

Therapeutic Farming Small Grants Program 2024

Guidelines

April 2024

What is Therapeutic Farming?

Therapeutic farms, also known as care farms or social farms, are defined as a combined offering consisting of working farms with embedded agricultural practices (such as horticulture, livestock handling, forestry) alongside the provision of therapeutic mental health support.

Therapeutic farms are one type of outdoor or green mental health care and are an emerging field of mental health care.

Purpose of the Grants Program

The Tasmanian Government's current reform agendas aim to improve integration of the different services in the Tasmanian mental health system to better meet the needs of the population.

The number of therapeutic farms in Europe is steadily growing, and there is national interest for the model to be tested in Australia. This is an opportunity for Tasmania to lead the way for therapeutic farming best practices, as Tasmania is unique in its size, environment, and proximity to nature.

The purpose of the Therapeutic Farming Small Grants Program (the Grants Program) is to strengthen and test the ability of therapeutic farming to be integrated into the Tasmanian mental health system.

The Grants Program will provide funding for activities that aim to strengthen the use of therapeutic farming in Tasmania. This could include improving community engagement in the design and evaluation of therapeutic farming, establishing partnerships between entities that have key interests in Tasmanian therapeutic farming, or setting up the foundations to pilot a therapeutic farming model in Tasmania.

Five grants of up to \$20,000 will be distributed to successful applicants under the Grants Program in 2024.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Organisations

To be eligible for this Grants Program, applicants must be:

- A registered organisation with a valid Australian Business Number (ABN), and
- A not-for-profit based organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), and
- An incorporated organisation, or
- Another legal entity, such as:
 - A registered training organisation or educational/research institution;
 - A local government body; or
 - Have entered an auspice arrangement with an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.

Ineligible Organisations

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding under the Grants Program, even if they have an auspice arrangement:

- Australian or Tasmanian Government entities or agencies;
- For-profit organisations and businesses;
- Political organisations;
- Private or commercial enterprises registered under company law; and
- Individuals or sole traders.

Assessment Criteria

Through the application process, eligible organisations must demonstrate that their project:

- Is within the scope of the purpose of the grants and meets the definition of therapeutic farming;
- Is occurring in partnership with or with engagement from other organisations;
- Includes evidence of capacity in mental health (such as engagement with an accredited mental health professional and appropriate training);
- Has ongoing benefits that will last beyond the life of the project (such as findings from the project will add to the evidence base for therapeutic farming in Tasmania); and
- Is culturally safe for Aboriginal, LGBTIQ+ and culturally and linguistically diverse communities (such as evidence of diversity and inclusion training/considering these populations in their work).

Eligible Activities

Activities eligible for funding under the Grants Program must demonstrate how it will add to the evidence base for therapeutic farming in Tasmania, including how it addresses the following focus areas:

- Fit for purpose,
- Useful and safe,
- Appropriate,
- Connected to the mental health system, and/or
- Feasible in Tasmania.

Some examples of activities eligible for funding under the Grants Program are:

- Consumer and community engagement in the design and evaluation of therapeutic farming (such as community consultation);
- Establishment of partnerships between entities interested in therapeutic farming (Community sector organisations, community mental health services, Universities) to produce an output (such as a report or frameworks) that adds to the evidence base for therapeutic farming in Tasmania;
- Investigation of the effects of therapeutic farming on certain population groups (such as young people experiencing school refusal or older people with dementia),
- Evaluation of models of care involving therapeutic farming; and
- Investigation into the financial sustainability and feasibility of therapeutic farms.

Ineligible Activities

Activities ineligible for funding under the Grants Program include (but are not limited to):

- The repayment of a loan or any other form of debt;
- Additional funds for a project already funded by the Department of Health (DoH);
- Purchases that provide a direct economic benefit to an individual or business; and
- Purchase of laptops, tablets or computers, or other equipment expenses.

How to Apply

Complete the Application Form, available at www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/mental-health/mental-health-projects-and-initiatives-priorities/therapeutic-farming-small-grants-program.

Before submitting your application, please check:

- That all requested documentation is attached, and
- The Application Form is signed.

How to submit your application:

Applications and attachments can be submitted via email to: mhfundingagreements@health.tas.gov.au

Assessment

The Grants Program is being administered by the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate who will be responsible for ensuring funds are distributed as efficiently as possible.

An assessment panel will assess each application against the criteria and make recommendations to the appropriate delegate.

The outcomes of the assessment process are final.

Timeframes

Applications **close at 5 pm on Friday, 10 May 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants can expect to be notified of the outcome of the application four to six weeks after the closing date. Successful applicants will receive a Funding Agreement outlining the funding terms and conditions.

The details of all successful applicants, including the amount of funding they receive, will be made publicly available on the Department of Health website.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter advising they have been unsuccessful, explaining how to request feedback on their application.

Reporting and Evaluation

It is important that Department of Health can determine if grants have delivered the outcomes intended. At the end of the funding period, successful applicants must formally acquit the grant funds and demonstrate the funds have been used for the intended purpose.

Organisations that receive funding through the Grants Program are required to complete a Final Report and Acquittal using a template that will be provided by the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate.

Information gathered from all reports will be used to evaluate the Grants Program and satisfy the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate's reporting requirements.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Organisations must indicate whether they are registered for GST in their grant application.

Need help?

Please contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on 13 28 66 or www.ato.gov.au if you require any clarification on GST.

Use of the Grant

In expending the grant, you must:

- Apply the grant for the purpose and outcomes outlined within the grant application and agreed by the Department of Health. There is to be no deviation from the project without a written request to the Department of Health seeking and obtaining prior consent;
- Satisfy conditions set out in these guidelines;
- Complete the project by an agreed date; and
- Meet all legislative requirements.

Repayment of the Grant

The Organisation will be required to repay the grant if the organisation:

- Fails to use the grant or any part of the grant for its agreed purpose;
- Fails to satisfy the terms and conditions stated in these guidelines; or
- Provides incorrect or misleading information to the Department of Health.

Acknowledgement of the Grant

All recipients of Department of Health funding are required to acknowledge the support of the Tasmanian Government, and Department of Health in all publications and promotional materials relating to funded projects/programs.

The Department of Health is to be notified of any intended media or public opportunities in relation to the funded project no less than two weeks before the event occurs.

Publicity of Assistance

The Department of Health disburses public funds and is therefore accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process, the Department of Health

may publicise the level of its financial assistance, including the terms and conditions of the financial assistance provided.

The applicant organisation agrees to be involved in publicity associated with the project where this is requested or organised by the Department of Health or an elected Government official.

Personal Information

Personal information will be collected from you for the purpose of undertaking Department of Health activities. Your personal information will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected and may be disclosed to contractors and agents of the Department of Health or affiliated bodies, and other organisations authorised to collect it.

Your basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies, where necessary, for the efficient storage and use of information.

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to the Department of Health's Personal Information Protection Officer by email at rti@health.tas.gov.au. You may be charged a fee for this service.

Right to Information

Information provided to the Department of Health and details of any financial assistance package may be subject to requests for public disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)* and may, where the Department of Health deems appropriate, be disclosed in accordance with the Act.

Applicants should clearly mark any information they do not want disclosed to a third party as confidential, along with a short paragraph outlining the reasons why the information is confidential.

An electronic copy of this document can be downloaded from the Department of Health website at <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/right-information>. If you have any questions, please phone the Department of Health on (03) 6166 3525.

Questions? Contact Us

If you have any questions after reading these guidelines, contact us at mhfundingagreements@health.tas.gov.au or (03) 6166 6385.



Tasmanian
Government

Department of Health, Tasmania

Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate

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