

## Frequently asked questions

The objective of this Program is to support initiatives run by business chambers and trader groups that:

- Enable local business collaboration
- Help members access support, including Victorian Government supports; and
- Help members transition into recovery and restart.

With some businesses struggling to pay membership fees because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, these grants will help business chambers and trader groups run projects to support local businesses to survive and transition to COVID Normal.

Local chambers of commerce and trader groups play a critical leadership role in their local communities, bringing businesses together and empowering them with advice, connections and resources. These groups offer businesses the opportunity to jointly market to their local community and pool resources to reduce their individual costs.

Funding is allocated via a two-step process. Business chambers and trader groups submit a preliminary application form on the Business Vic website. After a preliminary assessment, eligible applicants will be invited to provide a detailed project proposal.

An assessment panel will assess all applications against the following criteria:

- How well the project supports the objectives of the program
- How well the project supports the applicant's members through the current coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and in preparing for economic recovery
- The capacity or capability of the applicant to successfully implement the project
- Why the project needs government support to proceed.

This program supports business chamber and trader groups of all sizes. When determining the size of the organisation, DJPR may take into consideration factors such as membership size, number of employees, the catchment area of the group and the strategic importance of the organisation to the local economy.

The Department reserves the right to determine the allocation of the grant value provided to successful applicants.

Grant funds must be used to support their members' survival and recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Examples of this are activities such as:

- Boosting access and knowledge of the Victorian Government's coronavirus (COVID-19) business recovery information, programs and services
- Supporting and encouraging local business collaboration activities to help members adapt their businesses to the new COVID Normal
- Running a 'Buy local' campaign
- Upgrading the chamber's digital channels
- Undertaking local activities to support local businesses' resilience and recovery.

These examples are not exhaustive. Groups are encouraged to submit a proposal which address the needs of their local business community.