

Am I eligible to apply for the Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program?

All general practices that are currently open and operating are eligible to apply for the grant. To be identified as a general practice, the following core criteria must be met:

1. The practice operates within the model of general practice as described in the [RACGP definition of general practice](#).
2. General practitioner services are predominantly of a general practice nature.
3. The practice can meet all mandatory indicators in the [RACGP standards for GP](#).

More information can be found through this [RACGP factsheet](#).

GPs who work in a single field such as skin care services, travel clinics and other single field services are not eligible to apply, as these are specialised services and do not cover whole-person and comprehensive primary health care provided in a general practice.

My practice is part of a corporate group, am I eligible to apply?

Each individual practice can apply separately for a grant if you meet the eligibility requirements. However, the corporate group (head office) is not eligible to apply.

My general practice did not receive an invitation to apply, does this mean I am not eligible for the grant?

Any general practice that meets the definition of a general practice is eligible to apply for the grant. An invitation to participate email has been sent out by Capital Health Network (CHN) to the identified general practices in the ACT. These emails were sent to your practice's primary contact email that we have on our records. If you have not received the email, kindly get in touch with our team at gpgrants@chnact.org.au.

However, CHN's grant funding allocations have been made based on the known and confirmed practices by CHN. If your practice has not been known by CHN, your practice will be treated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Department taking into consideration the availability of grant funding.

I have opened a new general practice, can I apply for the grant?

Any general practice that meets the "definition" of a general practice is eligible to apply for the grant. However, CHN's grant funding allocations have been made based on the known and confirmed practices by CHN. Your practice will be treated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Department taking into consideration the availability of grant funding.

Do I have to be accredited to apply for the grant?

No, practices do not need to be accredited to apply for the grant. However, unaccredited practices will only be eligible for a one-off grant of \$25,000. Practices are also encouraged to use the grant to support gaining accreditation.

How much will my practice get and how is this determined?

One-off grants up to \$50,000 are available depending on your practice accreditation status and practice size. Your practice size is determined by the Department of Health and Aged Care using your GP FTE. More information on how this is derived can be found here - [Method Paper: General Practice Full Time Equivalent \(GPFTE\) – Workforce \(health.gov.au\)](#).

For the purpose of the program, accreditation status is based on its status as of 30 June 2022. For any practice that was not accredited prior to 30 June 2022, a grant of \$25,000 is available.

What can I use the grant for?

The grant must be used for investments in innovation, training, equipment and minor capital works in one or more of the following streams: enhancing digital health capability, upgrading infection prevention and control arrangements, and maintaining or achieving accreditation against the RACGP standards.

The grant must not be used for any consumables or any business-as-usual costs such as memberships, rent, taxes and utilities. The grant must also not be used for any purchases and expenses already funded by another grant program. You may refer to the [Quick Reference Guide](#) for examples of activities that may be undertaken using this grant.

Do I receive a separate grant for every investment stream I choose?

No, general practices are only eligible to receive a single one-off grant regardless of the number of investment streams you choose.

Can I change my mind and use the grant for a different stream than what I indicated in my application?

Yes, you may change or modify the stream/s you have initially applied for during the program; however, you must notify CHN with any changes you make via email: gpgrants@chnact.org.au.

Can I apply for less than the funding offered?

No, practices will receive the grant offered in full. The funding is flexible so could potentially be used for various activities as listed in the [Quick Reference Guide](#) to make improvements for the practice.

I have submitted my application, when do I expect to receive my funding?

CHN requests applicants to complete and sign the forms correctly to assist us in the timely processing of your application. You will receive an application approval email and CHN aims to process the grants within 20 days from the date your application has been approved.

Can I use the grant for investments I paid for before the commencement of the program?

No, any investment activities using the grant must be for new improvements to the practice with cost incurred between the start date and the end date of the funding agreement.

Will my practice need to pay tax on the grant?

Yes, grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. General practices should seek independent advice on their taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office.

Do I need to submit proof of expenses made using the grant?

Receipts and invoices are not required to be submitted to CHN. However, they must be retained for taxation purposes and for random audits by the Department. Financial Acquittal Report and Self-Evaluation Form will be required from the practices at the end of the program or as soon as the grant funding has been exhausted by the practice.

When can I use my grant?

You may begin undertaking activities as soon as you receive the funds through the bank details you have provided. All funds must be spent by **30 June 2024**.

What happens if a practice changes ownership during the grant period?

If a practice changes ownership after the grant has been paid to the practice, the practice should notify CHN. The new owner is not eligible to apply for a new grant and the signatory of the funding agreement must meet all obligations in line with the contract, including returning unspent funds to CHN unless a variation to the funding agreement for the remaining funds has been agreed by CHN and the new owner.

What if my practice closes after receiving the grant?

If the practice has not used the funding for eligible investment streams, then the practice must return the unspent fund to CHN.

What happens if my grant funding is underspent at the end of the program?

At the end of the program, all unspent funds must be returned to CHN.

Other questions?

The Quick Reference Guide resource covers everything you need to know about the program, we encourage you to read the document carefully and if you have any further questions, you may reach out to our team at gpgrants@chnact.org.au.