Regional Job Creation Fund

Please read the
[Regional Job Creation Fund Program Guidelines](#) **for information on the program.**

When an applicant is invited to submit a detailed application (in stage 2 of the application process), they will be paired with a local Business Development Manager from the Department of Regional NSW, who can provide guidance with the application process.

Applicants are strongly advised to consult with their Business Development Manager when developing applications.

Frequently asked questions

What is an engine industry?

An industry driving growth in a regional economy. Typically, engine industries produce goods or services traded outside of their specific region.

What is an emerging engine industry?

An industry that is not a significant driver of growth but has employment rates increasing faster than surrounding industries in the region and/or has high potential to drive future growth.

What is an enabling industry?

An industry providing specialised inputs to engine industries, for example vocational education, specialised maintenance, and repair and utilities.

Where can I find a description of an engine, emerging engine or enabling industry in my project location?

Engine and enabling industries, and emerging sectors, are listed in the relevant Regional Economic Development Strategy.

What are Regional Economic Development Strategies?

They are the economic development strategy for a region and usually incorporate more than one local council area. They have been developed by the NSW Government together with local councils. They can be found HERE.

How do I demonstrate my business has the skills and capacity to deliver the project?

Applicants should provide information on any previous capital works or similar scale projects the business has undertaken, or any relevant experience in growing the business. Tell us about the experience and skills of key staff, contractors or consultants delivering the project.

How can I demonstrate my business is financially viable and is likely to remain so?

When invited to submit a full application (Stage 2 of the assessment process), a business will be asked to provide three years of financial statements and to complete a datasheet showing financial details for the project. This information will be considered in the assessment.

If I haven't operated my business for three years, can I still apply?

A business can still apply if it has operated for less than three years but the applicant will need to provide evidence of financial viability and a justification why three years of financial statements cannot be provided. Strong experience of key staff involved in the project and evidence of alignment with the overall objective of the program and other criteria will also need to be provided.

There is a significant risk an application will not be approved if the evidence provided to the Department of Regional NSW is not strong.

I have started my project; can I still apply for funding?

No. Under the Program Guidelines an applicant must show the business investment would not take place in regional NSW without NSW Government assistance.

Our project intends to introduce new technology to Australia. Will there be additional approvals required?

The grant does not override normal development and regulatory approval processes. When considering project and job creation milestones in your application, approval timelines must be considered.

Please consult your allocated Business Development Manager who can provide introductions to other government agencies.

What can be used as an in-kind co-contribution?

The Program Guidelines require a 50 per cent cash co-contribution. In-kind co-contributions will only be considered in extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

There is a significant risk an application will not be approved if there is not a 50 per cent cash co-contribution.

Please consult your allocated Business Development Manager about consideration of non-cash contributions to the project and your business circumstances.

Can I claim apprentices and trainees (other supported employees) as part of the new job mix?

Yes. When invited to submit a full application, applicants will be provided with compulsory documentation including a datasheet. This requires the identification of the types of jobs being created including apprentices and trainees.

Where the wage costs of apprentices and trainees are being supported by other Government funding, this should be noted in the application. In this case, only part of the employee cost may be counted in the grant cost per job calculation as outputs and outcomes already funded from other programs are not eligible for funding.

If I have received other NSW Government assistance towards this project, can I apply for this fund?

No – not for direct funding of the same project.

There are other programs available to support businesses to deliver projects already funded by the NSW Government, for example training or regional relocation grants. Please talk to your allocated Regional NSW Business Development Manager about these opportunities.

If I have received Australian Government assistance towards this project, can I apply for this fund?

Projects already receiving other funding for the same outputs and outcomes are not eligible. However, applications can be made for project outputs and outcomes not covered by existing government grant agreements.

When will the grant payments be made to my business?

There will be performance-based milestone payments defined in a funding deed. Typically, there will be a share of the grant paid up front with subsequent payments based on project and/or employment creation milestones.

All grant payments will be made by June 2022.

What happens if I can't complete the requirements of the program?

Performance-based milestone payments will not be made to the business.

Failure to deliver employment outcomes up to three years from signing the funding deed will mean grant payments already received will need to be returned in part or whole.