

Who is eligible for funding?

All NSW councils.

How much funding can councils sign up for?

Up to \$15,000. Councils can request less than the full amount, but we encourage councils to request as close to the maximum as possible to support their proposed project.

What do you mean by public space?

Public space means all places that are publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. This includes:

- Open spaces: active and passive (parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks and waterfronts, outdoor playing fields and courts, bushland)
- Public facilities: libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities
- Streets: all public streets including avenues and boulevards, squares and plazas, pavements, passages and laneways, and bicycle paths.

Where can activations or events be held?

This program targets public spaces in and around high streets in local centres. We encourage councils to consider streets, laneways, squares, plazas, public facilities (such as libraries, art galleries and community centres), and parks that are located close to or on a high street.

High Street definition

High streets, sometimes also referred to as main streets, are important economic drivers and offer places for gathering and accessing services. More than just a place for the movement of cars, these are principal streets providing vitality to the local neighbourhoods, supporting the local and sometimes wider area with jobs and services such as shopping, dining, entertainment, health and personal services to meet the daily and weekly needs of the local community.

Local centre definition

A local centre, also known as a local neighbourhood centre, is an area of economic activity and employment that supports diverse businesses that meet community needs. The centre may be identified in council's strategic plans (District and Regional Plans), economic development plans, community plans. These local centres may be smaller in both geographic scale and number of business and employers, compared to urban centres that typically have a larger agglomeration of businesses and services.

Can council host multiple events/activation in more than one location?

Yes, council are able to have multiple events/activation in more than one location using the requested funding (up to \$15,000 total) provided the event/activation meets the funding criteria.



When filling out the form please include the location of one of your events and describe other events in the question “Short description of event/activation”.

What about places that have been opened to the public, such as swimming pools or schools?

Yes, provided they are places of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive, located in and around high streets in local centres.

Will you consider funding activations and events beyond 30 April 2022?

No. Funding is only available for activations and events that will be delivered between 1 January and 30 April 2022. This will be a condition of funding. We acknowledge that planning in advance is challenging given public health orders, however our expectation is that councils will use the funding towards activations and events that can take place within the guidelines of any relevant public health restrictions for their area.

Can funding contribute to something that’s already in planning and scheduled to happen between January and 30 April 2022?

Yes. As long as you can demonstrate in your proposal how you are expanding on an event already in planning, and otherwise satisfy the eligibility criteria. For example, council could add a series of pop-up activations or live music to an existing and planned event or council could extend on a daytime event to carry it into the night-time.

Can the funding be used for multiple activations or events?

Yes.

Can funding contribute to an activation or event that has been planned, but couldn’t go ahead due to lack of funds?

Yes, as long as the event and funding allocation satisfies all eligibility criteria.

What are minor amenity changes?

Minor amenity changes include any changes or upgrades needed to support live events or activations funded through the Summer Night Fund and into the future. This can include but is not limited to lighting, seating, greening or electrical works. Examples of minor amenity changes could include upgrading power outlets to 3 phase, installing catenary wire to hang festoon lighting or purchasing fencing/bollards for safety and security. Minor amenity changes do not include capital works or planned upgrades.

How do I submit my proposal?

Councils must submit their proposals via SmartyGrants, which can be accessed [here](#).



Can a council sign up more than once?

No. Each council may only sign up once. Councils are encouraged to coordinate internally, as councils may only sign up once. If we receive two sign up requests from one council, the first received will take precedence.

How will the proposals be assessed?

The Summer Night Fund is not competitive. All councils are eligible for funding. Once councils sign up, the Public Spaces team in the department will review information provided by councils and notify councils if they meet the eligibility criteria and, if so, issue them with a funding agreement.

When will council receive funding?

Funding will be provided as an up-front payment, upon commencement of a funding agreement and receipt by the department of a properly rendered invoice from the council.

Why does council have to partner with the local business chamber?

The objectives of the Summer Night Fund include supporting job creation for creative and hospitality sectors and boosting foot traffic and dwell time in local centres. This requirement has been included to ensure that councils' planned activations and events support local businesses, including by engaging with their local business chambers or business groups, if no local business chamber operates in your area. A letter of support from your local business chamber is sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

Can councils share the funds with an external partner?

Yes. A council can use the funding to engage a delivery partner to help deliver the activations or events, or an additional component to existing events, or by making their own microgrants available, as long as the use of the funding is for a purpose allowed under the funding conditions and is used in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement. The engagement by council of any such delivery partner will not affect council's obligations under the funding agreement, including providing a completion report demonstrating how the funding has been spent.

How do councils manage COVID-Safety?

Councils that receive funding from the Summer Night Fund program are responsible for ensuring events are **COVID-Safe**. Any events or activations delivered through the Summer Night Fund program funding will need to comply with current public health orders for the relevant area. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment does not issue the public health orders and therefore cannot provide any advice on those restrictions. Please refer to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> for current public health orders.

What happens if the event or activation can't go ahead due to weather or changes in public health orders due to COVID-19?

Councils are encouraged to plan their events with a wet-weather mitigation.

If weather or further public health orders impact on councils' ability to proceed with events and activations on the date identified when signing up:



- If the event will be held within the program timeframe, that is on or before 30 April 2022, councils may change the date of the event by providing written notice to the department;
- If the council is requesting an extension beyond the program timeframe, that is after 30 April 2022, the department will consider requests to vary the terms of funding agreements on a case-by-case basis.

What will councils be asked to report on?

In completion reports, councils will be asked for information including on the number of activations or events, number of attendees, number of people engaged or employed, amount of public space activated and results of partnering with local chambers of commerce. Councils will also be asked for an expenditure report and feedback on where barriers may exist to delivering activations and events in public space.

How has this program been funded?

This program is being funded as part of the NSW Government's Alfresco Restart Package.

What is The Festival of Place?

The Festival of Place is a celebration of public spaces across NSW. It celebrates our connection to place, 365 days of the year.

How is the Summer Night Fund program different from other programs currently available and can funding be pooled?

Provided that the proposal meets the eligibility criteria, Councils are welcome to consider using funding under this program to add an activation component to another project that is underway or planned.

Streets as Shared Spaces program:

- A program offering grants of up to \$500,000 to councils across NSW councils for trial projects that test permanent changes that strengthen the amenity, accessibility and economic vitality of a high street and surrounding area.
- Projects funded in round 1 of the program that are already underway could be enhanced with an activation or live event to complement the trial.

Places to Love program:

- A partnership program with pilot councils for trialling and testing public space concepts through temporary demonstrations to improve walkable access to, and the quality of, local public space.
- Pilot projects funded in 20/21 that are already underway could be enhanced with an activation or live event to complement the trial.

The Festival of Place Open Streets:

- A partnership program for Greater Sydney councils most impacted during the lockdown for councils to temporarily close streets to cars and open them on a day or series of days for demonstration projects involving community events and activities.
- Councils eligible for Open Streets are welcome to sign up for funding under the Summer Night Fund program and to pool funds across both programs.



Who do we contact if we have questions?

Contact the Public Space team via email: PublicSpace@planning.nsw.gov.au

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