

# Frequently Asked Questions

The following guidance is general in nature only.

Where information provided below is inconsistent with the guidelines, the guidelines will take precedence.

## What funding is available?

There is \$10 million available within the program. Applicants can request up to \$2 million, with the extent of support provided linked to the level and certainty of economic and social outcomes to be achieved by the project, as well as its alignment with the assessment criteria.

## Do I have to co-contribute?

It is expected that proponents and their partners are contributing in some manner, for example:

- A local government might be contributing land or road infrastructure to support the development.
- Local businesses might pre-commit to purchasing land or having long term lease agreements for buildings on the land to make it more financially viable.

Developers simply seeking financial contribution will be viewed less favourably than those who have a variety of partners.

## Do councils have to contribute?

It is expected that some level of support be provided by local government towards the development, for example, providing land or infrastructure. Developments where local government have committed substantial contributions towards the project will be viewed more favourably.

Other forms of contribution may include:

- Rate rebates or other financial incentives
- Leasing or purchase commitments for houses in the development

Local government may also be expected to provide planning and development resources and assistance where appropriate.

## What if my proposal is not "shovel ready"?

The more certain a project is, the more likely it will be provided funding support. However, it is understood that a variety of proposals in various stages of development will be submitted. Renewal SA would like to use this as an opportunity to engage with applicants to assist the project to progress to a shovel ready status in the future.

## When will the applications open and close?

The program will be open from 7 March 2024 with applications closing on 3 May 2024.

## Is it a first come, first served process?

No, the ROI process will assess all applications against the criteria and be assessed on their merits and ranked against other eligible applications.

### **How long will it take to assess my application?**

Applications will be assessed as quickly as possible. The assessors may ask for additional information from applicants during the evaluation process which may impact on assessment timeframes. It is expected that applicants provide as much information as possible to ensure their success.

You may seek an update as to the status of your application by emailing the Office for Regional Housing at [officeregionalhousing@sa.gov.au](mailto:officeregionalhousing@sa.gov.au)

### **Will I receive feedback on my application?**

You may request feedback on your application once the evaluation process is complete and you have been notified of the outcome.

### **If I have applied for a State Government fund previously and was unsuccessful, can I apply for the ROI program?**

Yes, you are able to apply for funding, but your project must be consistent with the guidelines in order to apply.

### **If I have received State Government funding before towards the project, am I able to apply for funding again?**

This will be assessed on a case by case basis. For example, if proponents received funding for a previous stage of the project and are seeking support for a new stage of the project that would create more housing, this may be supported. If proponents sourced funding from another State Government agency towards the same stage or element of the project, it is unlikely to be supported.

### **The proposal I have is only a small development project, would I still be eligible to apply?**

The size of the development does not matter. Maximum dwellings are preferable but it is understood despite the size of many regional towns there are still housing issues that restrict the local economy. The main consideration is that your proposal meets the assessment criteria.

### **The site I want to develop is not owned by me, can I still apply?**

It needs to be agreed by the owners of the land that the development can take place otherwise it is unlikely to be supported. It is understood that there is undeveloped Crown Land throughout regional South Australia which might be suitable for development. Any proposals associated with Crown Land needs to be undertaken in accordance with the Crown Lands Management Act 2009.

### **What is an eligible project?**

Funding or any other requested support will be provided for proposals that can demonstrate alignment with the assessment criteria as detailed in the guidelines.

### **Can I apply for multiple projects?**

Yes, as long as each project meets the required criteria for the Program.

### **When can the project commence?**

Commencement date will be negotiated. Applicants may be asked to provide justification for the funding request but the project commencement date should be clearly identified on the submitted project delivery timeline.

The office may consider requests for funding commitments that are in support of applications for Federal or other external funding. This support would be time limited and negotiated between the applicant and the Office.

### **What is eligible expenditure?**

It is expected that any funds requested will contribute towards the costs of implementing the project. A key requirement is that the proposal is sustainable in the longer term without the need for ongoing government assistance.

Eligible project expenditure considered for funding must be:

- a direct cost of the project. This can include costs such as design and infrastructure costs.
- incurred by the applicant within the project period (between project start date to end date stipulated in any agreement).

### **What is ineligible project expenditure?**

Assistance will not be provided for:

- leadership or administrative staff costs not directly related to project management tasks, including Chief Executives, accountants and lawyers.
- interest, insurance or freight costs.
- early-stage proof of concept activities, feasibility studies or investments.
- business cases or costs associated with preparing the ROI.
- project management fees and costs to submit an ROI.
- retrospective funding, where projects have been completed or have commenced prior to the application being received by the Renewal SA.

### **Can I include the cost of writing my application in the overall project cost?**

No, proponents can not include the cost of writing your application in the overall project cost.

### **Is the purchase of land an acceptable expense?**

Yes, the purchase of land is an acceptable expense however the project will be viewed more favourably if the land is already under the applicant/s ownership as this reduces the risk of the project not proceeding.

### **Who decides on whether my application is successful?**

An assessment panel will make recommendations to the Renewal SA Board and South Australian Government regarding proposals to be supported. The Treasurer has ultimate discretion to approve/not approve applications and that decision is final.

### **Can I receive feedback if my application was unsuccessful?**

Renewal SA is able to provide feedback on your application.