



Government
Services

Department of Government Services

Briefing for the Financial Counselling Funding
Round 2024-25

Program Overview

Objective and overview

- The Victorian Government has allocated **\$15 million across three years** in recognition of the impact of cost-of-living pressures on Victorians
- Primary program objective is to **increase access to financial counselling services**
- Support for people experiencing **financial hardship where mortgage or renting stress** is a contributing factor
- Seeking **innovative responses** to ensure support is available



Process

Stage 1: the Expression of Interest

- Opened 19 July 2024
- Clarification period: **closes 16 August 2024**
- Submission close: **30 August 2024**
- From there:
 - evaluation
 - shortlisting



Stage 2: formal grant application

- Commences with shortlisted agencies receiving an invitation to formally apply
- Submission closes: **25 October 2024**
- Evaluation and cross-government consultation
- Recommendations to the Minister in **November 2024**



Timelines

Stage	Date
EOI response submission period	19 July – 30 August 2024
Clarification period	19 July – 16 August 2024
EOI close	4.00pm, 30 August 2024
EOI evaluation period	2 – 20 September 2024
Issuing invitations to apply for grants	23 September 2024
Grant applications close	4.00pm, 25 October 2024
Ministerial decisions on applications	November 2024
Execution of funding agreements	December 2024/January 2025
Service delivery commencement	January 2025

General round information

- Clarification period – purpose
- One response per agency – including if under a partnership

Particular things to note:

- Budget information needs to be clear
- Commencement of service delivery – plans must be realistic



Mandatory criteria

Must haves



Not-for-profit organisation



Proposal must meet the objectives



Financially stable with evidence of governance arrangements



Stability, experience and capacity

Also...



Complete responses, submitted on time



Responses must be signed

Comparative criteria

What we are looking for



Innovative responses – through service delivery or client issues



Proposals with a mix of roles not just financial counsellors



Ability to recruit to the roles and stand-up services rapidly



Integrated service offerings



Consider high-priority cohorts

Benefits

Quantitative



How many people will benefit directly



How many indirectly

Qualitative - assessment of the project and its merits



Benefits to the community



Integration with other services

End

See consumer.vic.gov.au/FCfunding for more information

