



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Business Grants Hub

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Regional and Remote Airport Support Program

Opening date:	4 February 2026
Closing date and time:	5.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 17 March 2026 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	4 February 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Demand driven

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1. Regional and Remote Airport Support Program processes

The Regional and Remote Airport Support Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts' (DITRDCA) Outcome 2. DITRDCA works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [business.gov.au](#) and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form, addressing all the eligibility criteria in order for your application to be considered.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the eligibility of each application and the relief amount sought.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful and determines the relief amount awarded.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application.



Payment is made

The grant amount as determined by the decision maker is paid.



Evaluation of the Regional and Remote Airport Support Program

DITRDCA will evaluate the Regional and Remote Airport Support Program. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Regional and Remote Airport Support Program grants.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and make payments to grantees
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section 13.

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The Regional and Remote Airport Support Program (the program) will run over one year in 2025-26.

The program will provide financial relief to operators of regional/remote airports that were owed debt by the Rex Airlines regional business (Regional Express Holdings Limited ACN 099 547 270; Regional Express Pty Ltd ACN 101 325 642; Rex Investment Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 101 317 677) when it entered voluntary administration. These operators include both local governments and private companies.

Without debt relief, operators of many regional airports may be unable to cover operating costs, including security, and have limited negotiating power to raise fees given the marginal profitability of regional routes for airlines. Local governments in these areas with low rate-paying population bases may need to reduce services they provide to communities if debts are not recovered.

Providing such relief will mitigate the financial impact of unpaid claims and reduce the likelihood of airport services or council services suffering and will help to ensure residents are not directly or indirectly impacted.

Regional and remote airports are important to the Rex Airlines regional business's ongoing operations and have supported the Rex Airlines regional business through the voluntary administration period.

The objective of the program is to provide debt relief to eligible local governments and other operators of regional and remote airports that have been disadvantaged by the Rex Airlines regional business entering voluntary administration.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- support critical aviation services to connect remote and regional communities across Australia

- support local governments in regional and remote areas to maintain essential services.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#)¹.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

On 4 November 2025, Minister King announced the intent to make relief available for this program. Up to \$5 million will be available over 2025-26 for the program.

Grant relief payments to grantees will be determined based on a formula that calculates these payments against the total unsecured debt owed to the grantee.

The formula used to calculate the grant relief payments will consider the percentage of unsecured debt the applicant is owed as a total of all applicants' unsecured debt owed. This will be used to calculate the proportion of funding they receive from the total appropriation (\$5 million).

As an example, an eligible applicant applies for an amount equal to 4% of the total unsecured debts claimed by all the eligible applicants. The successful applicant will receive at a maximum 4% of the \$5 million, but not more than the total unsecured debt owed to the applicant.

We will calculate the formula based on the GST exclusive amount of the unsecured debt owed.

3.2. Grant period

All applications must be submitted between the published opening and closing dates, with all grant relief payments being made by 30 June 2026.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- operate a regional or remote airport as defined in the [ACCC Domestic Airline Competition Report August 2025](#)
- be an unsecured creditor of the Rex Airlines regional business

and be one of the following entities:

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

- an entity, incorporated in Australia
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth)
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an Australian local government agency or body as defined in Section 13.

Joint applications and applications made by eligible entities wholly or partly on behalf of subcontractors are not eligible.

4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept applications where you provide:

- a declaration signed by your Chief Finance Officer, Chief Operating Officer or equivalent on a template provided by us and available on business.gov.au declaring the following:
 - you operate a regional or remote airport
 - you have an unsecured debt owed by the Rex Airlines regional business in relation to the regional or remote airport you operate
 - your grant relief payment claim is legitimate and eligible
 - no funds or compensation have been received from any other source for the purposes of covering the debt owed by the Rex Airlines regional business
- invoice/s as evidence of your claim
- a statement limited to one page describing how your local community is disadvantaged as a result of the debt.

We will not assess the content of the statement provided nor will it influence eligibility beyond confirming its inclusion. We will only check that a statement has been provided and that it broadly addresses the eligibility requirement.

The decision maker makes the final decision as to who is eligible and may give additional guidance as to what constitutes satisfactory evidence of the eligibility criteria.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- any organisation not included in section 4.1
- an organisation included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- an eligible entity in section 4.1 applying wholly or partly on behalf of a subcontractor or airport business with unsecured debt owed by the Rex Airlines regional business.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible expenditure

Costs that the grant can be used for are to cover money owed by the Rex Airlines regional business to unsecured creditors.

Not all expenditure may be eligible for grant relief payment. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

6. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines and the [sample application form](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#).

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we may contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

6.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- a statement limited to one page describing how your community has been impacted as a result of the Rex Airlines regional business debt

- invoice/s as evidence of your claim
- a signed declaration on a template provided by us and available on business.gov.au
- trust deed (where applicable).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. Individual file sizes cannot be greater than 25MB, while the total of all attachments cannot exceed 50MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

6.2. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. If you are experiencing issues with submitting an application please contact us at 13 28 46 or at business.gov.au prior to the published closing date.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Eligibility assessment of applications	March – April 2026
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	April 2026
Payment	May 2026
Notification to ineligible applicants	May 2026

6.3. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](https://business.gov.au) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7. The grant selection process

7.1. Assessment of grant applications

We will review your application against the eligibility criteria.

Your application will be considered through a non-competitive demand driven grant process with all applications to be submitted during the published opening and closing dates.

Once applications close we will assess the applications against the eligibility criteria.

We will provide advice to the decision maker on the eligibility of each application and the relief amount sought and recommended based on the formula described in 3.1.

DISR and DITRDCA may undertake due diligence checks to confirm information in your application is true and correct. This may include requesting additional information or clarification from you as well as from third party sources, including other Commonwealth agencies regarding aspects of your application.

7.2. Who will approve grants?

The decision maker who is an Assistant Secretary within DITRDCSA decides which grants to approve taking into account the availability of grant funds.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval (confirming your eligibility for the program)
- the grant funding to be awarded (eligible relief claim)
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The decision maker will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available for the program.

8. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing.

8.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

9. Successful grant applications

9.1. How we pay the grant

We will pay the grant relief payment as a one-off payment upon notification of successful application.

9.2. Grant Payments and GST

This is a grant relief payment program. We do not consider the relief payment under this program to be a supply meaning there is no taxable supply and GST is not payable on the grant. This is the case regardless of whether you are registered for GST or not.

GST does not apply to grant relief payments to government related entities.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on tax.

10. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant relief payment will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful grant relief payment on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).

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Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

11. How we monitor your grant activity

11.1. Keeping us informed

If you become aware of a change to your application details, you must contact us immediately.

11.2. Evaluation

DITRDSCSA will evaluate the grant program opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your grant relief payment for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by DISR during the application period. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

12.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager

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| [business.gov.au](#)

External and Assurance Branch
 Business Grants Hub
 Department of Industry, Science and Resources
 GPO Box 2013
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

12.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)² on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

12.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below.

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

² <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)³ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

12.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

³ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

- to our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

12.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.

Australian local government agency or body	An Australian local government agency or body is an entity established under state or territory local government legislation, for the purposes of governing local areas within state or territory. In the states, they are generally referred to as local councils.'
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
DISR	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
DITRDCA	The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant relief payment under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant.
eligible expenditure	The unsecured debt incurred by a grantee and which is eligible for a grant relief payment as set out in 5.1.
grant	For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial

	<p>assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> under which relevant money⁴ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single DITRDCA Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant relief payment.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Development.
personal information	Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:

⁴ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁵ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

	<p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
regional and remote airport	A regional or remote airport as defined in the ACCC Domestic Airline Competition Report August 2025
Rex Airlines regional business	Regional Express Holdings Limited ACN 099 547 270; Regional Express Pty Ltd ACN 101 325 642; Rex Investment Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 101 317 677.