

Webinar for: Department of Social Services Discussion Paper: Families and Children Services presentation briefing 30 March 2021.

Questions taken for written response

Funding Extensions and Grant Agreements

1. Will funding remain as per last year plus indexation? With SACS being rolled into the base, is it correct to assume that the indexation will then be applied to the full base?

Yes. The Government announced through the 2020-21 Budget that it will provide ongoing funding for frontline service providers impacted by the legislated cessation of the Social and Community Services Special Account. The additional funding will increase the base funding for Department of Social Services grants currently receiving Social and Community Services Wage Supplementation through the Special Account. This will apply to grants from July 2021. Indexation for the 2021-22 financial year will be paid in late 2021 and applied to the new grant base.

2. How is indexation calculated?

Indexation is paid to eligible grantees via a Notice of Change (NoC) issued by the Community Grants Hub (CGH) once per financial year. The purpose of indexation is to ensure that grant funding takes into account the changing purchasing power of funding amounts from year to year. The indexation rate is calculated yearly, based on program specific price and wage costs.

3. Will funding for providers be topped up to account for the superannuation guarantee increase from 9.5% to 10% from 1 July 2021?

Payment of superannuation is the responsibility of the employer in accordance with superannuation law.

4. Innovation funds - is this limited to service delivery only or can Facilitating Partners (FPs) access for innovation in the area of building relationships, especially with CALD etc?

CfC FPs will use a proportion of their funding, as specified in their grant agreement, to fund services that are known to be high-quality and evidence-based. The remaining funds are used flexibly by the FP to undertake facilitation, coordination and collaborative work in their community or to fund soft-entry, innovative programs.

As a part of the Families and Children Activity, organisations may choose to use up to 10 per cent of their funding for innovative projects. This will be discussed as part of the grant agreement.

The department is open to innovative ideas that extend beyond service delivery. Service providers should contact their Funding Arrangement Manager (FAM) for further information and guidance.

5. With CfC AWP plans requiring approval by the Department prior to funding being provided to CP's how will FP's be able to ensure continuity of programs and activities between 1 July and the AWP being approved?

The department acknowledges the unique nature of the CfC FP model and the need for Facilitating Partners to engage Community Partner organisations early to ensure service

continuity. The department is keen to work with providers and be flexible as the transition occurs to the new five-year grant agreements.

An updated AWP template for 2021-22 will be provided in early April 2021 and will enable organisations to document any changes from the previous AWP, should changes to subcontracting arrangements be preferred. Guidance will be provided in the AWP template.

It is the decision of your organisation to determine when to commence negotiations with Community Partners and to formalise arrangements. Completed AWPs can be submitted to your Funding Arrangement Manager at any time prior to the due date of 15 August 2021.

A Factsheet and timeline with key information unique to CfC FPs is available on the department's website.

6. Can you clarify the issue around the additional SFVS funding (to 2022) as part of the National Plan for Reducing Violence against Women and their Children, in addition to base funding.

In 2020, some existing Family and Relationship Services (FaRS) providers received additional funding under the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 to deliver Specialist Family Violence Services (SFVS).

This additional funding was enacted via a grant variation, attached to the existing SFVS Activity ID and has been provided until 30 June 2022. It is not being extended under this process.

If your organisation received this, you will receive a letter of offer to extend the base funding (excluding the 2020 – 2022 one-off funding component) for five years from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2026. Please talk to your Funding Arrangement Manager if you have questions specific to your organisation.

7. Can you clarify what the normal rollover process is?
The Supplementary Terms and Conditions at CB27 of the grant agreement provides for the rollover of surplus and uncommitted funds in accordance with normal processes. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your Funding Arrangement Manager.

DSS Data Exchange, Outcomes Measurement & Reporting

8. Any update available for when FP's will be able to view CP's score data under the partnership approach handshake agreement in DEX?

As per previous advice, extending the handshake functionality to Partnership Approach reports was originally anticipated for the first half of 2021, and unfortunately this has now been delayed until the second half of 2021. We are committed to delivering this functionality to enable the best outcomes of the CfC FP program.

Sub-Activity or Program-specific

Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS)

9. For FMHSS, is including supporting person data a part of the mandatory reporting requirement?

No, including support person data is not mandatory. FMHSS service providers can record support persons as an option if they feel it is relevant.