

# GP Service Support Grant Applicant Guidelines

October 2022

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# GP Service Support Grant Guidelines

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Rural Workforce Agency NT (RWA NT) introduces the GP Service Support Grant, which offers non-government primary health care providers in the Northern Territory a grant to assist with recruitment of new General Practitioners (GP). Funding is available for up to ten thousand (\$10,000.00) (GST exclusive) to eligible organisations that meet the selection criteria outlined below.

## 2 PROGRAM SCOPE

Non-government or private primary health care organisations can apply for a once off, GP Service Support Grant maximum of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) (GST exclusive) to support with the costs associated with recruitment of GPs including:

- Costs associated with onboarding and orientation
- Supporting visa applications and processing
- Employer sponsorship
- Logistics support
- Relocation
- Recruitment of GP support staff
- Other costs directly relating to recruitment of GPs

**This grant must be expended by 30 June 2023. Extensions may be granted subject to continuation of the Rural Workforce Support Activity which is the funding that the Australian Government Department of Health provides to Rural Workforce Agencies in each state and the Northern Territory.**

## 3 ELIGIBILITY

**Primary health:** All primary health care services in the Northern Territory, excluding the public sector, are eligible to apply for the GP Service Support Grant. Primary health care services are those that provide health-related and/or clinical services as the first point of contact within a community for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of ill-health, and for ongoing management of chronic disease.

**Priority area:** GP Service Support Grants are awarded based on funding availability on a **one-off basis**. In-line with RWA NT's needs assessment findings, grants may also be prioritised against geographic priority areas i.e., organisations providing services to remote communities.

Eligible applicants must comply with requirements as set out within all applicable Territory and Commonwealth legislation and regulations. Eligible applicants must also have adequate insurance coverage (Workers Compensation Insurance relevant to Territory legislation, public liability insurance to an amount of not less than twenty million dollars per claim and professional indemnity insurance in an amount of not less than ten million dollars per claim).

#### 4 SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Applicants are required to complete the GP Service Support Grant online application form, addressing the selection criteria. The form can be found on the [NT PHN website](#). Funding is limited and applications will be open until funding is expended or until 30 June 2023. The RWA NT engagement team will assess grant applications against the selection criteria, and in-line with the strategic and geographical priorities of the RWA NT Health Workforce Needs Assessment.

##### **Selection Criteria**

The available funding for the NT GP Service Support Grant is limited, and therefore applications will be assessed and prioritised in line with defined criteria including:

- Organisational capacity to deliver the activities and expend funds by 30 June 2023
- Evidence of how the grant will support the direct recruitment of a new GP(s) or staff that support GPs to the service

Applications will be reviewed fortnightly. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome, and individual negotiations will take place with successful applicants on a case-by-case basis. Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should discuss their situation with their workforce consultant to determine if there are alternative avenues to access funding and/or other supports available. To contact the Recruitment Team – please email [recruitment@ntphn.org.au](mailto:recruitment@ntphn.org.au)

If the matter is not resolved, applicants can appeal to the health workforce manager to consider their case in consultation with the executive manager health workforce. The executive manager health workforce is the final arbiter for any appeal on the GP Service Support Grants.

Past performance will be considered for applicants previously in receipt of RWA NT/ NT PHN funding, and RWA NT reserves the right to request references to support the grant assessment process.

## 5 LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Grant Agreement committing to the agreed guidelines, budget, and reporting requirements.

## 6 REPORTING

Parties must keep receipts of expenses for a period of two (2) years. RWA NT may be required to verify appropriate use of grant funds in-line with legal and audit requirements

Applicants may be asked for informal interim updates throughout the period of the agreement.

## 7 KEY PRIORITY AREAS

RWA NT has undertaken a Health Workforce Needs Assessment to identify priority areas, both geographically and strategically pertaining to the primary health care workforce in the NT. Services that align with the development of these areas will be prioritised during the application assessment process. These priority areas are:

### Geographical Priorities

- All remote Aboriginal community-controlled health care services
- All Aboriginal community-controlled health services serving the Aboriginal populations in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Private Practices in remote locations MMM 6 and 7 – (Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy), growing outer regional areas (Dundee, Wagait Beach, Adelaide River and Batchelor) and Darwin urban fringe communities – Howard Springs, Humpty Doo, Weddell, Alligator

### Strategic Priorities

Priority Area 1: Develop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce – Clinical and Non-clinical

Priority Area 2: Develop pathways from selection and employment to retention

Priority Area 3: Attract, maintain, and retain existing workforce within the Northern Territory with consideration of gaps and emerging needs

Priority Area 4: Develop locally responsive, sustainable models of care

## 8 CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Primary health care providers (grantees) that receive a GP Service Support Grant will be obligated to:

- Hold and maintain required insurance
- Comply with the requirements as set out within all applicable Territory and Commonwealth legislation and regulations
- Only expend grant funding on approved activities as set out in section two (2)
- Implement the proposed activities as outlined in the application in an agreed timeframe
- Share updates on GP Service Support Grant funded activities progress as requested throughout the contract
- Advise RWA NT of roadblocks or limitations to the agreed activities outlined in the application timeline

## 9 RWA NT CONTACT DETAILS

Please submit all application forms to [recruitment@ntphn.org.au](mailto:recruitment@ntphn.org.au) and for further information please contact Barbara Hamilton – Health Workforce Consultant on 08 8982 1010

## 10 DEFINITIONS

**Primary health care:** services which provide health-related and/or clinical services as the first point of contact within a rural or remote community for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of ill-health, and for ongoing management of chronic disease.

**Exceptional circumstances:** any circumstances beyond the control of the grantee, which were not reasonably foreseeable by the grantee at the time they entered into the Grant Agreement, and which prevent that grantee from meeting their contractual obligations.