

Building Justice

2026 Change Grants Stream

GUIDELINES

Closing date: Monday 2 March 2026

Applications now open

The Building Justice stream aims to build on what works to improve justice outcomes by supporting not-for-profit organisations to embed, scale and/or replicate transformative initiatives that help more Victorians prevent or resolve their legal problems.

Applications are welcomed from not-for-profit organisations working to improve access to justice in Victoria. We are looking to support ambitious and promising models that demonstrate strategic vision.

Building Justice grants are suited to organisations focussed on improving legal assistance or preventing engagement in the justice system who are seeking to:

- + Strengthen a tested service model or intervention by enhancing the quality and consistency of the service and outcomes
- + Expand the scale of the service model or intervention based on a clear implementation strategy
- + Further evaluate the impact of the service model or intervention
- + Develop a business case to sustain and expand the service or intervention
- + Replicate a model tried and tested in another community

Applications should benefit those who are currently disadvantaged in the justice system.

What's on offer?

Successful applicants will receive tailored funding and support. Multi-year funding of 1-3 years is possible. Funding is time limited.

Interested in applying?

First book a time to discuss your proposal with us by emailing funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au before

Monday 16 February 2026.

Complete and submit an application using our [Online Portal](#).

The closing date is **5pm, Monday 2 March 2026.**

Building Justice Grants: Assessment Criteria

Grants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- + quality of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of piloted activities
- + quality of evidence indicating community need for the proposed activity
- + the proposed activity is likely to achieve its intended justice outcomes
- + the proposed activity can achieve a measurable impact within the grant term
- + the proposed activity is likely to deliver benefits to the wider legal/justice sector
- + the proposed budget is appropriate and reasonable

Why we are offering Building Justice grants

A diverse range of people from across the community legal sector have spoken about the need for support of successful and effective initiatives, rather than a sole focus on funding new innovations.

In addition to this, the Victoria Law Foundation's research team has been investigating what works to better meet people's legal needs through their '[Measure for Measure](#)' research. Their preliminary findings indicate there is a need for funding to sustain and scale solutions that work.

This grant stream has been developed in response to this feedback and research findings.

Eligibility

Who can apply

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit, non-government organisations (incorporated under the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001*, as applied in Victoria) that:

- + are based in Victoria and whose activities take place in Victoria
- + have satisfactorily acquitted all previous VLSB grants
- + submit an application in accordance with specified timelines and processes
- + demonstrate capacity to deliver the proposed initiative
- + show alignment with the grant round objectives and commitment to sector-wide impact.

The following will not be funded

- + Untested pilot programs or core service delivery
- + activities not relevant to Victoria
- + studies to obtain a degree or diploma
- + litigation costs
- + government organisations/statutory authorities (unless for exceptional work that is not part of their primary responsibility)
- + delivery of practical legal training courses
- + school and TAFE-based educational programs that are normally part of the curriculum
- + recurrent or core operational costs
- + purchasing of property or vehicles
- + commercial or fundraising activities
- + international travel costs
- + prizes, awards, competitions or conferences

How to Apply

1. Review the grant guidelines, eligibility, assessment criteria and application form.
2. In February 2026, speak with the Grants team about your proposal before you submit an application form. Book in a meeting time by emailing funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au **by no later than Monday 16 February 2026.**
3. Complete your application via our [Online Portal](#) and submit it by **5pm, Monday 2 March 2026.**

TIMELINE	
Applications Open	Friday 19 December 2025
Inquiries & meetings	Monday 2 February – Monday 23 February 2026
Applications Close	5pm, Monday 2 March 2026

Only one (1) Building Justice grant application per organisation will be accepted.

Budget

The level of funding available for individual projects will vary depending on the nature of the initiative. Your budget should be realistic and suit the scale and complexity of the initiative being proposed.

Grants are only available for projects that will start after funding is approved – they cannot be backdated and applied to work already undertaken. Grants are also not subject to GST. This should be reflected in your budget. We have a GST private binding ruling from the Australian Tax Office which confirms that payment of grants will not be subject to GST.

Conditions of Applying

Successful applicants must adhere to all State and Commonwealth regulations, statutes and policies regarding equal opportunity, employment laws, standards of conduct, health and safety requirements, privacy, and freedom of information.

We may require that reports, research and other work enabled by grants be published and made publicly available. Our support should be acknowledged in all published material.

Reporting and Evaluation

Evaluation must be built into your project plan. You may be required to participate in evaluation workshops.

Details on all monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements for successful grantees will be included in the Letter of Offer.

Please note that additional requirements apply for larger grants and/or longer program periods. For example, if a grant runs longer than 12 months you will be required to submit an annual work plan and 12-monthly checks against the work plan.

All grantees will be required to provide interim reports and an evaluation of completed projects.

Letters of Support

You may wish to include Letters of Support from key project stakeholders and/or partner organisations detailing the scale and nature of their support for your project. However, this is not a requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply to both the Building Justice and Justice Anew grant streams?

Yes, an organisation may submit an application to both the Building Justice and Justice Anew grant streams. The two streams have different aims and criteria. Please review the guidelines closely to ensure your proposals are suitable and fulfil the relevant requirements. We also advise you to discuss your intentions with Grants Program staff.

Why do you want me to contact you to discuss my application?

We want to give your application every chance of success. Having a conversation allows us to identify any potential issues with your project and gives you the opportunity to fine-tune your application before submission.

Is funding limited to a specific time frame?

Yes. Grants are limited to projects ranging between 1-3 years. Our funding is not ongoing. Please specify project duration in your application.

What is the process of assessing grants?

Applications will be assessed against assessment criteria by an assessment panel of experts and professionals working in the justice sector. Our Board will make funding recommendations to the Attorney-General for approval.

When will I find out the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application after all applications have been assessed and those recommended for funding have been approved by both our Board and the Attorney-General of Victoria. This is likely to be late 2026.

How will I be notified of my application outcome?

We will notify you by email.

If successful, will I get all the funding I requested?

The amount of funding you receive may be less than requested due to budget constraints and/or a willingness to only provide part funding.

What is likely to be the earliest start date of my project?

Generally, applicants are advised of the outcome of their application between September – November. This means projects are likely to commence in late 2026 to early 2027.

About the VLSB+C

The Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner (VLSB+C) are independent statutory authorities responsible for the regulation of Victoria's legal profession. Originally established under the *Legal Profession Act 2004*, our roles and functions now come under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*. We aim to:

- + protect and empower consumers
- + enhance legal practice and ethics
- + improve access to justice.

About our Grants Program

Our Grants Program was established in 2007 to distribute funding to projects that help improve access to justice. Learn more about our Grants Program [here](#)