

COVID-19 - Immediate Support Measures

Strengthening our health responses with enhanced community services and support

COVID-19 poses a serious threat to the Queensland community and it requires a collective response across the Queensland health system, including in the community health care sectors where the need for additional services is emerging.

To help build community health resilience and preparedness in the face of COVID-19 impacts, the Queensland Government is offering a **\$27.75 million** COVID-19 Grant Fund to these Service Providers.

This funding enhances the significant work the Queensland Health system is doing to plan and prepare to deliver healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It complements Australian Government national primary health packages by support community health care providers delivering public healthcare to meet local community health needs in Queensland.

Access to the COVID-19 Grant Fund will ensure these Service Providers continue to be supported to contribute to a system wide response to COVID-19 in Queensland as providers of public essential health care services.

Funding (excluding GST):

Up to **\$23.50 million** is available for the following the COVID-19 Grant Fund priorities:

- Support for community mental health services to rapidly implement, time-limited, alternative service delivery models for suicide prevention and supports for emergent decline in mental health from social isolation in vulnerable cohorts;
- Support for existing Queensland Health funded specialist alcohol and other drug providers to maintain and adapt treatment and harm reduction services;
- Support community and primary health care providers delivering public health services in First Nations, rural and remote communities to mobilise and deliver time-limited alternative or enhanced models of care;
- Support the capacity of Community Controlled Health Services providing public health services in Queensland to prepare and respond to COVID-19;
- Support existing Queensland Health funded residential-based community health services (for example community palliative care services) to prepare and respond to COVID-19;
- Support innovative community-based public healthcare models or human services that can be rapidly delivered to treat local impacts of COVID-19 in Queensland, including the use of enhanced mobile workforce technology and digital service delivery platforms;
- Support the ability of existing services to rapidly access telehealth and other Medicare supports as part of currently funded service delivery models, including IT minor assets supports like computers, mobile phones and internet access;

- Support the organisational capacity of existing health, community and health consumer-support services to transition or ensure continuity of care for consumers experiencing COVID-19 related service disruption;
- Support the safety and wellbeing of existing Service Provider's staff, including access to independent employee assistance services, like bereavement/grief and critical incident supports; and
- Support for currently funded Service Providers delivering public health care services experiencing financial hardship or workforce impacts as a direct result of COVID-19 and related service disruption.

There is no specific cap on COVID-19 Grant Fund proposals; however, budgets must be transparent and accountable for public funds. Evidence to support indicative budgets may be requested.

In addition to the above investment, the Department will directly allocate **\$2.6 million** to existing Service Providers delivering the following mental health programs for immediate enhancements:

- Individual Recovery Support Program;
- Group Based Peer Recovery Support Program;
- Individual Recovery Support Program – At risk of Homelessness Program;
- Individual Recovery Support – Transition from Correctional Facilities Program;
- Multicultural/Refugee and Asylum Seeker Response; and,
- Eating Disorders Service.

A further **\$1.5 million** will be available to all existing providers of Mental Health Community Support programs, for example, Step Up Step Down services, to propose innovative and rapid response models and a further **\$150,000** is available for them to access to purchased telehealth technology and other IT assets support.

Eligibility

The Service Provider must be a legal entity (e.g. incorporated association or company limited by guarantee and excludes individual/s or sole trader) and provide Queensland Health with relevant governance documents upon request.

For the delivery of mental health; alcohol and other drugs services; palliative care and other residential based community health services, the Service Provider must be an existing supplier for the Queensland Department of Health under a Social Services Agreement held by the Community Funding Services Branch.

All Service Providers must have the ability to deliver, or support the delivery of, safe and quality services in a primary or community health setting.

All Service Providers must have the ability to accept and comply with the terms and conditions of a relevant Service Agreement and to deliver the Services as agreed under those terms and conditions.

Any COVID-19 Grant Fund proposals requiring any recurrent operational funding will be ineligible.

Aged Care Residential Service Providers are excluded as they are not funded under any Social Services Agreements held by the Community Funding Services Branch.

Payment

COVID-19 Grant Funds will be paid as soon as practicable to successful Applicants and will need to be acquitted by 31 January 2021.

How to apply

To request a COVID-19 Grant Fund Proposal template, or to submit an alternative proposal to undertake activities to respond to COVID-19, email CSFB_RFO@health.qld.gov.au.

For more information

If you become aware of a staff member or client with a confirmed case of COVID-19 call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Please check the Queensland Health website frequently for accurate information about the COVID-19 virus in Queensland and what you can do to prevent transmission and minimise service impacts.

Anyone who require assistance, contact the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 or online at www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters/novel-coronavirus-covid-19.

Check the Australian Government's website <https://www.australia.gov.au> for the latest COVID-19 news, updates and advice from Australian Government agencies.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and efforts as we work together to respond to COVID-19 in Queensland.