Digital Devices Grant Guidelines

The Digital Devices Grant funds organisations in the Be Connected Network to provide loan devices and data to socially isolated or disadvantaged older Australians.

This grant program aims to combat social isolation for Australians aged 50+ during COVID-19 social distancing emergency measures, supporting those who are not currently connected to the internet at home.

75% of the Be Connected Network have said that some or all of their learners lack devices to use at home. This is a barrier for accessing essential information and support services, connecting with friends, family and social groups, shopping online, and continuing to improve their digital skills.

Funding through this program will deliver internet connected devices to these learners on a loan basis to improve their connection to the community during this difficult time.

About the Digital Devices Grant Program

Be Connected is an Australian government initiative committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians. Be Connected aims to empower everyone to use the internet and everyday technology to thrive in our digital world. Good Things Foundation manages the Be Connected Network and Grants program.

One-off grants are available to Be Connected Network Partners through this funding round to purchase digital devices to loan out to older Australians who are socially isolated and require them to connect online. At the end of the loan period, the devices must be returned to the Network Partner for ongoing use in the Be Connected program.

Grant amount and term

The total fund available for this program is $1,000,000. Organisations can apply for either a $2,500 (+GST if applicable) or a $5,000 (+GST if applicable) one-off grant to assist socially isolated older Australians.

Grant funding must be spent on loan devices by 12 June 2020 and distributed to the selected learners as soon as possible after purchase.

Eligibility - Who can apply?

Funding is available to Be Connected Network Partners who have an active Be Connected Activation, Building Digital Skills or Capacity Building grant delivering digital literacy support to older Australians aged 50+.

If you are not sure whether your contract is still active - please contact Good Things Foundation to check.

What do I have to do for the grant?

The grant will support Network Partners to purchase digital devices to loan to older Australians during the COVID-19 outbreak and social distancing period.

Network Partners will manage the loan process, responsible for repairs of faults, managing breakages, and resolving issues with the loaned device and ensure appropriate and thorough cleaning processes are in place in between loans.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Purchase digital devices with 6 months prepaid sim cards and arrange safe transportation to loan purchased devices to older Austraians aged 50+
- Clearly outline the loan arrangements with the learner to include:
  - The term of the loan
  - What they would do in the event of damage/loss during the loan term
  - How they would deliver the device and sim to the Learner
- Detail who will receive the loaned device and how they were identified
- Outline how you will support them to use the device and access the Be Connected program throughout the Covid-19 social distancing period
- Be Grant ready - purchase devices within one month of receiving notification of funding

Digital devices can be loaned to learners through the COVID-19 social distancing period and through to 31 December 2020.

At the end of the COVID-19 social distancing period it is expected that the device is returned to the Network Partner for use in the ongoing delivery of the Be Connected group classes.

What we are looking for?

With limited funding available, up to $1,000,000 of grants will be awarded under this funding opportunity. Eligible applications will be competitively assessed on their merits with priority given to applications that demonstrate the organisation is:

- currently delivering, or in the process of transitioning to deliver, their Be Connected digital literacy skills program through a digital platform during the COVID-19 pandemic response period
- have identified users in their community who do not have access to a device or data
- are willing to support learners through a digital platform once devices have been loaned
- have a continuity plan for use of devices when the loan period is finished
- Are willing to include their own devices to loan to learners
- Demonstrating good value for money

Use of Funds

You are required to clearly outline your proposed expenditure in the budget you submit with your application. You must specify the type of devices you plan to purchase, their costs and where you plan to purchase them.

Funds can only be used for:
- Purchase of devices for the purpose of loaning them out to older Australians aged 50+
- Six month prepaid sim cards
- Delivery costs

Please note, funds cannot be used for ongoing operational costs or activities, staffing and project management costs.

Grant recipients will be required to purchase their devices and email copies of invoices to connect@goodthingsfoundation.org by **Friday, 12 June 2020**.

Payments

The full amount of the grant, plus GST if applicable, will be transferred to your nominated bank account from 18 May 2020, once a contract has been accepted online and an invoice has been emailed to connect@goodthingsfoundation.org.

Project timeline

Activity	Date
Online applications open	Monday, 20 April 2020
Deadline for applications	Friday, 1 May 2020 by 23:55 (AEST)
Communication of results to all applicants	Monday, 11 May 2020
Payment date	Monday 18 May 2020

Deadline for purchase of devices and submission of invoices to Good Things Foundation	Friday 12 June 2020
Project start and finish date	20 May to 31 December 2020
Final report	29 January 2021

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report and financial acquittal within one month of the contract ending. In the report, we would like to know:

1. What digital devices were purchased and quantity
2. How many learners aged 50+ were loaned devices
3. How many of these learners were new to Be Connected
4. How many of these learners registered on the Be Connected Learning Portal or on CaptureIT
5. What level of support did you provide learners throughout the loan period
6. Where are the digital devices now, and how are they being utilised in ongoing delivery of Be Connected group classes
7. How the grant funds were spent - please include an expenditure statement, certified correct by an office holder in your organisation, accounting for the expenditure of grant funds
8. Learner journey and good news stories - please share some quotes/stories from learners so Good Things Foundation can create case studies

How do I apply?

Applicants close on Friday, 1 May 2020. You need to log in to the Be Connected Network Partner site and submit your application online. Applications that are late or incomplete will not be accepted.

Unfortunately, no bulk grants will be awarded under this funding opportunity. Larger organisations who have previously received bulk grants, will have to submit individual applications for each registered Network Partner location.

Application form

Question 1 will be pre-filed but you should double check that the information is correct.

Question 2 will check that you qualify for the grant and be asked which contract you would like to apply for.

Question 3 is where you tell us about your project.

Application Questions:

1. Your organisation and application details

The following fields will be pre-filled. Please check that your details are correct.

 1.1. Organisation name
 1.2. Network Partner number
 1.3. Centre address
 1.4. Primary contact
 1.5. Telephone number
 1.6. Email address

2. Conditions of grant

Please ensure that you can select yes to all of the qualifying criteria outlined below:

- We have an active Be Connected Activation, Building Digital Skills or Capacity Building grant delivering digital literacy support to older Australians
- We agree to purchase devices and sims for the purpose of loaning them to socially isolated older Australians aged 50+
- We will purchase devices within one month of receiving notification of funding
- Following purchase of devices, we will email copies of invoices to Good Things Foundation
- We will communicate the loan arrangement with the learner
- We will support learners set up and use their loaned device
- We will utilise returned devices in ongoing delivery of Be Connected group classes
- We are willing to accept a different contract size if we are not successful with our first choice

You will then be asked to select which contract would you like to apply for - please select one from the dropdown.

Contract Size	$2,500 to purchase digital devices to loan out to older Australians aged 50+ who are socially isolated	$5,000 to purchase digital devices to loan out to older Australians aged 50+ who are socially isolated

3. The Project

3.1.	Which target audience(s) are you aiming to reach

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Culturally and linguistically diverse individuals
- Individuals based in outer regional, rural and remote areas
- Older people
- People with chronic/life limiting health conditions
- People with learning disabilities
- People with mental health conditions – mild
- People with mental health conditions – moderate
- People with mental health conditions – severe
- People with sensory impairments
- People with a physical disability

3.2.	How will you spend your grant funds - Please provide an itemised and costed budget to show what devices will be purchased, where they will be purchased from, and any delivery costs (Word limit: 100 words)

3.3.	Please detail who will receive the loaned device and how they were identified (Word limit: 200 words)

3.4.	Please outline your loan arrangements with the learner (please include the term of the loan, what they would do in the event of damage/loss during the loan term, and how you would deliver the device to the learner) (Word limit: 300 words)

3.5.	Please tell us how you will support learners to set up and use their loaned device? Please also outline how your current Be Connected program is transitioning to delivery via an online platform (Word limit: 200 words)

3.6.	Please outline your continuity plan for devices after the loan period. (Word limit: 200)

Review, save and submit

At this stage we recommend that you click on the save and continue button before moving on to submit.