

Round 6 Grant Funding

Supporting Local Council Startup Communities Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) V1

1. Why are you funding Local Councils?

LaunchVic's sixth funding round will focus on increasing diversity and inclusion by supporting local councils to improve access and participation in the startup ecosystem across Victoria. LaunchVic commissioned KPMG to develop a Startup Guide and Toolkit to help local councils and community organisations to drive entrepreneurship. This has been developed through consultation with key stakeholders across Victoria's ecosystem. The Guide aims to provide tools and resources to equip Local Councils to strategically support and develop their local startup communities. This funding program complements the Startup Guide and Toolkit providing councils with an opportunity to secure funding to implement programs and activities at a local level.

2. How many applications will be funded?

LaunchVic is seeking to invest up to \$100,000 per application. The number of applications that will be funded is dependent on the quality of applications received. Applicants will need to demonstrate the need for the proposed program through the completion of the Startup Ecosystem Checklist.

3. My proposed program doesn't fit the eligibility category, can I still apply?

LaunchVic is specifically looking to invest in Victorian Local Councils programs and activities that address stages 1 and 2 of the startup framework under this funding round. If you are not eligible to apply we recommend you sign-up to our newsletter to hear about future funding opportunities.

4. My Local Council is not outer metro or regional, can I still apply?

Yes, you can still apply and your application will be assessed on merit as per the outlined key assessment criteria. As part of our diversity and inclusion program, LaunchVic wishes to encourage regional and outer metro Local Councils to participate.

5. Can I have a phone conversation or meet with a LaunchVic team member to ask a few questions about the program and discuss my proposal?

LaunchVic is not offering calls or meetings for applicants under open grant funding programs based on our probity policy – operating under a fair and transparent process for all applicants. However, if anything is unclear in the program guidelines please contact us via this email address grants@launchvic.org and we can clarify any issues or register for an online information session.

6. Can two organisations lead an application, or can we nominate only one?

There can only be one lead applicant, you can enter details on the partners under the appropriate section in the application form.

7. Can a Local Council contract with a third party to deliver the program?

Yes, successful Local Councils will be able to contract a third party to deliver the program provided that the Local Council takes responsibility for managing the process and delivery of project. LaunchVic will contract the successful Local Council (not the third party) and Local Council will be required to fulfil all reporting and other requirements.

8. Is it possible to have more than one submission?

Applications must be led by one Local Council and each Council can only have one application. However, the same Council can be included in another application where they are not leading the application but a partner.

9. Over what time period will the grant support the program?

LaunchVic is seeking applications from Local Councils for 1 year programs. Applicants are required to propose a start and end date for the funded program, the announcement of successful applicants is due in April/May 2018.

10. I applied in a previous round and want to apply for round 6 – do I need to resubmit?

Any unsuccessful application submitted in a previous round may be resubmitted in Round 6, however applicants must use the LaunchVic online application system. Applications must be eligible and update the application as per the key assessment criteria to be assessed.

11. How do you define a Startup?

Please refer to page 8 of the Startup Guide and Toolkit.

12. What is a startup ecosystem?

The startup ecosystem is made up of founders, investors, startup teams, community organisations, corporates and government. Working together, we can collectively create a pipeline of successfully scaling startups that contribute to jobs and Gross Domestic Product.

13. Do you fund Startups?

LaunchVic invests in the infrastructure of the startup ecosystem that in turn supports startups and startup entrepreneurs in Victoria. Our role is to enhance competition, collaboration, and quality in the ecosystem, and advocate for the sector. Under this round, LaunchVic is specifically looking to invest in Victorian Local Councils to deliver programs and activities that address stages 1 and 2 of the startup framework to support startups and startup entrepreneurs in local communities.

14. What information will be required of the team members and their credentials and backgrounds?

Applicants are required to provide details on the key personnel (program management and delivery team members etc.) who will be involved in the program. Applicants are required to outline their roles and relevant experience. Please include LinkedIn profile links and/or website links.

15. Can LaunchVic outline what they feel success will look like for the programs?

We want to support programs that demonstrated increased support for local entrepreneurs and that grow the local startup ecosystem.

16. Are you going to run another open grant round?

In 2016, we received over 700 applications in Round 1 and Round 2 that included an array of ideas which contributed to our thinking during our strategy review in early 2017. We want to make sure we are best placed to provide more support to founders and investors, address any identified market failures inhibiting the growth of the startup ecosystem and meet our goals of:

- 1) Engaging the Victorian community in the startup ecosystem
- 2) Positioning Victoria as an internationally recognised startup ecosystem.

So, between 2017 – 2019 we plan on running a number of funding programs to achieve our goals.

17. What other funding programs are you planning on running?

LaunchVic will provide future funding opportunities, including grant rounds, for stakeholders to access funds to support programs that will grow the Victorian startup community. Funding opportunities will address specific needs in the ecosystem, such as increasing diversity and inclusion, supporting capability and excellence; and leveraging the key strengths of Victoria.

My question doesn't appear in the above, how can I seek help?

Please contact the LaunchVic Grants Team grants@launchvic.org We are a small team but we will do our best to get back to you within 1-2 business days!