

Supporting Women in Business Grants Program

Initiative: Supporting Women in Business (SWIB) Grants							
Objective(s): The aim of the Supporting Women in Business Grants program is to assist women to start a successful micro/small business, to access formal business networks and tailored business support.							
Priorities and State Outcome(s): NSW [redacted] Increasing workforce participation in NSW NSW Women's Strategy 2023-2026: Pillar 1 - Economic opportunity and advancement & Pillar 3 - Participation and empowerment							
Theory-of-change:							
Objectives	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes (0 - 6 months)	Medium-term outcomes (6 months - 1 year)	Long-term outcomes (1 year+)	Benefits
<p>Assist women to upskill and increase their capacity to establish and run a successful micro/small business</p> <p>Provide funding to eligible organisations to deliver bespoke and / or industry-appropriate business support programs for female entrepreneurs, sole traders, and women seeking to start or grow a micro/small business ('target cohort')</p> <p>Reduce barriers for the target cohort to start or grow a micro/small business, by facilitating access to support, expertise, mentoring, networks of entrepreneurs, and/or financial backing</p>	<p>Funding for the WIBN Grants program is available</p> <p>Qualified and appropriately trained staff to support the program</p> <p>Supporting infrastructure (Smarty Grants portal)</p> <p>Partnerships between government, community organisations and other entities eligible to apply for the grants</p> <p>Relationships with key stakeholders</p>	<p>Program guidelines, application forms and assessment criteria are developed</p> <p>Grants program applications open, and are promoted to entities that are eligible to apply</p> <p>Applications are received</p> <p>Applications are reviewed and assessed by the Assessment Panel</p> <p>Recommendations are made to the Minister for Women</p> <p>Successful projects are approved by the Minister for Women</p> <p>Funding agreements are prepared, executed and managed consistent with the NSW Grant Administration Guidelines</p> <p>Grants are paid to approved recipients</p> <p>Kick-off meetings are held with grant recipients</p> <p>Women in the target cohort are actively recruited by grant recipients to participate in the funded activities</p> <p>Business network development plans are developed by grant recipients with each participant</p> <p>Project and Evaluation Plans, Quarterly progress reports and Final Report and Acquittals are received from grant recipients</p> <p>Quarterly progress meetings are held with grant recipients</p>	<p>Outputs and outcomes of the grant management process</p>				<p>Increased economic participation by women as entrepreneurs, sole traders, business owners and leaders</p> <p>Women experience reduced barriers to starting and growing a business</p> <p>The role, status and contribution of women and girls in our communities are strengthened</p>
			<p>NSW Grant Administration Guidelines are followed</p> <p>Applications are assessed fairly and in a timely fashion</p>	<p>Funds are spent appropriately</p> <p>A range of projects that are aligned with the NSW Women's Strategy and the Program Guidelines are supported</p>	<p>Value for money is achieved for taxpayers</p> <p>Improved understanding of the profile of projects that are likely to be impactful</p>	<p>Public money is spent fairly, effectively and transparently</p>	
			<p>Outputs and outcomes for participants</p>				
			<p>Eligible entities are invited to apply for the grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of applications from eligible entities Number of grant applications recommended for funding Number of grant applications receiving funding Amount of grant funding provided to recipient organisations <p>Projects are delivered to participants within the target cohort as intended - including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of participants from focus communities taking part in the funded projects Number of participants taking part in networking events Number of participants accessing mentoring and coaching services Number of participants attending workshops Number of hours participants spent in upskilling and capacity building activities (e.g. training, webinars) Number of hours of support provided by funded projects 	<p>Participants are engaged with the funded activities - such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerator programs Coaching and mentoring Micro/small business training /workshops Advisory services including support with business planning Support in developing business networks Support in gaining access to finance, investment or start-up capital 	<p>Participants report having more access to resources and support in starting or growing a business as a result of the funded activities</p> <p>Participants report an increase in networking skills, experience and/or expertise as a result of the funded activities</p> <p>Participants report an increase in their business skills and confidence in starting or growing a business are strengthened</p> <p>Participants gained access to enabling finance, investment or start-up capital to start or grow a micro/small business as a result of the funded activities</p>	<p>Increased number and size of micro/small businesses run by participants within 12 months of participating in the projects funded by the program</p> <p>Increased turnover and/or profit of businesses run by participants - and/or increased employment of participants - within 12 months of participating in the projects funded by the program</p> <p>Participant's financial wellbeing and economic security are improved as a result of starting or growing a successful business following support received through the funded activities</p>	
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible organisations and participants have the capacity and are willing to engage with the program Participants will actively engage with program-supported activities The program will continue to be supported by the NSW Government Participation in the program-supported activities will positively influence participants' knowledge, motivation and behaviour Existing business support and networks will engage with the projects funded by the program and share their experience, expertise and/or resources to help the participants 			<p>External factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic conditions and local labour market Grant requirements and guidelines Impact of natural disasters 				

Commented [RZ1]: Does this need to be updated?

Commented [KF2R1]: Yep - take a look at the <https://www.nsw.gov.au/working-and-business/gender-equality-statement>

Commented [RZ3R1]: Thank you! I updated it.

Commented [RZ4]: I tweaked this slightly, please have another look if appropriate

Commented [KF5R4]: I think it is fine, just wonder if "enable" is too strong - maybe "support" or "encourage"?

Commented [RZ6R4]: I changed it to "support"

Commented [KF7]: Should we mention final project report? Assuming we would ask them to do some kind of evaluation?

Commented [BC8R7]: All projects will be required to submit a Project and Evaluation Plan as a first deliverable, quarterly progress reports for the duration of their project implementation and a Final Report and Acquittal at the conclusion of the project. The Final Report and Acquittal also captures evaluation findings.

Commented [RZ9R7]: Thank you - I added these.