REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) GRANTS - ROUND 9

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program?

The Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program is a State Government initiative that invests in projects to stimulate economic growth and development in regional Western Australia.

2. What can RED Grants funding be used for?

The RED Grants Program provides funding to support locally driven projects that will contribute to economic growth in regional communities. The guidelines outline what funds can be applied to. Further clarification can be sought from the Regional Development Commission contact.

3. What if I need help with the application process?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with GEDC early on in the application process to discuss the suitability and eligibility of your project. The GEDC grants team can review your application (up to 4 weeks prior to closing date) and provide feedback before final submission.
For further information contact the GEDC Grants Team on 9080 5004 or grants@gedc.wa.gov.au

4. Can I use a grant writer to do the application process for me?

Yes. When engaging a consultant, it is advisable to check if their experience and skill set suits your requirements. Obtain cost estimates and consider future assistance required for milestones and acquittals before engagement.

5. How can I apply?

Download the Guidelines and begin your application through SmartyGrants on the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) website at www.gedc.wa.gov.au.

Applicants must contact the Grants Officer at the GEDC for more information on project eligibility and advice prior to completing the online Application Form through SmartyGrants.
Grants Officers can be contacted on 9080 5004 or email grants@gedc.wa.gov.au.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

6. When is the closing date?

Applications must be received by 5PM AWST on 14 January 2027.

7. How much funding can I apply for?

Projects can request funding of up to $250,000.

8. Does my organisation need to be registered for GST to apply?

Applicants are able to apply for grants if they are not registered for GST concessions. Unregistered entities must provide the GEDC with a budget for the amount of the grant inclusive of all project costs including GST. If your entity is not registered for GST concessions and you need further clarification, please contact the GEDC prior to submitting your application.

9. Does my organisation need to be an incorporated body?

If the applicant is not an incorporated body, the GEDC requires the organisation to have an auspice arrangement with an organisation that is registered and incorporated.

10. Does my organisation have to be regionally based to apply?

The RED Grants aim to provide financial assistance to regionally based organisations. The Goldfields-Esperance region covers ten Local Government Areas (LGAs) including Ngaanyatjarraku, Wiluna, Leonora, Laverton, Menzies, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Dundas, Esperance and Ravensthorpe.

Organisations outside the region may apply, but will need to demonstrate significant, sustainable regional benefits and a commitment to local decision-making and planning.

11. How much do I need to contribute?

Business applicants must be able to demonstrate a 50% cash contribution towards the project. Other State Government funding will not be considered part of the matching cash contribution. Not-for-profit and Aboriginal business that can demonstrate in-kind and/or cash leverage may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

12. Can my application include partner organisations?

Project partners are not a requirement in the grant program but are strongly preferenced. You should only consider including them in your application if they provide cash or in-kind contributions.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

13. How are applications assessed and how soon after applying will I know if I am successful or not?

RED Grants are a competitive application process. We undertake a rigorous assessment process on all applications. Applicants should allow four to six months for the RED Grants approval process which should be considered by applicants during project planning.

The assessment criteria and decision-making process used to assess applications are provided in the RED Grants Guidelines. Assessors are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest.

14. How many applications will be awarded with a RED Grant per region?

There is no limit on the number of successful applications per round however, there are limited funds available for each round and in each region.

15. Can I submit an application for funding in more than one region?

Where funding is sought for projects across multiple regions, applicants will be required to submit separate applications to each Regional Development Commission (RDC) as they will be assessed independently.

Applicants will need to seek advice on their project proposal with each relevant RDC where funding will be sought.

16. If I am unsuccessful in this round, can I still apply when the next round opens?

Upon notification of being unsuccessful, applicants can contact the GEDC to discuss the outcome of the assessment and how the application/project might be amended for consideration in any future rounds.

17. When is the next round?

Future rounds for the RED Grants have not yet been announced. Prospective applicants are encouraged to email GEDC on grants@gedc.wa.gov.au to be added to the mailing list.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Assessment Criteria Guidance

Criteria	Weighting	Projects that demonstrate:	Guidance Notes
Meets at least one Regional Economic Development (RED) objective	40%	• Sustainable jobs • Increasing productivity • Expanding or diversifying industry • Developing skills or capabilities • Attracting new investment in the region	You should present a clear case of how your project meets the RED Grant objectives. If you meet more than one, include an assessment against each individual objective in your response. You may wish to use the SMART method or a similar tool to outline how your project meets each of the relevant program objectives. • **Specific -** How exactly will your project meet the objective? (i.e. create new jobs, develop new skills, etc) • **Measurable -** Provide quantifiable data and/or explain how you will measure growth or change. (i.e. number of people trained, number of FTEs employed, percentage increase from x to y, use of surveys, etc) • **Achievable -** What are the steps you will undertake to achieve the objective? Will there be positive results? • **Relevant -** Is your project realistic and well-resourced to meet the objective? • **Time bound -** What are your timeframes for delivering the objective? Jobs created should be specified as full time equivalent (FTE). i.e. This project will employ two people in two new part-time positions, therefore creating one new FTE. The GEDC can provide economic modelling assistance to support your project. Requests to the GEDC must be submitted two weeks prior to the application closing date.
Meets at least one Goldfields-Esperance Regional Priority	20%	• Industry development, diversification and innovation • Aboriginal empowerment and prosperity • Climate resilience and low carbon transition • Regional liveability	The GEDC Board has endorsed Strategic Initiative areas as part of its Strategic Plan, these guide the GEDC's approach to the delivery of regional development outcomes, setting out key strategies to drive economic and social outcomes for the region. Projects that align with these areas will be considered preferably. More information on GEDC's Strategic Initiatives and regional priorities can be found on the GEDC website. The GEDC supports Aboriginal economic development in the region across all focus areas and encourages applications that aim to support the growth and development of Aboriginal businesses and projects that increase Aboriginal economic participation.
Financial Commitment, Collaboration and Partnerships	20%	• Partnerships and collaboration (in-kind or cash contribution) • Co-Investment and attracting new investment • Local content outcomes	Projects that demonstrate co-contributions or partnerships with other organisations will be preferenced. Business applicants should demonstrate a minimum 50% cash co-contribution. Not-for-profit and Aboriginal organisations that can demonstrate in-kind or cash leverage may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Cash contributions that exceed the minimum requirement will receive score in the application assessment process. Applicants are encouraged to consider local organisations, suppliers and contractors in the delivery of their project. The GEDC has Local Content Adviser that may assist with local content strategies for your application. Please call GEDC on 9080 5000 to contact the Local Content Adviser.
Governance and Organisational Capability	20%	• Sustainability and ability to meet ongoing maintenance • Good governance structure • Project management and personnel experience • Risk identification and mitigation	The REDs Program supports projects that demonstrate good governance and organisational capacity to deliver the project. You should evidence good governance structure, project management experience, risk identification and mitigation, and sustainability of the project within your application. Third party approvals required to implement your project (i.e planning approvals) should generally be in place prior to submitting your application. Projects without necessary development approvals or other necessary third party agreements in place must clearly demonstrate support from the relevant third parties and an immediate pathway to securing these approvals or agreements within the early stages of funding time frames.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Outcomes and Benefits

Outcomes refer to the intended economic impact that is expected as a result of delivering the project with the grant funding – the expected outcomes listed should be realistic as successful applicants will be expected to report against these.

The below table may be a useful tool to map the expected project outcomes and benefits for inclusion in the REDs Grant application.

RED Grants Objective	Expected Outcome	Timeframe	How will this be measured?	Target
Sustainable jobs	*Example: Number of new Jobs created/ retained (Full Time equivalent) created (type of job ie. direct/indirect, during construction phase only)*	*Example: After 2 years, or during project phase only (ie. Construction jobs)*	*Example: Number of new FTE employed*	*Example: 3 FTE*
Increased productivity	*Example: 5% increase in production*	*Example: Within one year of installing infrastructure*	*Example: Sales and revenue figures*	*Example: 5% increase from x to y*
Expanding or diversifying industry	*Example: New product line introduced.*	*Example: Upon installation of equipment*	*Example: Commissioning of new equipment and new markets secured*	*Example: 2 new clients taking 500 tonnes product pa, 1000 tonnes product sourced from region*
Developing skills or capabilities	*Example: Skills training and job matching provided to 100 participants*	*Example: Within 12 months of commencement*	*Example: Number of participants through program and secured positions*	*Example: 100 secured positions within 12 months*
Attracting new investment to the region	*Example: Securing a new investor/investment for a project*	*Example: Within the life cycle of the project*	*Example: Total value of investment*	*Example: Dollar value of required investment*

Applications that can provide specific, quantified benefits will be more competitive. For additional guidance on outcomes and benefits, please contact the GEDC Grants Team on (08) 9080 5004.