Secondary Student Support

Indigenous Boarding Providers grant opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

As part of the 2021-22 Budget, the Australian Government is delivering $15.758 million in the 2021-22 financial year to improve support for boarding providers with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote and very remote areas.

The grants will support around 2,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding students. It is expected that around 40 boarding providers may be eligible for funding under this grant opportunity. Funding will be delivered by NIAA, through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). A grant selection process is being undertaken to allocate the funding.

How can I apply?

The grant round opened on GrantConnect on 20 September 2021 and will remain open for four weeks until 20 October 2021. To apply you need to complete the online application form available on GrantConnect at: [Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity - GO5096: GrantConnect (grants.gov.au)](https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=fb61e220-6492-4a73-b104-f47dbb459f3b).

It is important that you carefully read the Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity Guidelines on GrantConnect before completing the application form.

If you experience any difficulties, you can email boardingpathways@niaa.gov.au or contact your local Regional Office on 1800 079 098 for assistance.

Who can apply?

Boarding providers with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students from remote or very remote areas can apply. This includes boarding schools and stand-alone boarding providers, such as hostels or other independent facilities not attached to a school.

Preference will be given to boarding providers with a high proportion (40 - 100%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students from remote or very remote areas. Lower proportions may be considered only where there is significant demonstrated need.

What sort of activities can be funded through this opportunity?

Eligible grant activities include, but are not limited to:

* providing supportive and culturally appropriate learning and boarding environments,
* programs to re-engage young people back into school or support students at risk of disengaging,
* health and wellbeing programs, including mental health programs,
* tuition support, personal development and pastoral care activities,
* academic assistance,
* engaging parents and families with the school and encouraging parents and families to participate in activities at the school or boarding facility,
* transition support for students starting boarding school, including orientation programs ahead of the school year,
* further education and training preparation, career development or employment readiness programs,
* other activities focused on increasing school engagement, retention in school and transition into boarding or onto employment/further education.

The funding cannot be used to cover things otherwise covered by state and territory government funding or other Commonwealth funding sources. Further information on eligible grant activities can be found in the Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

How much funding is available?

A total of $15.758 million is available, which is to be paid in 2021-22.

The amount of funding per facility will be determined by NIAA through the assessment process and will depend on a number of factors, including the number of eligible boarding providers that apply for funding and the number of students requiring support.

Depending on the level of demand, NIAA may need to prioritise eligible providers. Funding may be prioritised to boarding providers with a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote or very remote areas.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed against assessment criteria set out in the Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity Guidelines. You must address all of the assessment criteria in your application and provide detailed examples and evidence to support your claims All criteria have equal weighting.

For more information please refer to the Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity Guidelines, Section 6: the assessment criteria.

I already receive grant funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) for another project. Can I apply for this grant opportunity?

Yes, you can apply. If you currently receive funding through the IAS for a schooling project, this will be taken into account in the assessment of your application. Please ensure you meet all other eligibility criteria outlined in the Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

When will I know if my application is successful?

The Agency aims to notify you of the outcome of your application within 90 days of submission.

When will successful applicants receive their grant?

Grants will be paid in two instalments to 30 June 2022. The first payment will be made on execution of the funding agreement. Providers will be able to use the grants to support students throughout the 2022 calendar year.

Successful funding recipients will be required to enter into a funding agreement with NIAA and usual performance monitoring and acquittal processes will apply.

Do activities need to comply with COVID-19 regulations?

Given the changing and variable impacts of COVID-19 across Australia, activities should be in line with relevant government advice, particularly with respect to protecting Elders and those with chronic health issues. This should include consideration of the relevant Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) statements for schools and boarding facilities on risk management in the COVID-19 context.

In some cases, where NIAA requires further information about how you propose to manage COVID-19 risks associated with the delivery of an activity, you may be asked to submit a COVID-19 Risk Management Plan.

Why is this funding only for one year?

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many students have been affected by significant disruptions to their schooling and some students have not returned to boarding school. These grants will assist boarding providers to support students to return to school and ensure continuing students stay engaged in school.

Are the grants only for secondary boarding student projects? Will projects aimed at primary or tertiary students be considered?

Under this grant opportunity, funding is targeted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary boarding students from remote and very remote areas. If you believe your proposal meets the eligibility criteria, you can submit an application to support primary and/or tertiary students in addition to secondary students. If you have any questions about this, please email NIAA at boardingpathways@niaa.gov.au.

More information on the Indigenous Boarding Providers grant opportunity

Agency staff can contact Lauren Willis, NIAA National Office, on 0411 044 821 or you can direct applicants to email boardingpathways@niaa.gov.au.