



BIG SISTER FOUNDATION

2014 Community Grants Program:

Supporting Women's Mental Health

About The Big Sister Foundation

The Big Sister Foundation has a long history of giving a helping hand to women in need.

Founded in 1928 by Minnie Gates and members of the Sydney branch of the National Council of Women, Big Sister's original purpose was to provide hostel accommodation and support for vulnerable single girls moving to Sydney from rural NSW.

With this demand decreasing after the war years, Big Sister transitioned to providing accommodation and care for the elderly in these same small hostels across Sydney.

In 1976 these hostels were consolidated into one facility, The Big Sister Hostel. This 75 bed aged care facility was built in Miranda, south of Sydney, and accommodated elderly women in need for the next 28 years.

Faced with changes in the aged care industry, Big Sister shifted focus in 2004 selling the hostel and moving from a primary service provider to a non-profit foundation.

With a renewed mission of bridging funding gaps in local community organisations, the Big Sister Foundation has made donations of over \$2.7m since 2005, assisting over 30 local community organisations achieve their goals.

Today the Big Sister Foundation continues its ongoing purpose of providing a helping hand to women in need.

The 2014 Community Grants Program seeks to assist community organisations delivering services in the Sutherland Shire and the immediate surrounding areas. Grants will be awarded for programs that support women (of any age, including teenagers) that are at high risk of mental health challenges, or those already experiencing a mental health challenge.

Program Guidelines

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To fund the gaps in community organisations that are directly supporting women in a position of hardship or crisis, and therefore at high risk of mental health challenges; or organisations supporting women with existing mental health challenges.

Community organisations will be operating services, or intend to operate services, predominantly in the Sutherland Shire and the immediate surrounding areas.

Funding will be considered for a wide range of projects that include, but are not limited to:

Programs for women who are in situations where their mental health is at high risk including those experiencing domestic violence, homelessness, family crisis, single parents or those with extensive carer responsibilities,

Support programs for women experiencing specific mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, suicide, post-natal depression, eating disorders, self-harm, depression, and anxiety.

It is expected that:

- Project ideas are developed in the interest of women
- Projects have a wide and ongoing community benefit

We encourage:

- Projects that are new and innovative, as well as existing and successful programs that are not currently offered in the Sutherland area

PROGRAM DATES

Program Opens – Monday September 1st, 2014

Submissions Close – Wednesday October 15th, 2014

Successful Grant Notifications – Friday 14th, November 2014

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding available for the 2014 Community Grants Program will total \$150,000.

You may apply for any amount of funds that you think you'll need to run your project. Grants will be made for both small and large projects.

If you apply for grant amounts over \$25,000 it is expected that there will be additional details available - e.g. on planning, consultation, community involvement and accountability.

HOW WILL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BE SELECTED?

A selection committee will allocate funding for projects. In order to make a more informed decision about applications the committee may decide to interview larger grant applicants.

The final decision will be made on the basis of the how well the application meets the selection criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The committee will be interested primarily in the aims of your project and what it will deliver to the community, rather than how flashy or sophisticated the application is.

Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

Applicants

1. Be a non-government, non-profit organisation (preferably with DGR status) working directly with women at high risk of mental health challenges or those who are experiencing mental health challenges.
2. Operating services in the Sutherland Shire and immediate surrounding areas, or aim to introduce new services into the area.

Projects that:

1. Have a wide and ongoing community benefit
2. Are developed specifically in the interest of women
3. Are not currently available in the local area, or don't have ongoing funding
4. Specify a commencement date or period
5. Can be implemented directly by the applicant organisation
6. Seek to raise awareness of mental health in the local community

WHAT CAN'T BE FUNDED

The Big Sister Foundation Community Grants Program **will not** fund the following:

- Individuals and individual medical treatment
- General fund raising appeals
- Deficit funding
- Donations to unspecified projects
- Projects that will rely on recurrent funding from The Big Sister Foundation
- On-going organisational overheads (e.g. rent, utilities etc.)
- Projects in which funding will contribute to promoting particular religious or political beliefs
- A project which duplicates an existing available service

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the application form and return via email to bigsisiterfoundation@bigpond.com by the deadline of 5:00pm AEST, Wednesday October 15th 2014.

You are invited to develop a submission answering the questions outlined on the application form no longer than 5 pages and to be submitted electronically using Microsoft word or PDF documents.

For questions throughout the application process please email bigsisiterfoundation@bigpond.com

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER I APPLY?

Big Sister will contact you via email to confirm we have received your application within 7 working days of the closing date.

Your application will be assessed by the selection committee, who may contact you for clarification, further information, or to request an interview (either by phone or in person).

Final decisions will be made by Friday 14th, November 2014 for applications.

Successful applicants will be notified by telephone and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email in the following week. There will be no right of appeal.

Successful applicants will receive a formal letter of offer, which will include a funding agreement to be completed and signed by the successful applicant and a witness, and returned to The Big Sister Foundation within 7 days.

Any personal details included in your application will remain confidential, and will be used only in accordance with Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth) and the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998 (NSW).

OTHER INFORMATION

Once you have completed your project, an acquittal report will be required stating that you have spent the money how you said you would, and recording the outcomes and community benefits of the program. This is to be returned to The Big Sister Foundation by the date specified in the applicant's funding agreement.

Please be aware that the information and materials you provide about your project at this stage may be used by The Big Sister Foundation for promotional purposes and to highlight successes of the project.

FAQ's:

1. May I apply on behalf of someone else?

An auspice organisation may apply on behalf of an organisation that will implement the project. Please supply a letter outlining DGR status, plus how the project fits within the overall mission and strategy of the auspice organisation.

2. What is the maximum amount of funding that I may apply for?

You may apply for the full grant allocation of \$150,000, however the selection process is very competitive and projects of all sizes are being considered.

3. Will a set number of projects be funded in this funding round?

No. However, the selection process is competitive and projects of all sizes are being considered.

4. If I have already started my project can I still apply for funding?

Yes, although you will not be reimbursed for expenditure already incurred.

5. May I apply for equipment costs?

Yes, if the equipment is required to complete the project.

6. What if I do not have all my budget details yet?

Please forward all the information you are able to obtain and make a note on the budget page that it may be revised. Then forward updated accurate information as soon as possible.

7. Who will decide if I get funding?

The Selection Committee will assess all applications. The Committee may seek to interview and/or obtain further details from applicants before the final funding decision.