



Small Grants Program Guidelines

North East Transport Connections (NTECP) is a three year project funded by the Victorian State Government's Transport Connections Program (TCP). The project covers a large geographical area of 17,536 square kilometres and includes the Local Government areas of Alpine, Indigo, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga. The aim of the project is to address the needs of communities and individuals who have limited access to transport.

To achieve this aim the project operates at two levels. Firstly, the project considers initiatives that are common across the project area and works with community partners to achieve innovative regional solutions. Secondly, the project works with local communities to address specific needs. To assist in this process the project is pleased to make available small cash grants to community organisations throughout the project area.

Project direction is governed by a Project Partnership Group, a main responsibility is to ensure that the project operates in a manner that best addresses transport needs identified by the community and ensure project equity across the project area.

What is Transport?

In the context of Transport Connections, transport is more than simply a bus or train. Transport is seen as the enabler for people who are transport disadvantaged to access services and opportunities. Transport however, does not have to be one way, it is also about bringing services and opportunities to people. This may include, but is not limited to education, leisure, sport, health, employment and social outings.

Who is transport disadvantaged?

People are defined as being transport disadvantaged where public transport services are limited and/or people are unable to access transport because of limited personal mobility due to age, disability, health or economic circumstances.

Eligibility

Grants are open to all project partners and community organisations within the project area. Organisations must be incorporated (or auspiced by an incorporated organisation) or statutory body. For auspice organisations please provide contact details for both the auspice organisation and the project organisation. Whilst organisations do not have to be not-for-profit the applicant's project must be of a not-for-profit nature.

The grants program is in high demand and all applications are competitively assessed project executive. Therefore it important that applicant's are realistic about the value of the funds applied for. Applicants must clearly demonstrate their project can be sustained in the longer term, without the assistance of further funds. An organisation can only apply to the program once in any financial year. The level of funding offered is at the discretion of the North East Transport Connections Project.

Criteria

Projects must address the aim and objectives Transport Connections and the North East Transport Connections Project.

Aim

To develop innovative and efficient responses to the needs of people with limited transport options, and to improve access to services, resources, employment and community participation opportunities.

Objectives

- Developing innovative transport and non-transport options to support access, **excluding public transport** as a response
- Generating more efficient use of existing transport and community resources
- Establishing ongoing local partnerships to deliver transport and accessibility outcomes
- Fostering ongoing community participation and inclusion in decision-making to improve social and economic inclusion.

North East Transport Connections Project Local Action Plan

The Project Action Plan brings together initiatives from the previous projects Local Action Plans, project evaluation feedback, TCP3 funding guidelines and information contained in Local and State Government strategic plans. The Action Plan initiatives are divided into seven key themes:

- Community Transport and Access
- Local Community Projects
- Community Linkages & Connections
- Transport Information
- Transport Behavioural Change
- Advocacy.

The plan proposes that these areas be addressed by the following initiatives:

No.	Initiative	Outcome
1.	Develop Transport Hubs	Communities enjoy access to transport options and information from a central location. A network of hubs is established throughout the project area. Tailored to local community need in location and content. Key features include: visitor amenities, transport information, provision for taxi, public and community transport and links to pedestrian and cycling pathways.
2.	Further develop and support community transport network.	An extensive network of community and non-public transport options link small communities across the project area. Key features include: Utilising existing transport infrastructure and assets, transport coordination and transport friends.
3.	Support communities to develop unique transport solutions for specific needs	Communities will be empowered to develop and oversee their unique transport needs. Key features include: Facilitation, grants program and seed funding. Example groups: youth, ageing, disadvantaged.
4.	Update, develop, and maintain a variety of transport information systems	Transport Information is provided consistently across the project area utilising a variety of medium and technologies. Key features include: Transport Information Booklets, Internet service, telephone service and transport information centres, township maps including mobility, booking service, cycling and walking trials, links to transport hubs.
5.	Develop Transport	An extensive pool of highly knowledge and supportive transport volunteers

	Volunteers throughout the project area.	exists across the project area. Key Features include: Volunteer training, volunteer coordination, transport friends and transport ambassadors. Linked to existing volunteering programs.
6.	Support Active and Passive Transport Solutions across the project area.	Active transport is an expected way of commuting for residents in the project area. Passive transport occurs naturally. Key Features Include: Support for Local Government in transport hubs, end of trip facilities, transport information, health promotion and encouragement activities.

More detailed information on these initiatives can be found in the draft Project Action Plan. Copies of this document can be obtained from the NTCP office.

Application Process

- Applicants intending to lodge an application must discuss the application and project idea with NTCP prior to submitting an application.
- Applications must meet the criteria listed above and be clearly able to link their project with the objectives of NTCP.
- Where appropriate applicants must demonstrate project sustainability.
- Applications must be completed in full. Please write clearly and succinctly.
- Applications can be received at anytime throughout the year and will be accessed on a monthly by the Project Executive.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss their idea with their Local Council or one of NTCP partner organisations.
- Applicants may be asked to present their idea to the Project Executive if more information is required.

If successful in receiving funding a project will be required to provide evidence of how the funds were spent and document in the form of a case study (template provided) as to the outcomes of the project.

Grant Amount

Grants of up to \$1,000 will be considered.

Application deadline

Last Friday of each month.

Further Information and Application Submission

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