



GANDEL FOUNDATION ANNUAL OPEN GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Young People's Positive Futures

Gandel Foundation's Approach

Gandel Foundation is a proud family-based organisation with the founders, John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel AC along with members of the next two generations of their family, actively involved. We lead with our values and Gandel Foundation's grant making is guided by principles rather than a set of detailed policies.

We support initiatives that:

1. Empower people to improve their wellbeing and future prospects
2. Promote community values and foster community spirit
3. Have a long-term transformative impact

We prioritise support for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups

Information about our grant levels and issue areas can be found in our [FY26-29 Strategy](#)

Vision

Stronger, resilient, vibrant and inclusive communities

Purpose

To create a positive and lasting difference by powering the delivery of programs and activities that improve quality of life in Australia and Israel

Young People's Positive Futures

The focus of Gandel Foundation's Annual Open Grant Program is to support young adults aged 16-24 as they transition through a key developmental stage, with particular emphasis on those experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage.

Who we support

While many young adults move through this period with clear pathways towards independence, others face barriers to wellbeing, social participation and economic engagement. These challenges are often more pronounced for young people experiencing multiple and interconnected disadvantages, including poverty, homelessness, substance use, experiences of trauma, and health challenges.

Transition points

We are interested in work supporting young people to successfully navigate a transition point in their lives, particularly where specific needs or barriers present challenges.

For example, when leaving out-of-home care, exiting the justice system, finishing formal education or transitioning to employment. This is a guide rather than a prescriptive list.

Approaches we welcome

The program welcomes a range of approaches, from upstream initiatives such as research, policy development and innovation addressing systemic challenges, to downstream initiatives providing direct support to those experiencing heightened vulnerability. In our most recent round, the strongest applications were grounded in trusted relationships, culturally safe practice and practical wraparound support.

Our partners

We anticipate granting to existing/previous grant partners as well as new potential partners.

We also anticipate opening a separate grant round in Q1 2027 focused on the Jewish community, predominantly in Victoria. If that round may be better suited to your organisation, please keep an eye on our website, where details will be published as they become available.

Key Information and Criteria

Grant Requests

Grant amount	Up to \$50,000
Grant period	Up to one year
Type of work	New or ongoing programs
Partners	New or long-term partners
Funding scope	Full or partial project costs, co-funding welcome

Key Dates

EOI's open	Friday, 11 th September 2026 9am
EOI's close	Thursday, 1 st October 2026 12pm (midday)
EOI outcome notification	Wednesday, 7 th October 2026
Full applications open	Thursday, 8 th October 2026 9am
Full application close	Thursday, 29 th October 2026 12pm (midday)
Full application outcome notification	Friday 27 th November 2026
Payment of grants	Mid-December 2026

Payment of Grants

If your application is successful, you will be contacted by the Foundation with detailed instructions on next steps. Your organisation will be required to submit an invoice to the Foundation, which must include your organisation's bank account details. The grant will then be paid by electronic transfer.

Timelines for each grant and assessment process will be communicated through the Foundation's website.

Reporting

Successful applicants are expected to report on their work at the end of the grant period. Online reporting templates are available and may either be submitted directly or used as a guide where alternative formats are more appropriate for partners.

Gandel Foundation recognises the administrative burden associated with mandatory reporting and encourages partners to reach out to discuss flexible reporting options. If an existing evaluation or other form of assessment is already being undertaken, it may be acceptable as the final report for Gandel Foundation. Our aim is to minimise duplication and reduce the reporting load for our partners.

Exclusions and Restrictions

Please refer to the [funding exclusions](#) page and [FAQ's page](#) on our website for general eligibility guidelines of Gandel Foundation.

Submitting an Application

- All applications for funding must be submitted online via a link to our application portal while the grant round is open. The application process is two stage with an EOI followed by a full application for successful EOI applicants.
- Gandel Foundation is committed to upholding pay-what-it takes principles in our grant making. We recognise the full cost (direct and indirect) of delivering impactful work so that for-purpose organisations can operate sustainably and achieve meaningful outcomes.
- Applicants are therefor encouraged to consider any overhead expenses incurred as a result of the proposed work when completing the budget template for submission.
- Further information and examples can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

To be eligible your organisation must:

- Be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ([ACNC](#)).
- Hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 status at the time of application.

How we use your information

Gandel Foundation may occasionally share your application with external reviewers or other trusts and foundations where relevant. We may also include basic information about successful grants in materials that outline the Foundation's work, such as on our website or in our annual review, including basic project details and, where appropriate, the name and photo of a representative.

Key Assessment Criteria

Gandel Foundation is committed to a transparent assessment process in reviewing all grant applications submitted for consideration. Listed below are some of the major factors taken into consideration when grant applications are reviewed and compared with other applications. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list but gives an insight as to the Foundation's criteria.

- Organisation demonstrates how the initiative aligns with one of the following two Gandel Foundation issue areas:
 - **Empowering People:** Working to create an environment where individuals and communities can flourish and reach their full potential is core to our mission. Gandel Foundation is committed to helping individuals and cohorts access opportunities to improve their lives and those of others around them, especially from the most disadvantaged sectors of society
 - **Fostering Community:** Philanthropic grant making in the health and medical field is crucial for advancing knowledge, developing new treatments and improving public health, both mental and physical. Gandel Foundation partners with leading hospitals, institutions and health organisations to advance health outcomes
- CEO and board members/committee of management demonstrate appropriate skills, capability, and capacity relative to the organisation size and scale, it's purpose, operations and needs
- Organisation is financially secure and stable
- Board members/decision making employees are broadly representative of the stakeholders the organisation serves, considering gender, ages, cultures, etc.
- Organisation demonstrates the capacity and/or track record to deliver the project
- Organisation reasonably outlines the funding required and how it is intended to be spent
- Organisation articulates relevance and need of project
- Organisation outlines the objectives of the project and provides measurable outputs and clearly defined outcomes

Pay What It Takes principles and preparing your budget

Strong programs rely on strong organisations, including the people, systems and infrastructure behind the work.

- If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be asked to provide an itemised budget. We encourage you to apply **Pay What It Takes principles** and to include the true cost of the work.
- That means you are welcome to include indirect and overhead costs such as management and oversight, insurance, rent or room hire, finance, IT, and the systems that make delivery possible. **Including these costs will not disadvantage your application.** We would much rather understand what the work genuinely costs than see essential costs left out.
- We understand these conversations can feel uncomfortable, particularly with a funder you have not worked with before. There is no expectation that you have this perfected. If you are unsure how to approach your budget, or would like to talk it through, please get in touch. Information, calculation guides and examples can be found [here](#).

Templates and resources

Templates for the EOI, full application and budget are available on our website so you can see what will be asked before the round opens.

View the templates [here](#).

You are welcome to contact us with any questions at any time, including before the round opens.

Accessibility and alternative formats

We want this round to be accessible to everyone. If you would prefer to submit your application in a different format to meet your needs, for example an interview-style conversation or a video submission, please get in touch and we will work with you to find an approach that suits.

Getting in Touch

If you have any questions regarding the Foundation's grant making, please contact Gandel Foundation's office.

We welcome applications from diverse organisations and communities. If you require additional support, accessibility adjustments, or other considerations to enable your participation in this grants round, please contact the Gandel Foundation team.

Email: info@gandelfoundation.org.au

Phone: (03) 8564 1288

