**Social Justice Small Grants Criteria 2024**

The Mercy Foundation’s Social Justice Small Grants Program provides seed funding to assist communities and organisations to build capacity that will help combat poverty and disadvantage, create structural change and bring about greater social justice in Australia.

**Applications are due in by midnight, Monday 11 March 2024**

Grant amounts range from $1,000 to $10,000.

1. **Criteria**

The following criteria will be used to assess Social Justice Small Grant applications:

1. Innovative projects that require seed funding to increase social equity and inclusion and challenge unjust structures and systems will be prioritised.
2. The Mercy Foundation prioritises projects that target disadvantaged women and/or women with children.
3. In this grant round, applications regarding First Nations people will be prioritised.
4. Applications are accepted for projects that are run wholly within Australia, by community-based groups or organisations based in Australia.
5. Organisations applying for funds must be a legal entity (or under an auspice organisation that is a legal entity), not-for-profit and therefore exempt from income tax, but are not required to have Deductible Gift Recipient status.
6. Small to medium organisations with a turnover of less than $3,000,000 with limited access to other funding sources are prioritised.
7. Note that organisations with projects concerning homelessness should apply to the Mercy Foundation’s Grants to End Homelessness program.
8. Social Justice Small Grants are **not available** to fund:
	1. Core (normal) operating costs of applicant organisations
	2. Vehicles
	3. For-profit organisations
	4. Private individuals
	5. Projects that require recurrent funding
	6. General fundraising appeals
	7. Research
	8. Deficit funding
	9. Duplication of existing services
	10. Organisations that have, or have access to, significant government or other funding
	11. Government entities
	12. Projects that do not meet the identified goals and priorities of the Mercy Foundation.
9. **Other considerations:**
10. Organisations **must** have a safeguarding policy in place prior to funding [(refer to the ACNC website for more information).](https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/governance-toolkit/governance-toolkit-safeguarding-vulnerable-people)[[1]](#footnote-1)
11. The objectives of the project must be clear and measurable.
12. Organisations must demonstrate capacity to implement and manage the project.
13. Organisations need to explain how a project will continue if the key person (who might be a board member, staff member or volunteer organiser) leaves the project while it is still being implemented.
14. The application should include how the project will be evaluated and what developments or future actions will come from the project.
15. Applications require the completion of the appropriate application form and a brief description of the organisation and an annual report or similar document to substantiate the organisation’s status.
16. Applicants must provide referees who can vouch for the organisation’s competencies and the project’s viability.

The applications will be assessed and prioritised for funding according to the above criteria, with consideration given to ensuring there is a fair representation of projects from different states across Australia.

Please contact the Mercy Foundation on 02 9911 7390 or email office@mercyfoundation.com.au if you have any questions about grant eligibility guidelines.

1. https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/governance-toolkit/governance-toolkit-safeguarding-vulnerable-people [↑](#footnote-ref-1)