

Essential Technology Fund Guidelines and Assessment Criteria

Overview

The State Government announced \$4 million dollars of funding to support organisations to transition to new ways of working and continue providing support for Tasmanians during COVID-19 on 26 March 2020.

As part of this commitment TasCOSS will administer a \$250,000 Essential Technology Fund for the community services industry to adapt service delivery so they can continue to provide vital support for Tasmanians while adhering to new COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, the Mental Health Council of Tasmania (MHCT) will administer a [Community Managed Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Sector COVID-19 Technology Fund](#). The \$450,000 fund will be used to ensure ongoing access to mental health, alcohol and other drug supports during the COVID-19 impact period for Tasmanians.

Purpose

The Essential Technology Fund will provide financial assistance to community services industry organisations in Tasmania that are required to change service delivery models in response to COVID-19. The fund has been established to enable organisations to access and purchase technology to continue to deliver vital support services to Tasmanians in vulnerable circumstances through new service delivery methods online, by phone and working from home.

Application Process

To make the application process effective and responsive for the community services industry TasCOSS will manage all aspects of the allocation and delivery of the Essential Technology Fund with the aim of minimal disruption to service delivery.

Applications close **5pm, Friday 24 April 2020**. If you have any questions regarding the Essential Technology Fund, please contact Amy Bailey, Community Services COVID-19 Response Coordinator, on 0427 531 323 or [email Amy](#).

Eligibility

- Organisations must be legal entities, registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), based in Tasmania in the community services industry and providing support services to Tasmanians in vulnerable circumstances
- Retrospective funding can be requested for any technology needs purchased from 10 March 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts of service delivery.
- Funding will available for technology needs that are now required to deliver services as a result of the impact from COVID-19.
- Organisations are encouraged to apply for up to \$10,000. A larger amount may be granted at the funding body's discretion if need is demonstrated and funding is available.

- Funds are available for new technology, technology support and equipment to deliver vital services to Tasmanians such as:
 - Devices for staff or clients (laptops, phones, monitors, tablets, etc).
 - Online platforms/CRMs that will improve organisational delivery and connection with clients (video conferencing, accounting systems, website upgrades, digital connection platforms, etc).
 - Infrastructure for connectivity (data and mobile plans, microphones, cameras, upgrade servers, etc).
 - Training and support for staff and clients to increase capacity for effective delivery.

Please note: a separate fund has been established for mental health, alcohol and drug service providers. These organisations should apply for funds through the [Community Managed Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Sector COVID-19 Technology Fund](#).

Assessment Criteria

TasCOSS will use the following criteria to assess Essential Technology Fund applications.

Criteria	Weight Percentage
Demonstrated Need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of impact from COVID-19 on traditional service delivery. • Evidence that the request for technology needs would support the organisation to deliver services to Tasmanians in vulnerable circumstances or support these Tasmanians to access the service. 	50%
Price and Value for Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear outline of what technology needs are being requested and an indication of research into pricing. • Outline how goods/services will be distributed to the organisations/clients. 	50%

Privacy Statement

TasCOSS pledge to respect and uphold your rights to privacy protection under the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) as established under the Privacy Act 1988 and amended by the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.

The information provided to TasCOSS will be used for the purposes of assessing eligibility and distribution of funds and reporting to State Government on expenditure and use of funds.