

Centre of Excellence Fund

Fact Sheet 2021/2022

Overview

The NSW Government has committed \$150 million to support the development of integrated high-performance sporting facilities as part of the 2021-2022 State Budget. The Centre of Excellence Fund (the Fund) is a key sporting initiative of the Budget, aimed at improving talent pathways and community engagement for all sporting codes.

Centres of Excellence will feature multi-purpose facilities, enabling sports to bridge the gap between elite sport and the general community and expand their community programs and outcomes. The Fund will assist eligible organisations to develop integrated facilities that include high-performance training and administration areas to assist talent identification and development opportunities. The Fund focuses on infrastructure that delivers the best outcomes for the community and ensures that the best possible value for money is achieved.

Eligibility

To be considered eligible, the project must be submitted through the Office of Sport SmartyGrants website: sport.smartygrants.com.au/COEF-2021-22

Eligible applicants are:

- NSW Office of Sport recognised State Sporting Organisations and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (including National Sporting Organisations where the state body is part of a unitary governance model)
- National Sporting Organisations and National Sporting Organisations for People with Disability
- NSW Institute of Sport, Australian Sports Commission (incorporating the Australian Institute of Sport) and NSW Regional Academies of Sport
- Australian Universities with NSW campuses
- NSW Department of Education operated specialist sports high schools
- NSW based professional sporting organisations competing in a national or state competition
- NSW based sporting clubs and associations, with the approval of their state or national body
- NSW Local Government Authorities, the Unincorporated Far West Region and the Lord Howe Island Board
- Private enterprises (for-profit organisations).

Applications that adopt a partnership approach will be considered favourably. Applicants are encouraged to engage with all levels of government (i.e. federal, state, and local), State and National Sporting Organisations and Sporting Organisations for People with Disability, NSW based professional sporting organisations, and relevant peak sporting bodies in the development of their project.

Applications should be limited to constructing new or enhancing existing Centres of Excellence that maximise community engagement.

Centres of Excellence support athlete performance and wellbeing and typically include the following facility components:

- High performance training environments - indoor (e.g. strength and conditioning gymnasium and hard courts) and/or outdoor (e.g. natural turf playing fields).

Note - high performance training environments should comply with relevant national and international infrastructure standards/guidelines and support talent identification testing (e.g. indoor training environments being able to conduct physiological tests such as shuttle runs or 40 metre sprints) and performance analysis (e.g. multi-view and adaptable camera systems) among other capabilities.

- Aquatic and non-aquatic recovery facilities
- Athlete lounge and nutrition spaces, learning and wellness areas
- Education theatres and other meeting and multipurpose spaces
- Sports science laboratory and testing areas and medical facilities
- Athlete change and preparation areas
- Property and storage areas
- Administration and associated amenity areas.

Community engagement includes community participation and other supported activities that increase the use of the facility by community members. Examples of community engagement may include but are not limited to:

- Community outreach programs and workshops
- Development of new community partnerships
- Use of the facility for social participation programs

- Grassroots sporting workshops and camps
- Primary, secondary, and tertiary educational workshops.

Eligible projects must be on land within NSW and applicants must provide a signed letter of consent from any landowners for the project on the land on which the facility is to be developed.

Additional information also sought includes evidence of applicant's tenure and lease arrangements.

Applications should be limited to constructing new or enhancing existing Centres of Excellence that maximise community engagement and demonstrate enhanced inclusion of dedicated female programs and facilities to improve pathways for women and girls.

Further information on eligibility requirements is listed below in the eligibility screening assessment and are included in the Eligibility Checklist.

Important dates

The following indicative dates apply to this funding round.

Monday 1 November 2021 **Applications open**

1pm, Friday 11 February 2022 **Applications close**

March 2022 onwards **Outcomes advised**

March 2022 onwards **Funding agreements executed for successful projects**

Project construction is to commence by March 2023, and project construction is expected to be completed within two years of commencing.

The Office of Sport reserves the right to amend any of these dates during the Fund, at its absolute discretion.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible projects will be assessed against the Fund's objectives, aim and focus, and five assessment criteria. The Grant Assessment Panel will consider the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provided evidence.

Assessment

Eligibility screening

The Office of Sport conducts a preliminary assessment of all applications ensuring that the:

- Applicant organisation is an Eligible Applicant
- Project is an Eligible Project, it is a Centre of Excellence that that maximises community engagement and demonstrates enhanced inclusion of dedicated female programs and facilities to improve pathways for women and girls)
- Project is in an eligible location and landowner consent for the project has been provided
- Applicant has provided an ABN/ACN and/or Incorporation number and/or Indigenous Incorporation Number
- Grant request is a minimum of \$5 million and does not exceed \$15 million
- Applicant has provided evidence of a minimum 50 per cent financial co-contribution of the estimated total project cost or submitted a Hardship Form
- Applicant has provided a letter and/or funding agreement outlining the funding contribution(s) from project partner(s)
- Applicant has provided a letter of support from the relevant National/ State Sporting Organisation or State Sporting Organisation for People with Disability.
- Applicant has completed a NSW Government compliant business case (including any supporting evidence).

The Office of Sport will undertake an eligibility check on all grant applications and make recommendations to the Grant Assessment Panel on ineligible projects. The Grant Assessment Panel has final determination on eligible projects. Where an application is identified as ineligible then the Grant Assessment Panel may consider or set the application aside from further consideration, at its absolute discretion.

Criterion 1: Talent and development pathways

- Describe how the project will improve existing or deliver new talent pathway outcomes (i.e. assisting in athlete progression from pre-elite to elite and supporting the holistic development of the pre-elite athlete and their effective case management).
- Describe how the project will enhance or deliver new talent pathway outcomes for women and girls (i.e. dedicated female pathway programs improved through facility enhancements, welcoming environments and programs).
- Describe how the proposal will improve and/or support athlete welfare opportunities throughout talent and development pathways.
- Describe how the project will create new and/or foster existing strategic partnership(s) to deliver talent and development pathway outcomes.
- Describe how this project fits into your (and partner(s)) organisation's strategic plan and supports growth.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how this this project aligns to the aims, focus and objectives of this Fund and broader Office of Sport strategies.
Criterion 2: Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the proposed Centre of Excellence will meet the needs of and be accessible to community users in the facility’s catchment area. Provide detail of community profile, demonstrated need, key user groups and project beneficiaries. • Outline how the increase in community engagement will be enhanced as part of this project. • Attach a Facility Use Schedule that illustrates access opportunities. • Describe how the project will create new and/or foster existing strategic partnership(s) to deliver community engagement outcomes.
Criterion 3: Exemplary facilities that are inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the proposed scope of works. Include supporting documentation including a facility brief and concept, schematic, or detailed design plans. • Describe how the elements of the facility design and physical environment will specifically cater to female users (pathway athletes and/or community users) and how these changes were informed through consultation or evidence. • Explain how the project will lead to additional participation and program content/ scheduling for a range of user groups including women and girls, people with disability, First Nations peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (if applicable). • Describe how the project delivers a functional, flexible and future proof facility (i.e. multi-purpose and multi-use facility components). • Outline how the project has incorporated the design principles identified in the Fund guidelines (e.g. universal design principles and design for dignity). • Describe how the project will include environmentally sustainable and climate resilient materials, technologies and practices. • Explain how the project will include the Premier’s Priority - Greening our city and Greener public spaces. • Explain any placed-based planning showing the location of the project, if it is accessible, convenient, and connected (Connecting with Country and Designing with Country for priority user groups).
Criterion 4: Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a detailed budget including project costs and funding sources. The budget should clearly explain the project components that will be funded by the grant and the components to be funded by the applicant. • Provide details of the applicant’s capacity to fund and manage ongoing operations including routine and lifecycle maintenance costs. Provide evidence of approval for committed funding contribution(s). All applications are required to provide a minimum 50% financial co-contribution of the estimated total project cost. • Provide evidence of robust itemised cost planning.
Criterion 5: Project deliverability and applicant capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the capacity to deliver the project through robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management. • Outline any partnership model(s) (including asset management) that would be established or continued to deliver the project (e.g. joint use agreements). • Provide evidence of the ability to commence project governance (e.g. establishment and operation of a project control group to oversee the delivery of the project) and planning activities (e.g. activities associated with submitting a Development Application) within three months of the execution date of the funding agreement. • Provide a detailed project plan that illustrates key project tasks and milestones and forecast delivery timeline. Demonstrate proven experience in delivering similar size projects. This should consider the applicant’s proposed project management resources and any specialist external resources to be engaged to deliver the project. • List any assumptions, constraints, risks and dependencies in delivering the project. • Provide details on how the project will contribute to economic employment opportunities (estimated number of direct and indirect FTE and PTE positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o job creation during design and construction (e.g. design team, project managers, contractors and supply chain opportunities including materials and maintenance), and o job creation during operation (e.g. facility managers and other economic benefits such as hosting future events that provide a visitor economy benefit).

How to apply

Follow the steps below to submit your applications. To be considered eligible, the application must be submitted through the [Office of Sport SmartyGrants website](#).



Step 1 Check your eligibility

- Before you apply please read the guidelines and related materials including the 2021/2022 application checklist to make sure you understand all relevant requirements.
- You can find the relevant information at sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/centre-of-excellence-fund



Step 2 Prepare your application

- Applying for the Centre of Excellence Fund is a simple process using the [SmartyGrants platform](#).
- Eligible applicants must prepare a detailed business case in line with NSW Government Business Case Guidelines that includes a case for change, cost benefit analysis, financial analysis, commercial analysis and management analysis. The complexity and the size of the business case should be proportional to the scope, value and complexity of the project.
A business case template is available at sport.nsw.gov.au/centre-of-excellence-fund. Applicants are permitted to use their own format given it follows the same structure as the business case template.
- Eligible applicants must complete the

online application form via the [Office of Sport SmartyGrants](#) page by 1pm, Friday 11 February 2022.

- The Office for Sport suggests that it's good practice to complete the application in SmartyGrants prior to the closing time. The applicant is responsible for ensuring they have adequate technical capability, including sufficient bandwidth, to complete the application in SmartyGrants.



Step 3 Submit your application

- Visit sport.smartygrants.com.au/COEF-2021-22
- Complete the application by filling in each of the sections (including completing a business case and providing supporting documentation).
- Submit the application by the closing date/time of 1pm, Friday 11 February 2022.
- If it is clear that for some unforeseen reason you are not able to lodge your application on time, you must contact the Office of Sport at the earliest possible time and within one hour of the closing date/time.
- A late application will only be considered where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process. The final determination on whether a late application will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by a probity advisor.

For more information

Successful applicants will be required to accept the Fund's Terms and Conditions including: Questions about the Fund can be emailed to infrastructuregrants@sport.nsw.gov.au or visit www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/centre-of-excellence-fund