

News from the IOT RDO – Funding and finance opportunities

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About us

The [Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation \(IOT RDO\)](#) is one of 53 organisations located across Australia that are part of the national [Regional Development Australia \(RDA\)](#) network, funded by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA). The IOT RDO is funded to facilitate sustainable development in the region, and we are focussed on working with key regional stakeholders to assist the region to become investment ready. The IOT RDO advocates for and works towards the achievement of improvements in local and regional priorities that impact sustainable growth and development, and liveability, that can only be influenced at the macro level.

Funding opportunities

Growing Regions Program

The Australian Government has announced Round 1 of the new [Growing Regions Program](#). The program will drive regional economic prosperity by providing access to funding for community-focused infrastructure projects throughout rural and regional areas of Australia. Not-for-profit organisations and local government agencies or bodies are eligible to apply. Grants between \$500,000 and \$15 million to cover 50% or more of eligible expenditure will be available. The program will be delivered through a two-stage selection process. Entities must first submit an Expression of Interest at Stage 1 and if successful, will be invited to submit a full application at Stage 2. Stage 1 opens 5 July 2023 and closes 1 August 2023.

Regional Connectivity Program

In March 2023, the Australian Government announced Round 3 of the [Regional Connectivity Program](#). The program funds the delivery of place-based telecommunications infrastructure projects to improve digital connectivity across regional, rural and remote Australia. The closing date for applications is 11 August 2023.

Strengthening Rural Communities – Small & Vital

The Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal's [Strengthening Rural Communities- Small & Vital](#) program allows small remote, rural, and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly benefit local communities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for a range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that strengthen local people, places, and climate solutions. Applications for the current round are now open and close 31 August 2023

[Strengthening Rural Communities – Rebuilding Regional Communities Program](#)

The Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal's [Strengthening Rural Communities – Rebuilding Regional Communities](#) program provides grants for a broad range of community-led initiatives that assist communities to recover from and adapt to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is provided to support community-led initiatives that: enhance the process of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for remote, rural, and regional communities; reduce social isolation and foster stronger, more resilient remote, rural, and regional communities; and/or sustain local, regional, rural, and remote organisations and their work. The next round opens 1 June 2023 and closes 31 August 2023.

[Saluting their Service Commemorative Grants Program](#)

The [Saluting their Service Commemorative Grants Program](#) is designed to: preserve Australia's wartime heritage; involve people around the country in a wide range of projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations; and promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and the roles that those who served have played in shaping the nation. The closing dates for this program are 10 October 2023 and 6 February 2024.

[Business Improvement Grant](#)

The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands invites local businesses to apply for funding under the Business Improvement Grant. Grants of up to 50% of total project costs for up to a maximum grant amount of \$3000 are available. Contact the Shire on (08) 9162 6649 to request an application pack. Applications close 20 July 2023.

[Grants information for applicants](#)

[Advice for Grant Applicants Series](#)

The Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal has developed the [Advice for Grant Applicants](#) series of videos to help community groups access philanthropic funding. Topics include developing a project plan, preparing your budget, and writing your project application.

[Looking for a grant?](#)

Are you looking for a grant but are not sure where to start? For links to grant websites to get you started head to the [Grants section of the IOT RDO website](#).

[Grant checklist for businesses](#)

Do you want to apply for government funding or an assistance program to help your business conduct research, grow or recover? The Australian Government has developed [The Check](#) to help you determine if you are ready to apply for a grant. The Check will help you understand the grant application process and guide you through the steps you need to take to improve your chances of getting funding or assistance.

[Finance opportunities](#)

[Northern Australia Investment Facility \(NAIF\)](#)

Projects in the IOT are now eligible for finance from the [Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility \(NAIF\)](#). NAIF is an \$8 billion development financier that provides loans to infrastructure projects to benefit specific locations in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland and now the IOT.