

## Frequently Asked Questions

# Leading Community Demonstration Site Expression of Interest

**Closing Date 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

### 1. What is a Leading Community Demonstration Site?

The Leading Community Demonstration Site (LCDS) will deliver a new service model for Aboriginal families who may need support to resolve their housing needs, whilst addressing at least one other social issue nominated by the community.

The LCDS will run for 2 years, with the first being a setup year will be funded up to \$250K and additional \$150K each year for the following two years.

One of the reasons for delivering the LCDS is to gather more evidence about the benefit of co-designing Aboriginal services for Aboriginal families and community.

It will be an Aboriginal led co-designed by the community, AHO and other Aboriginal services, Government and non-government organisation partners.

Aboriginal cultural competence will be required from the NSW Government agency partner. For now, there will be one site which will be funding for three years.

### 2. Who is eligible to apply?

Any Aboriginal Organisation, who is committed to achieving positive outcomes to the Aboriginal community, is currently or previously worked in community and is located in NSW is eligible to apply. Note you must be willing to show evidence which includes locations, community cohorts, partnered stakeholders / providers your organisation has worked with in the past to support the community in the form of support letters and the like.

### 3. How could my community get involved?

AHO invites Aboriginal communities to express their interest to host the site.

AHO expects Aboriginal Organisations would respond to the EOI via SmartyGrants, sharing why they would like to host the site, how their community could benefit, and their experience working in partnership to achieving positive outcomes for Aboriginal families.

LCDS aims to have a positive social impact that will achieve a better outcome/s for Aboriginal people, families and communities through the implementation of an Aboriginal led co-design approach with successful Aboriginal Organisation.

This approach will ensure that the initiative is delivered in a way that works for local Aboriginal communities, and local communities are able to have input into the program.

#### **4. Who else is involved?**

AHO has committed to work with the community, peak bodies and key government organisations to co-design a culturally appropriate service model for the initiative. The Aboriginal Organisation will choose who they would like as partners and stakeholders to build their initiative.

#### **5. How will the EOI application be assessed?**

A panel which will include a mix of Aboriginal Housing Office and an independent person will assess all EOI applications against a set criteria. It might take a couple of weeks for the proposals to be assessed. As required, AHO may require further clarification, and / or meetings to clarify EOI responses.

#### **6. Could there be changes to the EOI evaluation process?**

Yes. The AHO may, at its sole discretion, and at any stage of the application process do all or any of the following:

- Require additional information from a proponent
- Change the scope of the requirements of these Guidelines
- Vary, amend (including by replacement) or terminate the EOI process
- Re-open a proposal after the closing date provided it doesn't provide the applicant with an advantage over other applicants

AHO retains the discretion to increase or decrease funds as required based on the merits of the case. This might include opportunities for some of the unsuccessful proponents to have a smaller experience project with AHO. Again, this will be determined based on the merits of the case.

#### **6. When will I know the outcome?**

Successful EOIs will be announced by the end of September 2024.

#### **7. Why is AHO wanting to fund a Leading Community Demonstration Site?**

We want to showcase how an Aboriginal-led co-designed approach works better for Aboriginal people and community and will have better outcomes. AHO would like to collect evidence about this new way of working with Aboriginal people and communities.

We've looked at tenant surveys and heard what was said in listen & yarns about what communities and families say could be improved and how we could be clearer about our role in social housing.

The EOI is designed to determine a level of readiness for co-design and for a new service model.

#### **8. What can the funding be spent on?**

As per the NSW Government Grant Guidelines, grants funded by the NSW Government must provide value for the public dollar in achieving their stated objectives, entail sound planning and design, adopt fundamental concepts for transparency, accountability, and probity, and provide standard of customer service.

The LCDS grant funding cannot be used to hire current members of the successful Aboriginal Organisations staff or board. Grant money cannot be used in any way to pay AHO, DCJ or any other NSW Government department or their assets. The funding cannot be used to support business as usual costs for the organisation, such as a tenancy worker for an ACHP or asset or grounds maintenance to existing housing stock.

#### **9. Is this EOI targeted to specific locations?**

This EOI is Statewide. Any community can express interest to a local Aboriginal Organisation to apply. It's intended that the service model developed through co-design for the site would service a local community. Depending on what the community suggests, this might be over a small or larger area.

#### **10. Where can I go for further information/support?**

For more information and support please email [ClientOutcomes@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ClientOutcomes@aho.nsw.gov.au) or attend our online webinar on 3rd July 2024, where the Client Outcomes team will answer questions and give guidance on what the LCDS.