

A photograph of two women working in a raised garden bed. The woman on the left is wearing a red top and is looking down at the plants. The woman on the right is wearing a blue and green patterned dress and is also looking down at the plants. The garden bed is filled with soil and various green plants. The background shows a fence and more greenery.

KICKSTART GRANTS GUIDELINES

BHC's Vision is Creating Homes, Empowering Lives, Enabling Transformation.

We know that the homes we create provide a critical platform for people to move forward with their lives. To empower people and help them to transform their lives, some residents may also need support.

To make this possible we have established the BHC Impact Fund- a minimum commitment of \$150,000 each year for services and programs to support better outcomes for our residents. This Fund will invest in programs, services and grants, such as the Kickstart Grants, to assist residents to achieve better outcomes and move forward with their lives with dignity and hope.

About the Kickstart Grants

BHC's Kickstart Grants provide support for residents experiencing financial difficulty to fund "small ticket" items that support their participation, cost of living, health and housing outcomes. Items that could be funded are broad and could include items such as uniforms, travel cards, small household goods, white goods, as well as small projects that strengthen the communities of our residents.

Requests for assistance of up to \$350 can be submitted, with each application assessed on a case-by-case basis. These grants are available all year round. The intent of this grant is to support residents who are not eligible for existing funding / grant opportunities available in the community. As part of the grant process, BHC may refer residents into other existing programs available in the community should they be suitable. Only applications which cannot be supported through existing community programs will be considered.

Eligibility

- Any BHC resident or household member in BHC's affordable housing portfolio (NRAS, Opal, Coral)
- More than one member of the household can apply
- You must be applying for an activity or item that will improve your or a household member's participation, health or housing outcomes.
- Resident applying is not in rental arrears / owes money to BHC, OR if they are the resident must be engaged in a current payment plan and be making the required repayments.
- Each resident can only be successful once each financial year
- Applications must be for a specific activity or item that will improve the resident's participation (e.g. employment, study or community connection), health (physical or mental health) or housing outcomes.
- Applications should not exceed the total value of \$350, if your request does exceed this amount, please speak to the BHC Community Development Team.
- Applicants must explore and confirm they are not eligible for funding / support through any existing programs in the community.

What is the assessment criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following assessment criteria:

To be successful, applicants must clearly demonstrate;

- genuine need
- how the requested item/s will support improved outcomes for the resident and / or community
- that the requested item/s cannot be sourced from alternate funding opportunities or grants
- that the cost of the item is reasonable and justified.

Please note that where the application does not address the above criteria adequately or where total available funding has been expended, some applicants may be unsuccessful.

How to apply

To apply for an Kickstart Grants, follow these simple steps:

- Read these Guidelines to check your eligibility
- Speak with your Housing Manager or a member of the Community Development Team on 3307 3000 or impact@bhcl.com.au
- The BHC team will apply for the grant on your behalf and advise you of the outcome.

Timeframes

Kickstart Grants are available all year round. Applications will be reviewed once received and residents will be advised of the outcome of their application within 8 weeks.

Finding out more

For further information, any questions regarding the application process or for assistance with the application, please contact BHC's Community Development Team on 3307 3000 or speak with your Housing Manager.

To read stories of successful grant recipients, visit: bhcl.com.au/impact/case-studies



The Kickstart Grants are delivered through the [BHC Impact Fund](#) - an annual commitment of funds to invest in programs and services to support BHC residents.

The Impact Fund is supported through contributions by Elevate Residential. We share this story through the [Elevate Residential Impact Commitment](#).

