

OFFICE OF SPORT



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FUND 2021/2022

INFORMATION SESSION

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Office of Sport acknowledges the Aboriginal people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pays respect to our Aboriginal Elders – past, present and emerging.

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FUND 2021/22 - ROUND ONE

Fund Amount and Funding Availability:

- ▶ The NSW Government has committed \$150 million to the Centre of Excellence Fund over two-years.
- ▶ The NSW Government is allocating up to \$75 million in 2021/2022 (Round One).
- ▶ The grant amount requested must be a minimum of \$5 million and cannot exceed \$15 million.

Opening and Closing Dates:

- ▶ Applications opened on Monday 1 November 2021.
- ▶ Applications close at **1.00pm, Friday 11 February 2022.**

All projects must commence construction by March 2023 and be completed within two years of the construction commencement date.

WHAT IS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

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

Note: High performance training environments should comply with relevant national/international infrastructure standards/guidelines and support talent identification testing





ENSURING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement includes community participation and other supported activities that increase the use of the facility by community members. Some examples include:

- ▶ 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.



FUND AIM AND FOCUS

Aim:

- ▶ The Fund aims to improve talent identification and development pathways, especially for female athletes and community engagement for sporting codes through the provision of integrated high-performance training, administration and community facilities.

Focus:

- ▶ The Fund's focus is on creating functional, flexible and future proof facilities that are inclusive and meet the needs of all user groups including women and girls, people with disability, First Nations peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- ▶ The Fund seeks to establish innovative high-performance infrastructure that creates new/or enhances existing partnerships that maximise utilisation and achieve sustainable operating outcomes.
- ▶ The NSW Government is seeking applications that focus on the highest standards of design.

FUND OBJECTIVES

Primary Objectives

- ▶ Provide elite performance sport infrastructure
- ▶ Support talent identification and development pathways (i.e. athletes moving from pre-elite to elite)
- ▶ Support the enhancement of dedicated female programs and facilities to improve pathways for women and girls, in line with the NSW Government's women in sport strategy Her Sport Her Way
- ▶ Improve the level of community engagement e.g. an increase in the number of community health and wellbeing education workshops held at a Centre of Excellence.

Secondary Objectives

- ▶ Create multi-purpose and multi-use facility components
- ▶ Create inclusive facilities that meet the needs of females, people with disability, First Nations peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- ▶ Establish a diversified funding model
- ▶ Improve operational sustainability
- ▶ Promote and incorporate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency into design, construction and operation
- ▶ Promote innovation in sports science, sports medicine and technology
- ▶ Promote partnerships that maximise outcomes.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- ▶ 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).



OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Applicant has 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 (e.g. if an applicant's estimated total project cost is \$30 million, they must demonstrate at least a \$15 million co-contribution) 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.
- ▶ Project is a Centre of Excellence. For a list of **eligible** projects and **ineligible** projects and project components please refer to the relevant Program Guidelines:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/centre-of-excellence-fund>



KEY POINTS

- ▶ 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 and community engagement for women and girls.
- ▶ Grant request is a minimum of \$5 million and does not exceed \$15 million. Evidence of a minimum 50 per cent financial co-contribution of the estimated total project cost is required. Hardship Forms are available.
- ▶ A statement of support from the relevant State/National Sporting Organisation is required.

- ▶ Projects must meet the eligibility criteria and address the Fund's aim, focus, objectives and merit assessment criteria and be supported by evidence.
- ▶ Applications must be submitted by the closing date/time in SmartyGrants. A NSW Government compliant business case must be uploaded as part of the application. The complexity and the size of the business case should be proportional to the scope, value and complexity of the project.

Projects must be able to commence construction by March 2023 and must be completed within two years of commencing construction (before March 2025).



SMARTYGRANTS

- ▶ Office of Sport has moved to a new online grant portal powered by SmartyGrants.
- ▶ The online system is user friendly, registration is simple, and the completion of online applications is supported by instructions and hints.
- ▶ Please visit <https://sport.smartygrants.com.au/COEF-2021-22> and allow yourself time to familiarise yourself with this new portal.
- ▶ As applications are now open, you can download a preview application form from the SmartyGrants website prior to commencing your application.
- ▶ Please note that you must complete the SmartyGrants application form that includes uploading a completed NSW Government compliant business case as part of the SmartyGrants application process.

APPLICATION PROCESS



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 <https://www.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: <https://sport.smartygrants.com.au/COEF-2021-22>
- ▶ You can download a preview copy of the application form from the SmartyGrants website prior to commencing your application. You must prepare a detailed business case in line with NSW Government Business Case Guidelines. A Business Case Template is available on the Fund web page.



Step 3 Submit your application

- ▶ Complete the application by filling in each of the sections (including completing a business case and providing supporting documentation).
- ▶ Submit the application (including all supporting documents) by **1pm, Friday 11 February 2022.**



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS

All applications will undergo an initial eligibility check.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the Fund's objectives, focus, and aim and the following assessment criteria:

- ▶ Talent and development pathways
- ▶ Community engagement
- ▶ Exemplary facilities that are inclusive
- ▶ Value for money
- ▶ Project deliverability and applicant capability.

The eligibility and assessment criteria are detailed in the Guidelines and relevant Fund Fact Sheet, which is available on the web page. An eligibility checklist is also available on the web page.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Documents are available on the [Centre of Excellence Fund web page](#) to assist with your application. They include:

- ▶ Program Guidelines
- ▶ Fact Sheet
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Eligibility Checklist
- ▶ State/National Sporting Organisation Statement of Support Form
- ▶ Facility Usage Schedule
- ▶ Hardship Form
- ▶ Business Case template
- ▶ Funding Agreement template.

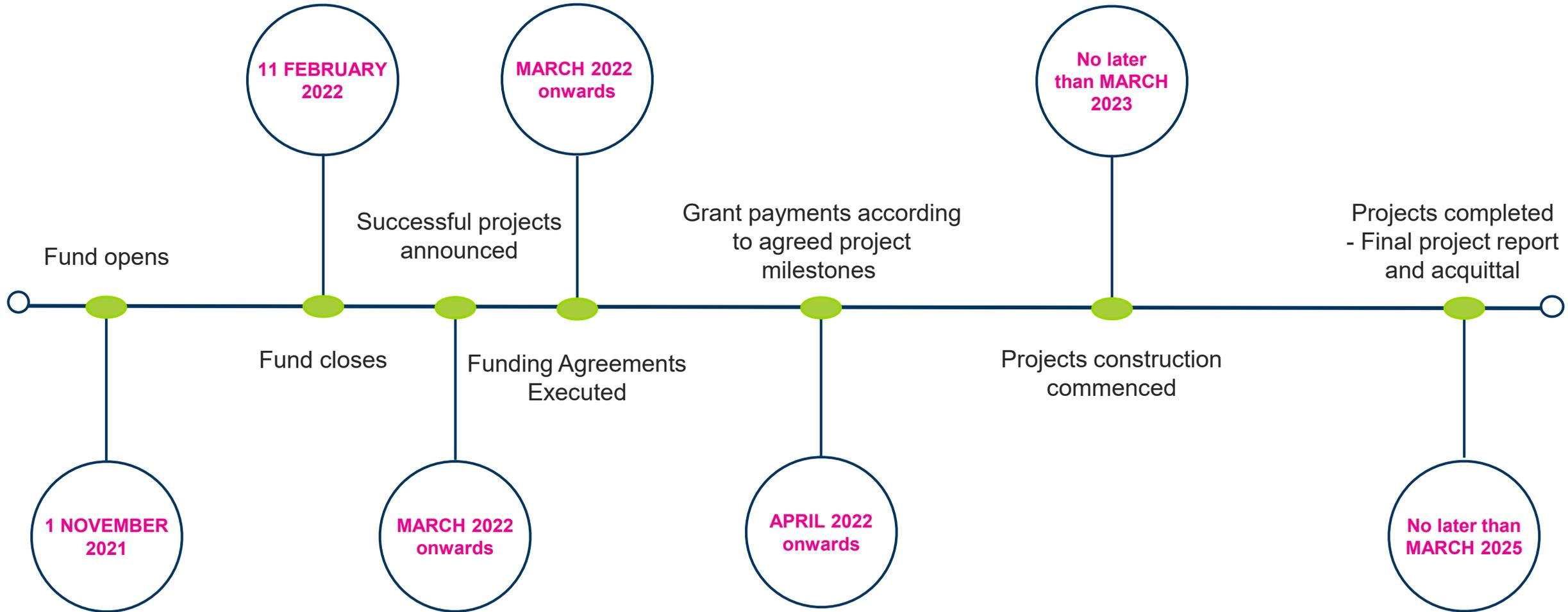




SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Please call our friendly team on:
13 13 02
or email us at:
infrastructuregrants@sport.nsw.gov.au
for any questions or assistance

INDICATIVE TIMELINE



QUESTIONS

The Office of Sport has received some early questions regarding the Fund.

Can eligible applicants submit more than one application?

Yes. Applicants can submit up to three applications, with each requesting up to a maximum of \$15 million per round. It is up to the applicant if they would like to advise project priorities. Priorities can be indicated in the application form. As part of the assessment process projects will then be assessed in line with the Guidelines.

Can an existing Centre of Excellence project apply for funding?

Yes, however, only where project delivery has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or significant new and additional scope is to be delivered.

QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Can the co-contribution be in kind, such as discounts or labour contributions?

No. The co-contribution must be a financial contribution.

Can funding be used to buy back private equity in an existing facility or used to purchase land for the project?

No. The Fund aims to support the capital construction cost of a project.

Can the source of the financial co-contribution be another NSW or Federal Government agency?

Yes.

QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Does a National/State Sporting Organisation (NSO/SSO) Statement of Support need to be included for all projects?

Yes. All projects must have a letter of support from the relevant NSO/SSO. Where the facility provides for a number of sports, a letter from each NSO/SSO is required. Where a letter of support has not been provided, the Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend to the Grant Assessment Panel to set the application aside from further consideration, at its absolute discretion.

Letters of support that demonstrate project need can also be provided by MPs, councils, National/State and local sporting clubs and associations, schools and community groups where available.

Do you have to have Development Application approval prior to submitting the application?

No. While projects that have Development Application approval (where applicable) are encouraged, the Office of Sport recognises that many projects will be in the preliminary planning phase and reliant on confirmation of project funding before submitting a Development Application. Applicants should clearly outline the activities associated with obtaining planning approval (e.g. Development Application or Complying Development Certificate) and the estimated project timeline.

QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Can you package up projects across multiple sites?

No. For example, providing a new gymnasium at one site, playing field upgrades at another and new amenities at a third site will not be eligible. Packaged up projects will only be accepted if integrated Centres of Excellence that include multiple facility components are proposed to be delivered within a sporting precinct.

What are some examples of community engagement?

Community engagement includes community participation and other supported activities that increase the use of the facility by community members. Some examples include:

- ▶ 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.



QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Where can I find further information on the Her Sport Her Way Strategy?

The Office of Sport's Women in Sport Strategy, Her Sport Her Way (2019-2023) aims to build a stronger sport sector where women and girls are valued, recognised and have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate. It provides a clear role for the NSW Government to work with the sector and new partners in innovative ways to shape the future of women's sport. Please visit:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/hersportheway>

THANK YOU

Enquiries

infrastructuregrants@sport.nsw.gov.au

13 13 02

