



BIG SISTER FOUNDATION

2015 Community Grants Program:

Supporting Women and Families

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 2015 Community Grants Program seeks to assist community organisations delivering services in the St George area and the Sutherland Shire. Grants will be awarded for programs and services that support women (of any age, including teenagers) and families.

Program Guidelines

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To fund the gaps in community organisations that are directly supporting women and families.

Community organisations will be operating services, or intend to operate services, predominantly in the St George area and the Sutherland Shire.

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

1. Programs supporting women and families who are in situations where they are at high risk including those experiencing domestic violence and homelessness.
2. Programs that support women and families who are experiencing family crisis and hardship, including single parents and those with extensive carer responsibilities.
3. Support programs for women and families who are living with serious mental health conditions .
4. Programs that focus on prevention, early intervention, education and crisis support for all the above areas will be considered.

It is expected that:

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

We encourage:

- Projects that are new and innovative, as well as existing, evidence based-programs that are not currently offered in the St George and Sutherland areas
- Projects are evidence-based

This grant round will not cover funding for early childcare services or parenting programs.

PROGRAM DATES

Grant Program Opens – Monday August 3rd, 2015

Submissions Close – Friday September 18th , 2015

Successful Grant Notifications – Friday 30th, October 2015

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding available for the 2015 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 up to \$100,000.

HOW WILL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BE SELECTED?

A selection committee will allocate funding for projects. In order to make a more informed decision 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 criteria below.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicant organisations must be:

1. A non-government, non-profit organisation with DGR status, To be eligible to apply your organisation must be either an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1, or be specifically named as a DGR in Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA 97). If an organisation uses more than one name the grant application must be made in the name which holds the correct DGR status
2. Operating services in the St George, Sutherland Shire or immediate surrounding areas, or aim to introduce new services into these areas.
3. Working directly with women and families and Implementing the program directly

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.

Preference will be given to applications that address focal areas of:

1. Programs specifically dedicated to women and families
2. Are not currently available in the St George or Sutherland area, or don't have ongoing funding in 2016
3. Have a wide and ongoing community benefit
4. The applicant organisation has demonstrated capacity and capability to manage the program or similar programs.
5. The program is evidenced-based

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 or retrospective 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, Friday September 18th, 2015

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).

Successful grant applications will be notified via phone by Friday 30th, October 2015

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?

The grant application must be made in the organisation's name which holds the DGR status and must be implemented by this organisation

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

You may apply for an amount, the selection process is very competitive and projects of all sizes will be considered up to \$100,000.

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

No. 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.