



Great Barrier Reef Foundation Traditional Owner Healing Country Grant Program 1.0

Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

'We need to stand up as one mob, one Country,
one Spirit, one voice.

And heal.'

(Heart of the Reef—a call for healing, 2021)

Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and Catchment as First Nations Peoples holding the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.



Healing Country is represented in this symbol. The three circles depict the thriving ideals of a restored coral reef, the growth in coral and sea life, and the growth from what it is now to the hopeful future. The dots represent the thriving life that a healed and healthy Great Barrier Reef brings. The symbol also subtly looks like a caring hand helping the Reef to grow.

Artwork by Keisha Thomasson, Leon Design

Contents

What is the Traditional Owner Healing Country Grants Program 1.0?	4
How much funding is available under the Traditional Owner Healing Country Grants Program?	4
Who can apply for a grant?	4
Who is NOT eligible to apply?	5
How do I apply?	5
When do applications close?	5
Can GBRF staff help me complete the application form?	5
Can individuals apply if they have a sponsor and can demonstrate community support?	6
Can you apply for funding for projects or work already underway?	6
Is accommodation while travelling for the project considered an eligible activity?	6
Is the cost of producing a video about our project an eligible communication cost?	6
Can I submit more than one application form?	6
How much detail should I put in the budget and if I miss something can I put it in again later?	6
Do I need to provide quotes?	6
Do I need to provide any supporting information?	6
Will I be notified that my application has been received?	7
If I need to make a change to my submitted application, what do I do?	7
What are the assessment criteria?	7
If I am successful, when can I start my project?	7
What percentage of grant funds can be allocated for project administration?	7
Can grant funds pay for auditing fees?	7
Are Traditional Owner groups located inland from the coast eligible to apply?	8
Our Aboriginal corporation has Public Liability Insurance, and a Workcover Policy. Is this the same as Workers Compensation?	8
We don't have insurance sorted yet. Will we have time to secure insurance for on-ground activities if we are awarded a grant?	8
We are a Traditional Owner group; why do we need to provide a letter of support from Traditional Owners?	8
Is insurance an administrative cost or should it be listed as a separate budget item?	8
Does GBRF have guidelines for calculating Elder fees?	8
What are the insurances that a Traditional Owner Group needs to be eligible for funding?	8

What is the Traditional Owner Healing Country Grants Program 1.0?

The Reef Trust Partnership's Healing Country Grant Program (the Grant Program) is a competitive grants program which provides \$3 million in grant funding to eligible Traditional Owners to lead and collaborate on activities that reflect their aspirations and traditional obligations to connect, care for, heal and restore Reef Country in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area region.

In partnership with Traditional Owners, the Foundation adopted a co-design approach in the development of the Healing Country Grants Program to better facilitate the leadership, inclusion and incorporation of the lived experience of Traditional Owners. A cohort of Traditional Owners—including members of the RRAS Traditional Owner Technical Working group and Foundation staff—met in June 2021 to provide advice on the scope, purpose, and focus of the Grant Program and to develop a Healing Country statement.

The Grant Program—focused on healing—creates an opportunity for Traditional Owners to strategically enhance capacity; to enlist and engender young people's ownership in building resilience and adaptation; to forge new, and further strengthen partnerships; to plan, share and demonstrate; and to lead joined-up programs of action. A focus on healing also creates opportunity for Traditional Owners to demonstrate the co-benefits of more holistic approaches to management of Reef Country which can be achieved through collaboration with other Reef managers and knowledge sharing across activities that build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and strengthen pathways of connection between Traditional Owners and Reef Country.

How much funding is available under the Traditional Owner Healing Country Grants Program?

A key feature of the Healing Country Grants Program emerging from the co-design, is the three levels of funding allowing access for the broadest range of Traditional Owner applicants.

- Level 1 – Up to \$25k
- Level 2 - \$25–150k
- Level 3 – \$150k to \$300k

For more information see pages 6 and 7 of the [Healing Country Grant Program guidelines](#).

Who can apply for a grant?

Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner groups and Traditional Owner groups within the Great Barrier Reef Catchment that can demonstrate project outcomes will benefit a healthier Reef. To be eligible, Traditional Owner groups that apply for funding must meet all of the following criteria:

Must be a legal entity, for instance:

- a. an incorporated association
 - b. a body corporate
 - c. a company
 - d. a cooperative society
 - e. an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation or incorporated association, or
 - f. a trust duly constituted.
2. Be a Traditional Owner group for the area the work / planning is proposed (or have culturally appropriate permission where the project may be over multiple estates).

3. have legal access to the area(s) where the project will take place
4. accept the terms and conditions of the application and the specified terms in the agreement templates.
5. confirm that that all actual, perceived or actual conflicts of interest are declared, and a management plan is proposed.
6. Hold or be willing to hold the required insurances: Workers Compensation; Public Liability (minimum required: \$20,000,000 per occurrence); Professional Indemnity Insurance (minimum required: \$5,000,000) and Motor Vehicles and Plant and Equipment Insurance (if applicable).
7. have developed and implemented comprehensive WHS policies and procedures for the project, or is willing to undergo a WHS risk assessment, take all reasonable steps to manage identified risks, and undergo specific training or qualifications that the Foundation recommends prior to commencing the project.
8. have a project that is ready to commence by mid-June 2022.

Note: Traditional Owner groups that are not legal entities at the closing date for applications must be sponsored by a legal entity (such as a peak body or regional natural resource management organisation) who may apply on their behalf. The legal entity will be legally responsible for meeting the contractual obligations of the grant.

Who is NOT eligible to apply?

The following groups or organisations are not eligible to apply unless auspicing a Traditional Owner organisation:

- regional natural resource management organisations
- peak industry groups or umbrella bodies
- all levels of government

The following are not eligible to apply for the grants and are not eligible to auspice a project:

- individuals
- organisations that have at the application closing date, any overdue final reports or acquittals for other grant programs.

How do I apply?

Read the grant guidelines, draft contract agreement, complete the application form and submit online at applications@barrierreef.org by 11.59pm 27 April 2022.

When do applications close?

The completed application form with any of its supporting documentation must be submitted electronically by 11:59pm (AEST) 27 April 2022.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Can GBRF staff help me complete the application form?

No. Great Barrier Reef Foundation staff can clarify any questions you have regarding the application form, but they are not able to help you complete it.

Can individuals apply if they have a sponsor and can demonstrate community support?

No. Individuals are not eligible to apply either with or without a sponsor/auspicing organisation.

Can you apply for funding for projects or work already underway?

No you cannot. Applications should be submitted for new projects or further stages of an existing project. There should be no duplication of funding between existing projects and new applications made under this grant program.

Is accommodation while travelling for the project considered an eligible activity?

Yes, it is. Funds can be used for travelling if it relates to the project. All travel must be incorporated into the proposed budget for the project.

Is the cost of producing a video about our project an eligible communication cost?

Yes, the cost of producing a video is an eligible communication cost, as long as it will be used as a tool to communicate your project results to others and assist in sharing lessons learned.

Can I submit more than one application form?

No. The grant guidelines state that each Traditional Owner group can only submit one grant application per round.

How much detail should I put in the budget and if I miss something can I put it in again later?

The level of detail should reflect the complexity of the project. Large, complex projects seeking Level 2 or Level 3 funding should have well-designed budget with clearly detailed items.

Items that were not budgeted in the original application will not be funded. Applicants must consider all aspects of their project and ensure they include all relevant costs within their application. Additional funds are not available to meet costs which may have increased after the application was submitted.

Do I need to provide quotes?

Yes, in the case where you are planning to engage a consultant for \$15,000 or more, or when you are planning to purchase any asset valued at \$5,000 or more.

For complex and large budget items we also encourage you to provide quotes or supporting documentation to help the assessment panel understand the costs associated with a project.

Do I need to provide any supporting information?

Yes, support letters or letters of endorsement from members of your Traditional Owner group with cultural authority are required. Optional supplementary information (e.g. letters of support from stakeholders or other community groups) are encouraged (see section 6 in the guidelines).

If the project is on private or state-owned land, you will be required to provide a letter of support from the authorised landholder confirming their consent for the project to take place.

Will I be notified that my application has been received?

When you submit your application to applications@barrierreef.org you should receive an automated confirmation email that you have successfully completed the application process.

If you do not receive a confirmation email please contact grants@barrierreef.org.

If I need to make a change to my submitted application, what do I do?

No changes are permitted after the application date of 27 April, 2022.

Please read your application carefully before submitting to ensure that you have completed every relevant section and that all the information is true and correct.

What are the assessment criteria?

Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria

- the project is Traditional Owner led
- the summary of the project including the need for and the benefits of the project and project outcomes
- the project plan outlines the stages, activities and resources required to complete the project
- the project budget represents value for money and the is in line with the size and nature of the project
- the capacity of the organisation to deliver the project
- the ability to communicate project outcomes with Traditional Owners and the broader community

The criteria are described in more detail on pages 13 and 14 of the [Healing Country Grant Program 1.0 Guidelines](#)

If I am successful, when can I start my project?

Successful applicants will negotiate and sign a funding agreement with the Foundation. Any specified conditions of funding must be met before the initial payment for the project can be processed and the project commences. Projects should expect to start in late June / early July 2022.

What percentage of grant funds can be allocated for project administration?

Up to 10% of the overall budget can be allocated for project administration.

Can grant funds pay for auditing fees?

Yes, the cap for auditing and acquittals is \$3,000.

Are Traditional Owner groups located inland from the coast eligible to apply?

The Healing Country Grants are available to Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners and Traditional Owner groups within the catchment that can demonstrate that project outcomes will benefit a healthier Reef. A [map of the GBR catchments can be found at this link](#).

Our Aboriginal corporation has Public Liability Insurance, and a Workcover Policy. Is this the same as Workers Compensation?

Public liability insurance and a work cover policy will already include workers compensation.

We don't have insurance sorted yet. Will we have time to secure insurance for on-ground activities if we are awarded a grant?

Yes, this grant provides the opportunity and time to get adequate insurance cover in place if you are successful.

We are a Traditional Owner group; why do we need to provide a letter of support from Traditional Owners?

Providing one or more letters of support will help the assessment panel understand how the project is led by Traditional Owners including, how it is being planned, what level of community support it has, and how it aligns with your Traditional Owner group's priorities and aspirations.

Ideally your letter would be from a governance arrangement with appropriate cultural authority, such as the Board of Directors of your organization, community Elders and/or leaders, and/or an established Steering Committee. It may also refer to relevant reports to show how it aligns with your group's plans and activities, for example a land and/or sea Country plan, annual/strategic plan, TUMRA documentation etc.

Is insurance an administrative cost or should it be listed as a separate budget item?

Any insurance costs should be included in the administrative costs.

Does GBRF have guidelines for calculating Elder fees?

No, the GBRF does not have guidelines for calculating Elder fees. We ask that groups consult with their elders and set their own price point for Elder payments.

What are the insurances that a Traditional Owner Group needs to be eligible for funding?

The required insurances are listed on page 9 of the [Healing Country Grant Program Guidelines](#) and Section 7.0 of the [application form](#) and include:

- Workers compensation
- Public Liability (minimum required: \$20m per occurrence)
- Professional Indemnity (amount to be determined at a later date)
- Motor vehicles and plant and equipment insurance (if applicable)
- Other relevant policies (eg volunteer insurance if applicable).

All Insurances must be in the Applicant's legal entity name. Copies of the insurance Certificates of Currency must be provided to the Foundation if the application is successful.