



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Jobs Fund fact sheet

What is the Jobs Fund?

The Jobs Fund is a \$650 million Australian Government initiative to support and create jobs and increase skills through innovative projects that build community infrastructure and increase social capital in local communities across the country.

Through the Jobs Fund the Government will invest in one-off capital projects and provide seed funding for social enterprises. The Jobs Fund is a temporary resource. The aim of the Jobs Fund is to produce long-term improvements in communities affected by the global economic downturn.

The Jobs Fund has three streams:

- \$300 million for Local Jobs: funding will be available for community infrastructure projects with a focus on the promotion of environmentally-friendly technology and heritage. Of this stream, \$60 million has been specifically set aside for heritage-related projects and \$40 million for the construction of bike paths.
- \$200 million to Get Communities Working: seed capital will be available for self-sustaining projects which create jobs and provide activities and services to improve community amenity. Get Communities Working will provide funding for a diverse range of innovative employment and social projects.
- \$150 million for Infrastructure Employment Projects: will provide for investment in 'bricks and mortar' infrastructure projects which generate jobs in regions affected by the economic downturn. These infrastructure projects will include new and major renovations or refurbishments.

The Jobs Fund projects will focus on directly generating jobs for people in communities with already high unemployment levels, rising jobless rates or which are particularly vulnerable.

When will the Jobs Fund commence?

The Jobs Fund will commence on 1 July 2009. Projects will be funded until 30 June 2011. Projects which expect to exist beyond the two year funding period must demonstrate an alternative source of funds beyond June 2011.

Who can apply for funding?

Non-profit organisations, employment service providers, industry associations, unions, peak bodies, regional development agencies, industry associations, local, state and territory governments, and community organisations will be eligible to apply for funding.

What criteria will be used to select projects?

Job Fund projects will be selected based on the ability to:

- create jobs or retain people in jobs at risk due to the downturn;
- build skills for the future;
- build community infrastructure or improve community amenity which generates local jobs; or
- provide seed funding for social enterprises to start up or expand, generating jobs and improving community services.



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All projects must also meet the following three criteria:

- be in areas experiencing high unemployment, a significant rise in unemployment or vulnerability;
- be viable and ready to start; and
- be self-sufficient and/or not require Commonwealth funding beyond 30 June 2011, as funds will be limited to 2009-10 and 2010-11.

How and when do I apply for funding?

The Government will publish guidelines for the Jobs Fund in the coming months which will explain how organisations can submit project applications.