchase of non-perishable staple food items for food relief.
- Contingency measures to support the stable supply of food relief (e.g. food pantries to ensure a steady supply of non-perishable foods).
- Increased engagement of local suppliers for purchase of fresh fruit, vegetables and protein items.
- Increasing access to appropriate cold or dry storage to support the stable supply of food in regional or remote areas.

What cannot be funded through the grants?

The Grants Program is designed to support existing food relief activities which have been impacted by increased costs and high demand for services.

The grants cannot be used for:

- Ordinary operational staff wages.
- Prizes and gifts, including cash.
- Alcohol and/or tobacco products.
- Ongoing operational costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to short-term supplementation of existing food relief programs.
- Retrospective costs (any money spent before a grant is approved).

Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria listed in these guidelines will be used to determine eligibility for the grants program. All of the criteria have equal weighting, and the application will be assessed in its entirety.

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The applicant organisation is currently delivering food relief programs in Western Australia.
- The applicant organisation is experiencing increased costs in delivering food relief services due to rising global fuel prices and /or demand pressure for food relief services.
- The proposed items and/or activities to be funded align with the Grants Program Outcomes.

All applications will need to demonstrate value for money, including provision of a clear, realistic budget that includes verified costs for items and/or activities that meet the Grants Program Outcome.

The Grants Program will be available across all Western Australian communities in accordance with the eligibility requirements, with priority for applications from regional and remote locations.

How to Apply

Applications are submitted online through the WACOSS website. If you have access requirements, please contact us using the information provided at the end of this document.

Funding and Acquittal

WACOSS will approve and pay grants to successful applicants, under the following Grant Conditions:

- Successful applicants will be required to provide a final report at the end of the grant, including a brief project summary (max 500 words) outlining how they used the funding to support access to food relief. A completed financial acquittal template will also be required upon project completion.
- Where there are any unspent grant funds, WACOSS must be immediately notified. Any unspent grant monies may be required to be returned, unless agreed otherwise in writing by both parties.

Privacy and Data Use

WACOSS may collect personal information from applicants for the purposes of administration assessment of the application.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies, provided disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.

WACOSS' Privacy Policy is available on the WACOSS website.

Definitions

For the purpose of these Guidelines the following terms are defined.

Service location: The location where a service is providing food relief.

Instance of support: Refers to the number of occasions where an individual or household receives food relief. It does not count how many individual people you support overall.

Food relief: Food relief is designed as a short-term response to address immediate food insecurity. There are many ways that food relief services may be provided. Models of food relief may include food pantries, the collection of food for distribution, community kitchens and meals, food hampers, pre-packaged meals, and supermarket vouchers.

Food insecurity: The reduced, irregular or unreliable access to nutritionally appropriate or safe foods required for good health and wellbeing. Food insecurity is underpinned by six drivers, these are: availability, access, utilisation, stability, sustainability and agency.

Further Information

For information or support related to the Grants Program, please contact WACOSS using the following details.

Email: grants@wacoss.org.au

Phone: 08 6381 5300