Student Mentoring Program

Guidance for grant applicants

# What is the Student Mentoring program?

The Victorian Government is committed to Victoria being the Education State – where a young person’s ability to succeed in education is not determined by their socio-economic status, background or geographic location.

As part of the work to achieve this vision, funding of $1 million for grants is available for a second round of the Student Mentoring Program (2018 and 2019).

# Who can apply?

Grants will be awarded to organisations and schools. The grants will support new and expand existing mentoring programs for disadvantaged children and young people.

The grants program is open to any government school or community service organisation in Victoria. Funding will be provided to organisations that provide or propose to develop a mentoring program for disadvantaged young people with the aim of improving educational engagement and attainment.

# How much funding is available?

A total of $1 million over two years is available for grants in this funding round.

Applicants can apply for any amount of funding to support the type of program they wish to offer. However, the Department of Education and Training (the Department) reserves the right to offer a lower amount of funding than requested to align available budget with applications received.

# How do I submit an application?

To apply, complete the online application at [Student Mentoring Grant Application](https://deecd.wufoo.eu/forms/m197ow6o0wj4jav/).

If you are having difficulties completing your online application, please contact us at [student.engagement@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:student.engagement@edumail.vic.gov.au).

All sections of the application must be completed in order for it to be assessed by the panel.

# What types of programs might be funded?

The Student Mentoring Program focuses on supporting disadvantaged children and young people maintain their engagement with education or training.

In particular, grants will support mentoring programs that focus on:

* **Transition and engagement**: the mentoring program focuses on the mentee’s capacity to successfully move through key transition points: primary school to secondary school; secondary school to post-compulsory education, training or employment
* **Participation**: the mentoring program supports students in maintaining engagement with schooling and curriculum through mentor support, tutoring and pathway planning or exploration.

Preference will be given to applications that support vulnerable cohorts such as Indigenous students, students in out-of-home-care or from a low-SES background, students from culturally and linguistic diverse backgrounds, and students living in rural/remote areas.

For schools, preference will be given to applicants that partner with an organisation with proven expertise in implementing youth mentoring programs.

Applications should demonstrate strong alignment with:

* [Education State](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/)
* [Framework for Improving School Outcomes](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/FISO.aspx).

# What will not be funded?

* Programs or initiatives that include cash prizes or commercial gifts
* Programs that promote or include instruction on any particular religious practice, denomination or sect
* Routine activities already provided by the organisation
* Applications seeking retrospective funding of projects
* Incomplete applications
* Programs or initiatives that duplicate services available from another provider
* Programs seeking funding for infrastructure.

# When do services need to be delivered?

Funding will be provided for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years. Services must be delivered during that timeframe.

# Can apply for funding for just one year?

No. The funding provided is to be used over a two-year period to provide long term benefits to mentees.

# Do mentors require specific training?

Mentors should hold a valid working with children check and be willing to undertake a National Police Check.

Mentoring organisations are required to ensure that mentors are appropriately trained and supported and have a strong understanding of the [Victorian Child Safe Standards](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/protect.aspx) and the Department’s Child Safety policies.

# How much mentoring needs to be provided?

This will vary based on the type of program offered. Applicants should clearly describe their program structure, methodology and how educational outcomes for disadvantaged children and young people might be improved.

# How does the mentoring organisation work with a school?

Organisations delivering Student Mentoring Programs will need to work closely with student wellbeing teams in schools to ensure that services are aligned with the school’s approach to student wellbeing and engagement.

# Do schools pay for mentoring services?

No. Schools and students are not expected to pay for the services delivered by student mentoring organisations.

# What happens at the end of the funding period?

Applicants need to consider how to make their programs sustainable over time. This can be achieved using a variety of methods including, but not limited to, building capability in schools; sponsorship; user-pays approaches etc.

# How will applications be assessed?

A selection panel comprising representatives from the Department, the community sector and industry will assess applications against the key selection criteria.

The key selection criteria are:

* proposed program structure and methodology
* ability to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged children and young people through partnerships
* ability to support transition and engagement and/or participation
* program sustainability
* contribution to the evidence base about the success factors for sustainable, high quality child and youth mentoring programs

Applicants must detail their proposed budget as part of their grant application. This may include salaries; funding to partner organisations if applicable; program expenses; administrative overheads; and in-kind support etc.

# When do applications open and close?

Applications open on 19 October and close at 5pm on   
15 November 2017.

# If successful, what do I need to do?

Successful organisations will be required to:

* deliver the agreed student mentoring program in 2018 and 2019
* meet all relevant timelines
* execute a funding agreement with DET
* provide six-monthly reports describing implementation, outcomes and spending
* participate in evaluation activities and media opportunities.

# Where can I obtain further advice?

See the Student mentoring website at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/studentmentoring.aspx>

You can email Student Engagement at [student.engagement@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:student.engagement@edumail.vic.gov.au).