

GRANTS FAQs

EDUCATE AND PARTICIPATE | CONNECT

How much money can I apply for through the grants?

Grants of up to \$1,000 per application are available. There are no cash grants. All successful candidates will engage BHC staff to source their item via invoices with respective providers. There is \$30,000 available in grant funding for the 2021/22 financial year. The Educate and Participate and Connect Grants will be distributed through three individual funding rounds.

How will BHC decide who receives a grant?

An evaluation team, comprised of BHC team members, will review the proposals against the assessment criteria and award the grant to recipients in most need. To ensure your best chance of success, please respond to all the questions on the application form and submit supporting information as required- see eligibility criteria below for further details. It is important to note that submitting an application does not guarantee funding, particularly if there are more applications than grant funding available.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible for the grant, you must meet the following criteria:

1. A resident, including household member in BHC's affordable housing portfolio (NRAS, Opal, Coral)
2. Not in rental arrears or if you are you must be engaged with a payment plan and adhering to the repayments
3. Applying for a total funding of a maximum of \$1,000 across both the Educate and Participate and Connect Grant (if you are successful up to \$1000 in one grant, you will not be eligible for the other)
4. Not have received Educate and Participate and/or Connect Impact Grant funding this calendar year (residents are eligible to receive 1 grant per calendar year)

Time frame

You will be notified on the outcome of your grant eight weeks after the grant close date.

What are the assessment criteria?

Applications will be reviewed against the following assessment criteria:

1. Is the application complete with supporting documentation attached?
2. Need- Will this grant assist the applicant to achieve your goals? Is there evidence that this assistance is needed? Can the assistance be provided anywhere else?
3. Outcomes- Will this grant have a substantial impact on the applicant?
4. Readiness- Is the applicant ready to utilise the grant?
5. Is there a clear evidence of how costs will be utilised?

What happens if I am approved for a grant?

If you are approved for a Grant, you will sign an agreement which outlines the purpose for the grant funding, the amount you will receive and how the funds will be paid. The Community Development Team will step you through this and support you with this process.

How are the grant funds delivered?

BHC will pay for the activity or item directly to the institution, provider or supplier. In order for this to occur we will ask you to provide evidence of the costs and charges by supplying quotes or invoices with your application. In situations where you have been notified that you have been awarded a grant and providing evidence of the costs is not possible and you are able to cover the costs of the activity or item, BHC will be able to reimburse you for costs. NB: This would need to be agreed upfront prior to any purchases.

Will I have to share my story of receiving grant funding?

All grant recipients will be asked to provide feedback to BHC about the program, what you liked and what we can improve, and how the funding helped you and/or your family. This information will be used for internal purposes to ensure that the program is achieving its aims. Any data used externally (e.g. number of participants, types of activities funded over the year etc.) will not be able to identify participants.

So that we can continue to raise funds and awareness to support initiatives like this, you will also be given the choice to be involved in external promotion of the grant. This could take many forms and you can remain anonymous if you wish. The ways that we might promote the grant include photographs, social media, verbal comments you make to us that we have your permission to share, and stories shared through events and media articles. This participation is completely voluntary.

Can I apply if I'm behind in my rent or tenancy obligations?

If you are behind in your rent or tenancy obligations, you will need to liaise with your Housing Manager prior to applying and have an agreed repayment plan in place. All applicants will have their financial account reviewed on the closing date to ensure eligibility.

What are some examples of how the **Educate and Participate Grant** funding could be utilised?

Education

Mary has a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and in order to have a better chance of employment Mary needs to complete a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. The cost of the Diploma is \$3,000 with TAFE Queensland. Mary has applied for a grant of \$1,000 to kick start her payment plan for the course. This grant funding will allow Mary to commence her studies and have some additional time to save money to be able to continue her repayments in the future.



Employment

Following a long period of homelessness, Jake is now in stable housing and is keen to get back into the workforce. Jake is working with BHC's Resident Employment and Participation Coordinator (RPEC) to enrol in a Certificate in Construction with TAFE Queensland. The cost of the course is covered as Jake is eligible for a concession through the JobTrainer program. However, he requires workwear and tools to ensure he is able to effectively complete the program. Jake has established that he is unable to source this gear with JobActive and support services. Jake gets together costings for appropriate workwear including steel cap boots and a start-up tool kit. The estimate comes to \$750 and he applies for an Educate and Participate Grant to fund this. This grant funding will provide Jake with the kick start he needs to be able to realise his employment goals.



Participation

Alexis has a 10-year-old daughter, Willow, who has a passion for music. Willow loves her weekly music lessons and they have really helped with her confidence and reducing her social isolation. Alexis has her enrolled in music lessons at her primary school but has recently had to stop as she can no longer afford them. Alexis applied for Educate & Participate Grant funding to recommence these lessons.

Alexis provided a copy of the invoice for the music lessons, along with a letter from the music teacher outlining the positive impact the lessons are having on Willow. With the grant funding, Alexis was able to recommence music lessons for her daughter.



What are some examples of how the **Connect Grant** funding could be utilised?

Equipment

Margaret lives by herself and has become increasingly isolated as a result of the pandemic. Margaret's family lives in New Zealand and whilst she can't visit them in person she stays in regular phone contact with them. Margaret would like to invest in an electronic tablet so that she can video chat with her family and spend more time with them. As well as staying in contact, Margaret would like to use the technology to connect with some online groups within her local library and potentially even use the device to learn some new skills. Margaret applies to the Connect Grant for a tablet to enable her to connect and learn.



Education

Ben is keen to have a computer, such as a laptop, that he can use to improve his digital literacy and teach himself some new skills. Ben is interested in completing some short, online courses that will enable him to initially increase his confidence using the internet. He would like to move forward with the goal of improving his financial literacy skills to include budgeting and online banking. Ben applies for a Connect Grant to receive a laptop that will help him achieve his goals.



Connection

Jason has enrolled in an online course, a Certificate III in Fitness with Tafe Queensland and has chosen to complete the course part-time over a year. To be able to complete studies online, Jason needs internet access and has decided to apply for a grant to assist with this cost. Jason lives in an area that has NBN access and has found a quote for internet for \$600 for 12 months. He has applied for a Connect Grant to support his studies and help him work towards realising his employment ambitions.

