

Communities and Justice



Holiday Break Spring and Summer 2026-2027

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2026

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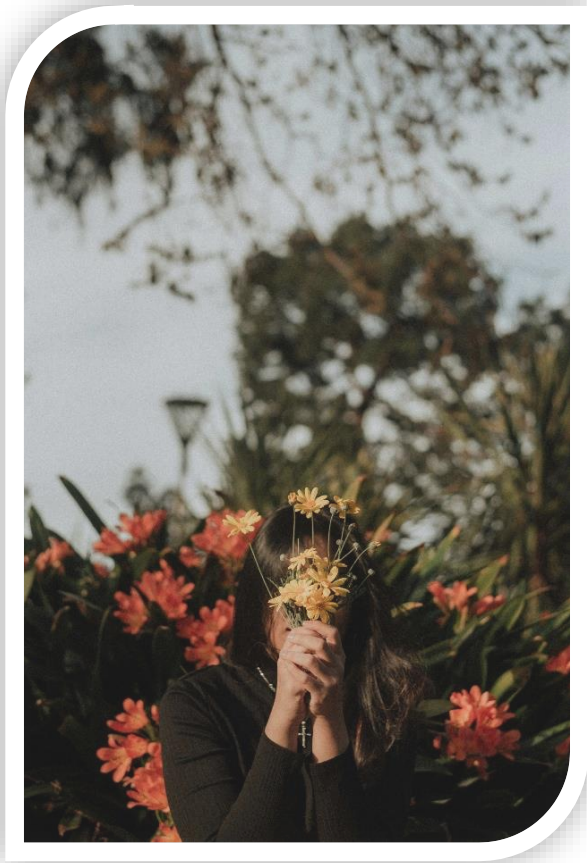
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1 Overview

These questions and answers have been developed to support your understanding of what is involved in the 2026/2027 Holiday Break Spring and Summer grant round.

Please read these in combination with the [Program Guidelines](#).



2 What is new in the Spring and Summer 2026/27 Holiday Break grants program?

There have been a number of changes to the Holiday Break grants program for this round. Key changes include but are not limited to:

	Previous Program (Autumn–Winter 2026)	New changes to Spring & Summer 2026–27
Program model	Single application with activities assigned to two distinct delivery periods (effectively two applications within one application if organisation is applying for both holiday periods)	Single application across two periods with more flexible project delivery and reporting
Assessment approach	Open, non-competitive, eligibility-based assessment	Open, competitive, eligibility and merit-based assessment process
Assessment framework	Emphasis on eligibility and priority cohorts as selection criteria	Streamlined criteria weighted framework aligned to objectives and outcomes
Program focus	Activity delivery and participation	Stronger focus on social connection, wellbeing and community belonging
Funding pool	Approx. \$685,352	\$650,000
Approved activities	Variation requests required if an activity needs to be moved from one period to another	Organisation has complete flexibility to move approved activities across holiday periods without seeking and awaiting variation requests.
Rural and remote delivery support	Travel loading \$3,000 per period focused on external suppliers travelling 180km or more to rural and remote LGAs.	\$2,000 per holiday period as rural and remote delivery subsidy. Flexible use, with broader range of costs allowed for rural and remote LGAs.
'Caps' on expenditure	Admin capped at 10%, Staff costs capped at 40%	Combined admin and staff costs for project coordination capped at 40%
Reporting model	Separate completion reports for each period	Progress report (Spring) + one final completion/acquittal (Summer)
Prioritisation	Primarily cohort-based	Broader prioritisation across regions, diversity of activities, reach and delivery spread
Geographic distribution	9 regional allocations applied	Maintains 9 regions and improves emphasis on distribution coverage and balance across 9 regions
Downstream recipients	Rules such as 80% of total grant value requested rule	Simplified definition and requirements

(This table must be read in conjunction with the program guidelines.)

3 Eligibility

To be eligible for the Holiday Break Spring and Summer 2026/27 funding, your organisation must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Program Guidelines.

Before starting your application, you should check that:

- your organisation is an eligible organisation type (for example, an incorporated community organisation; a not-for-profit organisation Aboriginal and Indigenous organisation or a Council and local government entity); and
- you will be able to provide all required supporting documentation

If you are unsure whether your organisation is eligible, you should carefully review the eligibility criteria in the Program Guidelines before applying. The Office for Youth cannot confirm eligibility for individual organisations or projects prior to assessment.

3.1 Can individuals or for-profit entities apply?

No, these organisation types are ineligible.

3.2 How many applications can I submit?

One application per organisation.

3.3 Do activities need to be in NSW?

Yes. Activities must be delivered in NSW for young people living in NSW.

3.4 Can I partner with another organisation to deliver my project?

Yes. Applicants can partner with a downstream recipient to support delivery of the project. A **downstream recipient** is another organisation that is engaged by the applicant to deliver the funded activities.

3.5 Are there any restrictions for downstream recipients?

Yes. A downstream recipient can only be listed once across all applications. An organisation cannot be both an applicant and a downstream recipient. If an organisation appears in multiple applications (as applicant or downstream), only the first submitted application will be considered.

3.6 Do I have to provide a detailed budget if I am partnering with a Downstream recipient?

Yes. As the applicant, you must ensure the downstream recipient provides you with a detailed, itemised budget for the activities they will deliver. This budget must also comply with the eligible costs and budget evidence for the program guidelines.

3.7 Do organisations need to comply with the National Redress Scheme?

Yes. Organisations must comply with the NSW National Redress Scheme sanctions policy to be eligible for funding. Applicants should ensure compliance before applying.

3.8 Can organisations with outstanding acquittals apply?

No. Organisations with outstanding acquittals with the Department of Communities and Justice or the Office for Youth are not eligible to apply. Ensure all outstanding acquittals are complete and submitted before applying. Delays in acquittal submission may affect your eligibility for this program.

4 Funding

4.1 How much can I apply for?

Between \$1,500 and \$10,000 per application.

4.2 Can I apply for both holiday periods?

Yes, in one application only.

4.3 Is there extra support for rural or remote areas?

Yes, the Travel Loading available in previous rounds has been replaced with a rural and remote subsidy of up to **\$2,000 per holiday period** for eligible locations. This is available to LGAs listed in Appendix B (at the end of this document and in the Program Guidelines). The rural and remote subsidy must be expended in the nominated holiday period.

4.4 Do activities need to be free?

Yes. All activities must be completely free for participants.

5 Activities and Costs

5.1 What types of activities are suitable?

Activities should be:

- Structured and supervised
- Safe and age-appropriate
- Engaging and meaningful

Examples may include workshops, sports, arts, recreation, or social programs.

5.2 What costs can be included?

- Venue and equipment hire
 - Project delivery expenses
 - Staff and facilitation
 - Transport for participants
 - Materials and promotion
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5.3 Are there limits on the included costs?

Yes. Combined administration costs must not exceed **40% of the total grant value**. This applies to the combined cost of project planning, coordination, travel/accommodation expenses for applicants/downstream recipients and external suppliers, and project management costs.

5.4 Can I claim costs for hiring equipment or facilities owned by my organisation?

No, hire of facilities and/or equipment owned by the applicant are ineligible projects costs.

6 Priority Groups

6.1 Do I need to target specific groups?

This is not required but strongly encouraged.

6.2 Which groups are prioritised?

- Aboriginal young people
 - Young people with disability
 - LGBTQIA+ young people
 - Young people from CALD or refugee backgrounds
 - Young people experiencing disadvantage
 - Young people at risk of engaging with the justice system or in detention centres
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7 Application Process

7.1 How do we apply?

Through the online SmartyGrants system.

7.2 What information is required?

- Project description
 - Delivery plan
 - Budget
 - Organisation and contact details
 - Supporting documentation
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7.3 Can we submit more than once?

No. Only the first submission will be assessed.

8 Assessment Process

8.1 How are applications assessed?

Applications are reviewed through:

1. Eligibility check
2. Merit assessment
3. Prioritisation
4. Final decision

8.2 What are we looking for during the assessment of applications?

Activities that align with program objectives and the young people they are intended for

- Strong community benefit
- Inclusion and accessibility
- High-quality activities
- Value for money

9 Outcomes and Feedback

9.1 Will we receive feedback if unsuccessful?

No. Individual feedback is not being provided due to high volume of applications.

9.2 Can we appeal the decision?

No. There is no appeals process.

10 Successful Grant Applicants

10.1 What happens next?

Successful applicants must:

- Sign a funding agreement within 2 weeks
- Deliver activities within the approved timeframe
- Meet all reporting requirements

10.2 Can we change our project?

Delivery of approved activities is flexible; however, activities relating to the rural and remote subsidy must be expended in the nominated holiday period. Example: if you receive rural and remote subsidy for two holiday periods, but deliver activities in one period only, you will be entitled to the subsidy for one period only and will need to return the additional subsidy offered.

Email grants@officeforyouth.nsw.gov.au if you require any changes and the team can advise if a formal variation is required. Failure to notify the Office of changes may result in a request for funds to be returned.

10.3 Do I have to get a parent's consent for all my activities with reference to Clause 17 in the Funding Agreement?

If you have undertaken a risk assessment and are confident that this risk is adequately mitigated, then your requirement for this clause can be considered met.

Your organisation (grantee) is responsible for conducting appropriate risk assessments and for complying with all applicable laws and legislative requirements; and recording how you are meeting the requirements.

11 Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants are required to submit reports via the SmartyGrants system in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

11.1 What reports are required?

Reporting requirements are as follows:

- Applicants approved to deliver activities across both the **Spring 2026 and Summer 2026–27** school holiday periods must submit a **Progress Report** following completion of Spring delivery. This report must outline activities delivered, participation outcomes and any risks to delivery.
 - Applicants delivering activities in the **Spring 2026 period only will not be required to submit a Progress Report.**
 - All successful applicants must submit a **Final Completion Report and Financial Acquittal** at the conclusion of the Summer 2026–27 school holiday period, or at the end of the final approved delivery period.
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11.2 What happens to unspent funds?

Any amount over \$250 must be returned unless approved otherwise.

11.3 How long must I keep financial records relating to the grant?

It is a requirement that all financial records related to grant expenditure and acquittal be retained by the organisation for seven years. If the committee changes, these documents must be forwarded to the new incoming committee

12 Support and Contact

12.1 Where can we get help?

- Holiday Break Program
- Email: grants@officeforyouth.nsw.gov.au

Helpful Tips

- Clearly align your project to program objectives
- Clearly demonstrate how your activities will support the young people (aged 12-24) you are targeting
- Show how you'll reduce barriers for young people
- Your activities must be free of charge and not open to children or adults
- Provide a realistic and detailed budget

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