

A quick guide to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund

ABOUT THE FUND

The Victorian Government is creating more affordable housing and accommodation for workers in key industries across regional Victoria, with the \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

The fund is part of the Government's \$2 billion Regional Package, which is designed to provide lasting benefits in housing, tourism and sporting infrastructure, to make regional Victoria an even better place to live, work, stay and play.

Supporting regional communities

This fund will deliver:

- More housing and accommodation for workers in industries key to the regional economy
- Support for local businesses to meet staffing needs now and into the future
- Capacity for rural and regional communities to grow while offering services important to their communities
- Support for a healthy workforce through environmentally sustainable housing projects that are connected to their community.



Who is eligible

This fund is open to Expressions of Interest from private and public sector entities that operate in Victoria.

The project must be located in one of the 48 rural and regional Victorian local government areas, or the state's six Alpine Resorts.

For further details about eligibility please refer to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund guidelines.

Grant funding

Applicants may apply for grants between \$150,000 and \$5,000,000 (not including GST) per project.



Co-contribution requirements

The fund is a negotiated grant program. All applicants are encouraged to make a co-contribution towards the total project budget.

The co-contribution may come from the applicant organisation or from other sources but must not be from other Victorian Government programs or sources.

For further details on co-contributions please see the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund guidelines.

What will be funded

Funding will be provided for housing, accommodation and infrastructure that increases the supply of quality affordable homes in rural and regional Victoria that offer workers job security and in turn allow communities to grow and prosper while offering the services locals need.

Projects must:

- Provide housing or accommodation for workers in key local industries and their families in regional Victorian locations
- Add to the available housing or accommodation in that location for these workers
- Provide affordable housing or accommodation for the workers for a minimum of five years following completion of the project
- Provide housing or accommodation that will be available for at least 70 per cent of the time throughout the annual period of demand
- Show a direct benefit to the location and its community.

Project timeline

The Expression of Interest period will run from 1 December 2023 and close at 11.59pm on 25 February 2024.

The aim is to inform applicants of the outcome of their expression of interest in late March 2024.

Projects should be ready for construction as they must be completed by 30 June 2026.

How to apply

Applicants are encouraged to read the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund guidelines in full, taking note of application deadlines.

Applicants should discuss their proposed project with their local RDV Business Centre.

The department will provide applicants with feedback on the project's alignment with the broad eligibility criteria of the program, prior to being provided with an emailed link to the expression of interest form.

The guidelines, frequently asked questions and contact details for RDV Business Centres can be found on the website rdv.vic.gov.au.