



Aboriginal Business Round – with Clean Energy Incentive 2025-26

Local Capability Fund Frequently Asked Questions 2025-26

General questions

How do I prepare and submit my application?

Complete the online application form and upload the required supporting documents via the SmartyGrants portal: lcf.smartygrants.com.au

I am having difficulty using SmartyGrants, what can I do?

If you encounter technical issues, please contact the Department as early as possible at lcf@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

Can someone from the Department help me with my application?

The Department can provide general advice and support with using SmartyGrants, and can also advise on whether your business and proposed activities may be considered eligible. However, we cannot assist with drafting or reviewing your application content to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation process.

I won't be able to get my application submitted on time, can I request an extension?

No. Applications must be submitted before 3pm AWST on 4 September 2025. Extensions are not possible under any circumstances.

When will I be notified of the outcome?

It is expected that applicants will be notified via email within 14 weeks of the round closing.

Funding and Activities

How much funding is available?

Applicants can apply for up to \$50,000, covering 75% of eligible project costs (excluding GST).

Can my claim differ from what was originally quoted?

Yes. The actual costs of your project can be higher or lower than the quotes provided in your application. However, the approved grant amount will not change. The Department will reimburse 75% of the final eligible costs, up to the maximum approved amount. If your costs are lower, your grant payment will be reduced accordingly. If your costs are higher, the additional amount will need to be covered by you.

Can I include GST in my grant claim?

No. GST is not covered by the grant and must be paid by the applicant.

Can I apply for multiple projects in one application?

It is recommended to focus your application on a single, clearly defined project. This helps ensure clarity and stronger alignment with the assessment criteria. If you include multiple

unrelated projects, you will need to address each one separately throughout the application, including the eligibility, relevance, outcomes, and budget sections.

Given the word limits in the application form, this can be difficult to do effectively. You will also need to convince the panel that the projects are sufficiently linked and contribute to the same overall outcome - otherwise, the strength of your application may be reduced.

The business has recently purchased new equipment. Can the business apply for funding for this?

No. Costs incurred before the application is submitted are ineligible for funding.

Can I start the project before my application is approved?

Yes, you can start the project after you have submitted your application, but before receiving an approval notification, at your own risk. If your application is unsuccessful, you will not be reimbursed for any costs incurred.

However, any project activity that takes place before the application submission date is not eligible for funding under any circumstances.

Applicant Eligibility

Who can apply?

Applicants must be at least 50% Aboriginal-owned, based in WA, registered for GST and with an ABN, and have been actively operating for at least 12 months prior to submitting the application. See the guidelines for additional requirements.

Can a not-for-profit apply?

Yes, only if it is an incorporated Aboriginal Corporation operating as a commercial enterprise.

Can new businesses or start-ups apply?

No. Businesses must have operated in WA for at least 12 months.

What if my ABN is older but the business activity is new?

Eligibility is based on the current business activity being operational for at least 12 months, regardless of ABN registration date.

This year the business acquired another business and has since restructured. Does the business meet the minimum trading time requirements for eligibility?

The business would need to demonstrate that the acquired business operated in Western Australia for at least 12 months prior to application submission and provide evidence of this e.g. ASIC registrations.

The business is headquartered in another Australian state or territory, but it has contractors that work in Western Australia, is the business eligible for funding?

No, the principal place of business must be in Western Australia and the business must continue to operate out of Western Australia for the next 12 months following application submission.

The business was successful in obtaining funding for a previous LCF round, can I apply for other LCF rounds?

Yes, you may apply for one round in a financial year, provided you have already claimed any funding awarded in previous years and are up to date with all reporting requirements (i.e. no overdue reports).

If the activities I'm requesting in this round would put me over the \$200,000 funding limit, can I still apply?

Yes. You are eligible to apply if your total LCF funding received in the last five years at the time of application submission is less than \$200,000. If your application is successful and the new grant amount takes you over the cap, the Department may still approve the funding

Can I apply for more than one LCF round?

No, you cannot apply for multiple LCF rounds in the same financial year.

Does my business need to be in the clean energy sector?

No, but if your project supports the clean energy supply chain, you may receive a 10% assessment score boost.

Project Eligibility

What kinds of activities are eligible?

Examples include expert advice, business systems upgrades, training, and capital equipment purchases. See the guidelines for full details.

What activities are ineligible?

In-house wages, retrospective purchases, and non-specialised motor vehicles are ineligible. See the guidelines for more examples.

Can I apply to purchase second-hand equipment?

Yes, but only if purchased through a dealer. Private sales are not eligible.

Can I apply for a motor vehicle?

Only specialised motor vehicles used exclusively for business are eligible (e.g. bobcats, forklifts). Standard vehicles such as SUVs, utes, Hiluxes, vans and 4WDs are not eligible under any circumstances, even if used for business.

Can I apply for research or training delivered in-house?

No. All activities must be delivered by third parties at arm's length.

Is there any additional consideration given to clean energy-related projects?

Yes. Projects that are clearly aligned with clean energy outcomes may receive a 10% score weighting during assessment. This could include projects focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable materials, or technologies that reduce environmental impact. Applicants should clearly describe the clean energy relevance of their project in their application.

What is considered part of the clean energy supply chain?

This may include:

- Supporting infrastructure, such as transmission lines, substations or EV charging stations
- Upgrading facilities or purchasing equipment to enable participation in clean energy supply chains
- Providing professional or technical services to clean energy projects (e.g. engineering, environmental advice, project management)
- Transporting or assembling clean energy equipment or materials
- Manufacturing or supplying components for solar panels, wind turbines, hydrogen or battery systems

See Appendix 3 of the guidelines for further details and examples.

Grant Payments and Completion

How do I receive the grant payment?

The LCF operates as a reimbursement scheme. Businesses must pay for the approved activity first, then submit a claim through SmartyGrants before the claim expiry date in the FAA. A lump sum payment will be made as a single reimbursement of approved activity expenditure.

Can I get paid upfront?

No. All payments are made in arrears.

When do I need to complete the project?

All project activities must be completed, and final claims submitted, by 30 June 2026.

Other

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Please email lcf@jtsi.wa.gov.au for further information or support