2023 Grant Round Guidelines

auDA Foundation

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1.   Introduction

Background

.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) is the trusted administrator of the .au domain name system (DNS), a part of Australia's critical infrastructure, supporting more than 3.6 million .au domain names.

auDA has a proud history of community funding. The auDA Foundation, which is a registered charity, funds community grants and has distributed grant contributions of more than $4 million, supporting over 150 projects since 2006.

One of auDA's strategic objectives is investing to enable innovation and research by others. auDA aims to unlock positive social and economic value for Australians through an open, free, secure and global internet.

Significant digital innovation and transformation continues, post-pandemic, throughout Australia. As we work and live more online, auDA's efforts to champion access to an open, free, secure and global internet increase in importance, as do its efforts to foster both economic and social value for the communities it serves.

2023 Community Grants

These grants provide responsive, short term, grassroots funding designed to enable local community projects, and aim to improve the utility of the internet to benefit key groups in the Australian community.

The 2023 grant round will support the auDA Foundation's General Objects, detailed in Attachment A to these Guidelines.

2.   Priority focus areas

The 2023 grant round will provide funding for education, research activities, and community-based projects that enhance the utility of the internet. This is consistent with the General Objects of the auDA Foundation.

The 2023 grant round will focus on **digital inclusion** and **digital innovation** with an emphasis on the following five focus groups:

1. Rural, regional and remote Australians
2. Australians living with disability
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
4. Older Australians (65 years +)
5. Young Australians (12-24 years).

Definitions

The auDA Foundation uses the following working definitions:

Rural, regional and remote Australians

The term 'rural and remote' encompasses all areas outside Australia's Major cities. This definition also applies to regional areas.[1]

Australians living with disability

Disability is any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months. [2]

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

People who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, and are accepted as such in the communities in which they live or have lived.[3]

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[1] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2022). Rural & remote Australians. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/population-groups/rural-remote-australians/links-other-information.

[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2019). Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings. Retrieved from https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/latest-release#disability.

[3] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021). Profile of Indigenous Australians. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/profile-of-indigenous-australians.

Older Australians

Older Australians means people aged 65 years and over.[4]

Young Australians

Young Australians means youth aged 12-24 years.[5]

3.   Available funds and expenditure of money

Total funds available for the 2023 grant round are $600,000 AUD.

15 successful applicants will receive $40,000 each.

All grant money awarded to your project must be expended for the approved purposes of the project within the agreed calendar year period.

The grant period for the 2023 grant round is January 2024 to December 2024.

Once auDA has received a signed grant agreement, the funds will be released to you as the grantee, in full.

Unless agreed with auDA, any grant money unspent by you on the approved project by December 2024, will revert to the auDA Foundation.

4.   Eligibility

Please read these Guidelines before filling out an application to ensure your project is eligible. Eligibility criteria cannot be waived.

Applicants:

- Not-for-profit organisations, and research institutions including universities are eligible to apply;

- All entities/organisations must be registered in Australia under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law, such as a company, partnership or association.

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[4] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). Older Australians. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/older-people/older-australians/contents/summary.

[5] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2021). Australia's Youth. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-youth/contents/introduction.

- Past grantees are welcome to apply, however, organisations that auDA has not funded in the past 12 months will be preferred. A past grantee must have successfully acquitted their previous grant.

Project:

- The project must comply with relevant Australian laws, standards and guidelines;

- The project must benefit one or more of the five focus groups detailed in section 2 and meet the eligibility criteria of these Guidelines.

Additional requirements:

- As the grantee you must use the whole of the grant exclusively for the project as described in the application for the grant and not for any other purpose;

- The auDA Foundation grant must not account for 100 per cent of the cost of the project;

- To be successful as an applicant, you must make an in-kind or financial contribution to the project budget of at least 10 per cent of the total project cost;

- Your intended contribution must be specified in the application using the budget report template provided;

- Any extension of the completion date agreed in the grant agreement must be approved by auDA in writing;

- You as the grantee must advise auDA in writing of any significant changes to the project in a timely manner;

- All of the auDA Foundation grant money must be spent within Australia;

- The grant must be acquitted within two months of completion. The acquittal will provide evidence of the expenditure, outcomes and impact compared to the application;

- If you have not successfully acquitted a project's funding, you will not be eligible for future funding.

5.   Selection criteria

A panel will assess the applications and make grant recommendations to be endorsed via the Public Benefit Program Committee and approved by the auDA Board.

The panel will comprise external subject matter experts and auDA's Chief People and Culture Officer (and may also include some auDA staff).

auDA is committed to maintaining the integrity, legitimacy, impartiality and fairness of auDA processes.

The panel will assess all eligible proposals against the following criteria:

- Meets the General Objects of the auDA Foundation (at Attachment A);
- Addresses a demonstrated need in the Australian community in at least one of the five priority focus areas (outlined in section 2);
- Demonstrated support from stakeholders impacted by the project;
- Expected positive outcomes/impact for one or more of the defined priority groups;
- The applicant has capacity to successfully implement the project;

In addition, reviewers will rate all eligible proposals on the following attributes:
- Identified need and expected outputs, outcomes and impact
- Innovation
- Merit
- Accessibility
- Potential for sustainability.

6.   Projects that will not be supported

The auDA Foundation will not support the following types of projects or budgetary items:
- Projects that do not support the auDA Foundation's General Objects;
- Projects for a religious, political or sectarian purpose;
- For-profit organisations;

- The auDA Foundation does not fund ongoing service delivery but will consider applications for strategic expansions of existing programs or new/innovative additions to an existing project;

- The auDA Foundation does not fund projects retrospectively;

- Requests for sponsorship;

- Endowments, memorials or named academic chairs;

- Conferences;

- Projects where the primary focus is outside of Australia;

- The provision of funds for overseas travel;

- General fundraising appeals;

- General operational or administrative functions, including for example:
  - Firewalls
  - Secure transaction functionality
  - Online search functions
  - Intranet.

- Training proposals that provide generic IT training (such as introduction into social networking or trading websites) rather than focusing specifically on internet use that has a specific application relevant to the project;

- Website design (such as development of a new website or redesign of existing website) rather than focusing specifically on delivery of the project using the website;

- Applications that replicate research currently being undertaken on a commercial basis;

- Applications seeking IT equipment or the provision of IT equipment;

- Marketing or market research activities, even where that research is about website usage.

7. Application requirements

All applications must be submitted online using the auDA Foundation's Grant Management Platform: https://webportalapp.com/sp/audafoundation.

By applying, applicants agree to any grant application terms and conditions as notified by the auDA Foundation, and any relevant terms and conditions of the third party supplying the Grant Management Platform.

auDA will use the ACNC database to see an applicant's details where appropriate.

Please provide the following elements:

Project:

- Project description and executive summary;
- Project plan and timeline;
- Expected project outcomes and impact;
- Project budget.

Organisation documentation please provide:

- Most recent audited financials;
- Most recent annual report;
- List of current board members;
- ACNC link to your organisation where relevant.

Please note, you may submit more than one proposal. However, the grants assessment panel is unlikely to fund more than one proposal per applicant.

8. Grant conditions and reporting

- You as the grantee will sign a grant agreement provided by the auDA Foundation;
- The grant funding will be used exclusively for the project described in the application;
- The grant funding does not constitute a taxable supply of goods or services and will therefore not be subject to GST;
- The grants are gifts, and no material benefit will arise to the auDA Foundation from the acquittal of the grants provided;
- The funded projects should be completed within 12 months of the date of the signed grant agreement;
- In consultation with auDA, you as the grantee will acknowledge the assistance of the auDA Foundation in any published or displayed material as specified in the grant agreement. Please ask us about the planned acknowledgement. Where the auDA logo is being used, a digital copy will be provided;

- Similarly, as the grantee you will acknowledge that you received auDA Foundation funding in any project materials they publish, and they will make those project materials available to the public under a creative commons licence;

- As the grantee, you otherwise retain all intellectual property rights in all works produced by the grantee from the grant funds;

- You will provide a progress report on your project at the six-month mark (by 31 July 2024) and on completion at the 12-month milestone. The acquittal of the funds is due by 29 February 2025;

- If your project is less than 12 months, alternate dates will be agreed and in your grant agreement;

- Please submit reports via the auDA Foundation's Grant Management Platform. It is your responsibility to submit reports on time;

- If you do not acquit your grant on time, you will not be eligible for future funding;

- auDA may want a grantee to attend an event. Please make yourself available for these event(s).

9.   Timeline for announcement of 2023 funding

Below is a list of key dates for the 2023 grant round:

Applications Promoted	From Monday 4 September 2023
Applications Open	Monday 4 September 2023 at 8:00am AEST
Applications Close	Monday 2 October 2023 at 11:59pm AEST
Grant Recipients Finalised	December 2023 – January 2024
Interim Project Report Due	Before 31 July 2024, unless otherwise agreed
Final Project Report Due	Thursday 29 February 2025, unless otherwise agreed

10. Support

If support is required with your application, please contact us via email at info@audafoundation.org.au.

11.   Legal

auDA and the auDA Foundation reserves the right to amend these Guidelines at any time and solely at its discretion.

Successful applicants of the 2023 grant round will be required to execute a grant agreement with auDA.

auDA and third-party terms and conditions may apply to applicants of the 2023 grant round.

auDA will collect, hold, use and disclose the personal information of applicants in accordance with its Privacy Policy and in accordance with Australia's privacy laws and procedures.

Attachment A – General Objects of the auDA Foundation

For details, please reference The Trustee For auDA Foundation ACNC listing.

The General Objects of the auDA Foundation's Trust Deed are as follows:

Objects

General Objects

4.1.1 Subject to clause 4.1.2, the general objects of the Foundation are to provide money, property or benefits exclusively to promote and encourage education and research activities that will enhance the utility of the Internet for the benefit of the Australian community, including:

> *4.1.1.1 the provision of open scholarships and prize funds to encourage and reward academic and applied excellence;*

> *4.1.1.2 the funding of pure and applied research including academic positions and the publication of results for the benefit of the Australian community;*

> *4.1.1.3 the funding of community demonstration projects and the publication of results for the benefit of the Australian community; and*

> *4.1.1.4 the funding of public education and awareness initiatives through all relevant mediums and institutions.*