

Seed Grant Guidelines

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For the latest fund information and to view any updates to the guidelines please go to mibilla.org.au to download the latest version of these guidelines.

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ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose

The Seed Grant Program supports immediate, practical, short-term activities that strengthen capability, access, participation, or confidence.

Seed grants are designed to address immediate needs, remove specific barriers, and enable early momentum. The program focuses on enabling something new to happen, rather than supporting long-term or large-scale outcomes.

Available Funding

Up to \$5,000

Key Dates

Applications open	13 February 2026
Applications close	20 March 2026
Assessment & Notification	Early April 2026

ELIGIBILITY

Applications must meet the eligibility criteria and seek funding for an eligible purpose outlined in these guidelines.

Who Can Apply

Applicants must:

- Be based in Australia
- Use funds for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Australia or the Torres Strait Islands

And be one of the following:

- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned and operated business (new or established), or
- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned community organisation or not-for-profit that supports Aboriginal economic participation, or
- A non-Indigenous organisation working in active partnership with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people or organisations, where the project demonstrably builds Indigenous economic participation or supports self-determination

Who Can't Apply

Applications from the following are ineligible for grant funding:

- Applicants with outstanding acquittals or debts relating to previous Mibilla Foundation grants
- Applicants who are insolvent or have declared bankruptcy.
- Applicants (including their organisation, business, or key personnel) who are not compliant with their incorporating legislation, or who have breached other applicable laws or regulations.
- Applicants found to have deliberately provided false or misleading information in any previous or current application to the Mibilla Foundation.
- Commonwealth, State/Territory, or local government bodies or agencies.

What We Fund

You can apply for funding for:

- Small operating or start-up costs
- Equipment, tools or technology
- Training, workshops, or courses
- School or learning resources - only if they are part of a program or group activity that builds skills or participation

Please upload quotes, invoices, or pricing evidence for any item or service requiring payment.

What We Don't Fund

Applications for the following are not eligible:

- Contingency funds or unspecified "miscellaneous" costs
- Daily travel allowances, per diems, or meal allowances
- Personal living expenses (rent, groceries, utilities, private bills)
- Vehicle purchases or private vehicle expenses
- Debt repayment, fines, or penalties
- Retrospective costs incurred before approval
- Costs already funded by another source
- Long-term or large-scale projects outside the Seed purpose Costs for the preparation of the grant application or costs incurred before an application is approved.
- Activities that present a high risk of physical, psychological, or cultural harm

APPLICATION

Applications may be submitted online via mibilla.org.au or by downloading the Expression of Interest and email to connect@mibilla.org.

Support

The Mibilla Foundation can provide support to applicants, including answering questions and providing guidance on the application process. Support does not guarantee funding approval.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Alignment with the purpose of the Seed Grant Program
- Clarity of the immediate need or barrier being addressed
- Practicality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- The extent to which the grant enables short-term outcomes

Decision-makers

Funding decisions are made by the Mibilla Foundation or its delegated assessment panel. All decisions are final.

AFTER YOU APPLY

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email. Where possible, feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

Funding & Payments

Funding will commence once the agreement is signed by both parties.

The Foundation may pay funds in full or in instalments depending on the nature of the activity and level of risk.

No retrospective funding will be provided.

Use of Funds & Changes

Funding may be subject to conditions (e.g. permits, approvals, insurances). Any changes to the approved activity must be approved in writing.

Acknowledgement of the Foundation

Recipients must acknowledge the Mibilla Foundation in materials related to the funded activity.

Reporting & Monitoring

Recipients must complete a short acquittal outlining:

- What the grant enabled
- Skills, knowledge, access, or confidence gained
- Participation or engagement achieved
- Early signs of momentum or increased capability

Outcomes may be reported qualitatively where appropriate. The Foundation may monitor activities through reporting or evidence of expenditure.

Record Keeping

Recipients must keep accurate records for seven years.

Compliance & Termination

Recipients must notify the Foundation of any issues that may affect delivery of the activity.

Where non-compliance occurs, the Foundation will work with recipients to resolve issues, which may include varying the agreement.

The Foundation may terminate the agreement and recover funds where funding is misused or reporting obligations are not met.

Dispute Resolution

Both parties agree to attempt to resolve disputes in good faith before pursuing mediation or legal action.

MIBILLA MOB POLICY

Purpose

The Mibilla Mob is a network of grant recipients who contribute to community uplift through collaboration, connection, and small acts of reciprocity. It reflects values of shared responsibility and collective success.

Principles

Choice: Contributions align with recipient skills and capacity

Community Benefit: Contributions uplift others

Sustainability: No financial or personal hardship

Connection: Encourages shared learning and networking

Required Community Contribution

All recipients must complete one community contribution within six months of receiving funding. Contributions are not linked to the value of the grant.

Contribution Menu (Choose One)

- Provide a case study for Mibilla publications
- Deliver a small workshop, demonstration, or talk
- Donation of a product to a community partner
- Provide one mentoring session to an emerging Indigenous business
- Produce a short social media asset for the Foundation
- Support a local community activity aligned with recipient skills

EVALUATION

The Mibilla Foundation may evaluate funded activities and the overall Seed Grant Program to ensure alignment with strategic objectives.

ETHICS & PRIVACY

All parties must declare and manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

Personal and confidential information will be collected and used to assess and administer grants in accordance with the Foundation's Privacy Policy, handled sensitively, and disclosed only where required by law or to relevant regulatory bodies.