



Standards Compliance Round 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. Extensions are not given under any circumstances.

How much funding is available?

The level of funding support available under this round is 50% of eligible costs (excluding GST) of up to a maximum of \$20,000 per successful applicant.

When is the closing date for applications?

There is no set closing date for this round.

Applications will be accepted whilst funds are available or until 4 September 2025, whichever event comes first. Applications will be progressively assessed as they are received until the funding has been exhausted.

How will the applications be assessed?

Applications are assessed by a panel comprising officers from within the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (the Department). External officers may form part of the evaluation panel if their expertise is required.

When will the round outcomes be announced?

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

If my project is unsuccessful, will I receive feedback on why?

If you are notified that your application has been unsuccessful, we encourage you to contact the Department for feedback.

I have submitted an application, can the business fund the requested activity now, prior to being notified as to the outcome of my application?

Yes, however the business will wear the risk of funding the entire activity if the application is

ultimately deemed unsuccessful. It would be prudent to wait until you are notified of the outcome of your application prior to incurring activity expenditure.

Applicant Eligibility

Can a not-for-profit apply?

No, not-for-profit organisations and charities are ineligible. The business must be a for-profit organisation or an incorporated not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation operating as a commercial enterprise.

Can new businesses or start-ups apply?

No. The business must have been actively operating in Western Australia for at least 3 years prior to submitting the application.

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 3 years 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.

Project Eligibility

Which standards are eligible for funding?

Funding under this Round is restricted to the following seven specific standards:

- ISO 9001 - Quality management standards to help work more efficiently and reduce product failures;
- ISO 14001 - Environmental management standard to help reduce environmental impacts, reduce waste and be more sustainable;
- ISO 45001 - Health and safety standards to help reduce accidents in the workplace;
- ISO 27001 - IT security standards to help keep sensitive information secure;
- ISO 50001 - Energy management standards to help reduce energy consumption;
- AS/NZS 5131 - Steel industry compliance standards to help improve the integrity of structural steelwork; and

- ISO 13485:2016 – Medical devices – Quality management systems – requirements for regulatory purposes.

Can I submit a funding request for any in-house research or training done in the business?

No, in-house training or research is ineligible. All activities must be carried out by third parties that are perceived by the Department to be at arm's length from the business.

Are all costs associated with certification eligible?

No. Only costs associated with the initial certification of one of the seven eligible standards are eligible. Costs for surveillance audits, recertification, or ongoing maintenance of the standard are not eligible.

How do I receive payment for the approved activity?

The LCF is a reimbursement scheme. The business must pay for the activity first, then request payment for that activity via the SmartyGrants portal 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 receive payment of the grant in advance?

No. As this is a reimbursement scheme, payment of the grant will only occur once the business has paid for the activity.

Grant payments and project completion:

How do I receive payment for the approved activity?

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 receive payment of the grant in advance?

No. As this is a reimbursement scheme, payment of the grant will only occur once the business has paid for the activity.

How long does the business have to complete the activity?

The activity must be completed and all claims submitted to the Department by 3pm (AWST) on 30 June 2026.

What happens if not all of the activities are completed by 30 June 2026? i.e. The accreditation has two stages and the final stage is still ongoing.

In circumstances where the business has not been able to complete stage 2 due to circumstances outside of their control, the Department will consider granting an extension by doing a formal variation to the Financial Assistance Agreement signed by both parties. Extensions can be requested by sending an email to lcf@jtsi.wa.gov.au. If an extension has not been requested and executed by the claim expiry date in the FAA, the grant approval will lapse and the agreement terminated. Extensions must be formally requested via email before the claim expiry date. The FAA will lapse if an extension is not approved in time.

Who can I contact if I have any other questions?

If you have questions about the LCF, please contact: lcf@jtsi.wa.gov.au