



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Frequently Asked Questions for Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Enterprises – Round 1

What business types are eligible to apply for a grant?

This grant opportunity is for small and medium sized businesses with an employee headcount of 1 to 199 employees.

A business with an Australian business number (ABN) that is one of the following entity types can apply:

- an entity incorporated in Australia
- a partnership
- a sole trader.

Applicants must also have consent from the owner of the project location to undertake the project (if they are not the owner of the project location).

Please refer to the guidelines for the full list of eligibility criteria.

My business structure is not listed in the Eligible Criteria, am I eligible to apply?

If an organisation meets one of the eligible entity types, and is not explicitly precluded in the “Who is not eligible?” section of the guidelines, then they are an eligible entity.

For example, if a ‘Not For Profit’ is an entity incorporated in Australia, then they are an eligible entity to apply for the grant.

Please refer to the guidelines for the full list of eligibility criteria.

What is the required employee headcount for the grant?

We can only accept applications from small and medium sized businesses with an employee headcount from 1 to 199 employees averaged over any consecutive 12-month period since 1 July 2019. We may ask you to provide evidence of your calculation.

Employee headcount includes employees across any and all related body corporates (as defined in the [Corporations Act 2001 \(Cth\)](#)).

Please refer to the guidelines for the full list of eligibility criteria.

How does the headcount requirement apply to sole traders and partnerships?

The headcount requirement also applies to sole traders and partnerships. Sole traders and partnerships can employ workers in the business. However, the sole trader or partner cannot employ themselves or be employees of the partnership.

Non-employing sole traders/partnerships would not meet the additional eligibility requirement listed in 4.2 of the Guidelines (an employee headcount from 1 to 199 employees).

Will there be more funding opportunities offered under the Energy Efficiency Grants program?

A second round of grants is planned. Additional information will be provided once the guidelines are released.

Can an applicant apply for Round 2 if they received funding in Round 1?

The Guidelines for Round 2 have not been finalised. Additional information will be provided once the guidelines are released.

Can I receive funding if my project also receives funding from another government program?

You are not eligible for funding if your project, for which you are seeking funding under this grant program, receives funding from another Commonwealth, state or territory government program.

In this context 'funding' includes, but is not limited to, grants, rebates, contributions, certifications and certificates that have a value and any other form of financial assistance.

You may apply for a grant under this grant program in addition to other funding from other Commonwealth, state or territory government programs, however, if your application is successful for any program you must elect whether to proceed with this grant program only or the alternative funding program.

If you enter a grant agreement under this grant program you cannot receive other funding for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory programs.

How will the grants be distributed across states and territories?

The grants will be awarded to businesses who meet the eligibility criteria on a first-come, first-served basis. Grants will be allocated between the states and territories based on the distribution of small and medium businesses across the country. Please refer to the grant guidelines for more information.

When will businesses find out if they have been successful in getting a grant?

It is anticipated that applicants will be contacted on or after June 2023 with the outcome of their application.

What is the grant selection process?

The program uses a demand driven selection process. First, applications must meet the eligibility criteria. If eligible, grants will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis until the funding is exhausted.

Funding is allocated between the states and territories based on the distribution of small and medium businesses across the country.

How do businesses apply for a grant?

Businesses will need to set up an account to access the online portal at business.gov.au. To apply, a business must complete and submit its application through the online portal.

Before a business applies, they should make sure to:

- read and understand the grant opportunity guidelines
- read the grant agreement
- read the sample application form.

Applicants must provide all required information when submitting their application. Applicants are responsible for making sure their application is complete and accurate.

For further guidance on applying, go to business.gov.au, grants.gov.au, or call 13 28 46.