

COMMUNITY Builders

Do you have a good idea for a community capacity building project in your local area? If so, you might be eligible to receive funding from Community Builders.

What is the Community Builders program?

Community Builders is a community strengthening and capacity building program. It has funds available on an annual basis for time-limited projects in particular regions of NSW. The program is funded by the NSW Department of Community Services.

Who can apply?

Non government not-for-profit organisations with an Australian Business Number and local councils can apply for funds. For-profit organisations can apply too if they have a separate not-for-profit arm of their business.

Where does Community Builders operate?

Community Builders is available in certain local government areas (LGAs) in the following DoCS regions:

- Hunter/Central Coast
- Illawarra
- Metro South West
- Metro West
- North Coast.

To find out if your LGA falls within one of these regions contact the relevant DoCS regional office (see overleaf).

How much funding can I apply for?

You can apply for a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 each year for between one and three years. You can only apply for funding for the same project in the same area once.



What types of projects can be funded?

Community Builders funds projects that aim to build strength and capacity within communities. Community Builders projects work within communities to enhance their capacity to deal with issues and respond to change. Direct service delivery to individuals or groups, or services/projects that are part of the work and responsibility of another government department can't be funded.

What should my project look like?

Your project will need to operate in an area covered by Community Builders.

You will need to identify the community that will be served by your project and, within that community select a priority group that will have an opportunity to participate in your project. The priority group will be a disadvantaged group, though the project will be open to everyone in your chosen community.

It is important that Community Builders projects are based on needs identified in your community. You will have to demonstrate that you have consulted within your community and that your project idea is both supported by, and needed within that community.

When will funding be available?

A funding round will open in the last quarter of each year and you should keep your eye on your local paper and on www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au for the official opening date.

Where can I get more information?

Please visit our interactive website of the same name at www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au where you will find information about this new program as well as other community capacity building initiatives. Or call your local regional DoCS office and ask to speak to the Manager Regional Strategy. Phone numbers for regional offices are below:

- Hunter/Central Coast - 02 4985 1424
- Illawarra - 02 4222 8442
- Metro South West - 02 9781 5565
- Metro West - 02 9354 1651
- North Coast - 02 6683 5696.

