

Digital Devices Grant Program

Round 7 - Guidelines

Be Connected is an Australian government initiative committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians. Be Connected aims to empower everyone to use the internet and everyday technology to thrive in our digital world. Good Things Foundation manages the Be Connected Network and Grants program.

About the Digital Devices Grant Program

The Digital Devices Grant program aims to combat social isolation for Australians aged 50+ by providing loan devices with data to socially isolated or disadvantaged older Australians who don't have a device of their own.

Grants are available to Be Connected Network Partners to purchase digital devices with data, to loan out to older Australians to improve their connection to the community and support them to continue their digital skills learning.

Grant amount and term

The total funds available for this program is **\$300,000**.

\$5,000 grants will be awarded to 60 Network Partners to deliver their project from 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Devices must be purchased by 31 July 2023 and distributed to the selected learners as soon as possible after purchase.

Eligibility - Who can apply?

Organisations who would like to apply for a Digital Devices grant must:

- Be a registered Network Partner within the Be Connected Network
- Provide an ABN number
- Acquitted previous grant/s awarded by Good Things Foundation

If you are not sure if you have an overdue grant acquittal, please contact Good Things Foundation on (02) 9051 9292 or by emailing connect@goodthingsfoundation.org to check.

What do I have to do for the grant?

The grant will support Network Partners to purchase digital devices with data to loan to older Australians.

Network Partners will manage the loan process - responsible for repairs of faults, managing breakages, and ensure appropriate and thorough cleaning processes are in place between loans.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Purchase digital devices with prepaid sim cards/dongle with data and arrange safe transportation of devices to older Australians aged 50+
- Purchase devices by 31 July November 2023, and forward copies of receipts (for devices only) to Good Things Foundation after purchase
- Ensure devices are set up and ready to use prior to loaning them to learners - the device should have the sim installed, charged and ready for use and the [Be Connected learning portal](#) should be bookmarked along with any other apps or programs appropriate to the learner e.g. Zoom, Skype, govt apps etc.
- Outline how they will safely deliver the device to the learner
- Maintain an inventory log and record the details of each loan event
- Ensure the learner is aware of the [Device Usage Guidelines](#) and signs the [Devices Loan Agreement](#) prior to accepting the device
- Support learners to use their loaned device by showing them how to switch the device on and guiding them through their first experience so they feel comfortable in using the device
- Arrange the safe return of loaned devices at the end of each loan term and ensure the appropriate and thorough cleaning of the device prior to loaning to another learner
- To ensure the protection of information and privacy, each device must undergo a full reset between loans. This will erase all saved data, account information, installed applications, photographs and emails
- Have a continuity plan for the use of devices after the grant term has ended - outline how having additional devices will build capacity in your Be Connected program e.g. allow you to host additional sessions to more people; be able to loan devices to learners to practise between classes; expand your reach through outreach sessions etc.

Applicants are also expected to show learners how to access the Be Connected learning program and support them continue their digital skills learning through [online tech sessions](#)

What are we looking for?

With limited funding available, up to \$300,000 of grants will be awarded under this funding opportunity, eligible applications will be competitively assessed on their merits with priority given to applications that can clearly demonstrate the organisation:

- Need for devices - has identified users in their community who do not have access to a device
- Has the capacity to deliver digital skills training through a digital platform
- Has a continuity plan for the use of the devices after the grant term has ended
- Demonstrates good value for money

To ensure a greater spread of devices within the Be Connected Network, priority will be given to organisations who have not previously received a Digital Devices grant

Support you'll receive from us:

Good things Foundation has developed a [Guide: Loaning devices to learners](#). It contains useful information on what to do when you receive your Digital Devices grant funding and how to get the devices to over 50's in your community.

To assist Network Partners manage the loan process, we have developed [Device Usage Guidelines](#), which outlines the conditions for use of a loan device and a [Device Loan Agreement](#) for learners to sign before they accept the device.

We have also developed the following resources for your Digital Devices loan program:

- [Checklist for delivering sessions remotely](#)
- [Choosing the right software to deliver sessions remotely](#)
- [Examples of packages to purchase with the digital devices grant](#)

Use of Funds

You are required to clearly outline your proposed expenditure in the budget you submit with your application. You must specify the type and number of devices you plan to purchase, their costs, and from where you plan to purchase them.

Funds can **only** be used for:

- Purchase of devices for the purpose of loaning them out to older Australians aged 50+
- prepaid data (sim card; dongle with data)
- Protective case for devices
- Delivery costs for purchasing devices

Please note, funds cannot be used for ongoing operational costs or activities, staffing, administration and project management cost, or to purchase software.

Grant recipients will be required to purchase their devices and email copies of receipts to connect@goodthingsfoundation.org by **31 July 2023**.

Notification and Payment

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email by 12 May 2023.

If your application is successful, the full amount of the grant, \$5,000 (+ GST if applicable), will be transferred to you from 15 May 2023, **once a contract has been accepted online and an invoice has been emailed to connect@goodthingsfoundation.org**.

Project timeline

Activity	Date
Online applications open	Monday, 27 March 2023
Deadline for applications	Friday, 28 April 2023 by 23:55 (AEST)
Communication of results to all applicants	Friday, 12 May 2023
Payment date	Friday 19 May 2023
Deadline for purchase of devices and submission of receipts to Good Things Foundation	31 July 2023
Project start and finish date	1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024
Final report	29 February 2024

Reporting and Record Keeping

Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report and financial acquittal within one month of the contract ending. In the report, we would like to know:

1. What digital devices were purchased and quantity
2. How many learners aged 50+ were loaned devices
3. How many of these learners were new to Be Connected
4. How many of these learners registered on CaptureIT
5. What level of support did you provide learners throughout the loan period
6. Where are the digital devices now, and how are they being utilised in the ongoing delivery of your Be Connected digital literacy classes
7. How the grant funds were spent - please include an expenditure statement, certified correct by an office holder in your organisation, accounting for the expenditure of grant funds

8. Learner journey and good news stories – please share some quotes/stories from learners so Good Things Foundation can create case studies

Retention of records

All grant recipients are required to keep original receipts or other documents, which account for the expenditure of the grant, for up to five years after the grant was awarded.

Grant Terms and Conditions

Please ensure you have read the grant [Terms and Conditions](#) before you commence your application.

How do I apply?

The application period is from 10 September to 10 October, 2022. Please log on to the [Network Partner](#) site and submit your application online. You can see an example of the application form below.

Not a Network Partner?

Organisations need to be a part of the Be Connected Network to apply for a Digital Devices grant. If you are not yet a Network Partner, you can join using the [Joining the Network page](#) on our website. You can apply for the Digital Devices grant as soon as you submit the Join the Network form. Newly joined Network Partners will receive a phone call from one of our team members to welcome you to the Network and help process your application. There is no need to hold off on your Digital Devices grant application before this phone call.

Application form

Step 1 - Accessing application form

Please select your organisation from the drop down box – the organisation you select is the organisation you are applying for funding for. In this section you should only be able to see the organisations that are attached to your account – *Please note that you need to have your browser set to accept cookies.*

Step 2 - Application questions

Organisation Details (this section will be pre-populated)

- Organisation ID:

- Organisation Name:
- ABN:

Contact Details (this section will be pre-populated)

- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Email:

How did you hear about this funding opportunity? (dropdown box, please select from the following)

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Google search
- LinkedIn
- Good Things Foundation (e.g. newsletter)
- Other funding site (e.g. Community Grants Hub)
- other

- **What evidence (local/regional/national) have you got to support the need for this project?**

Please detail who will receive the loaned device and how they were identified

This question has a 200 word limit

- **Please upload a detailed Project Plan** (you can access a project plan template [here](#))

The project plan should help demonstrate a clear approach to the project by outlining the key steps required and all tasks to be considered (for example, procurement of devices, managing the loan process, delivering digital skills training remotely, evaluation, reporting), as well as realistic timeframes to ensure the project can be completed by the proposed end date

This question has a 200 word limit

Impact and Assessment

- **Please describe what outcomes you hope to achieve and how you will measure them**

Please outline your continuity plan for the use of devices after the grant term has ended

This question has a 100 word limit

Financial

- **Contract ID** (this section will be pre-populated)
- **What amount are you applying for?**
- **Please detail the full costs of your project and the items you would like this grant to fund. Please also include any match or in kind funding**

This question has a 100 word limit

- **Upload the completed Budget Template** ([you can access a budget template here](#))

This question has a 100 word limit

Remember - Once your application is complete, please click **“Submit”** which will then allow you to review your application. Please note, the details of your application form will not be available to you on your Online Centres Network record so you are strongly advised to print a copy of this page for your records. **After reviewing your application, please click “Confirm” to finalise your grant application.**

Support

Remember, you can contact our Network Team at any time if you have any questions about the application process on **(02) 9051 9292** or by emailing connect@goodthingsfoundation.org