Indigenous Councils Funding Program 2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Indigenous Councils Funding Program (ICFP)?

The ICFP program aims to help Indigenous councils meet the costs of delivering local government services to their communities. This program will provide $47.960 million in base funding and a further $27 million in top-up funding. The program is administered by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (the department).

Who is eligible?

Eligible councils for the Indigenous Councils Funding Program are:

- Aurukun Shire Council
- Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
- Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mornington Shire Council
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
- Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council
- Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

How is funding allocated?

Funding allocations are determined through a methodology, which considers factors such as population, remoteness and dispersion, average operating costs, and revenue-generating capacity.

The 2026-27 program will introduce a two-stage payment approach:

- base payments are to be paid as soon as the Project Funding Schedule has been executed by the council and the department from 1 July 2026
- top-up payments are to be paid upon confirmation of council's adoption of the 2026-27 budget and submission of DLGWV's quarterly grant reporting (June and September 2026).

How can the funding be used?

Funding is to assist in meeting the costs of providing local government services. Some examples are below:

- delivery of general public services
- public order and safety services
- public health services

- public amenity services
- essential services
- transport and communication services
- recreation and culture services
- public education services.

Do councils need to apply for funding?

No, there is no application required.

When will the Project Funding Schedule be available?

The department will provide councils with the Project Funding Schedule by 30 July 2026.

When will the funding be paid?

The department will pay the base portion of the approved funding allocation as soon as possible after the Project Funding Schedule has been executed by both the council and the department.

The top-up portion of the approved funding allocation will be paid upon satisfactory adoption of council's 2026-27 budget and the submission of DLGWV's quarterly grant reporting in June and September 2026.

Why have the guidelines changed with a two-stage payment approach this time?

The department is committed to supporting councils' long-term financial sustainability and strengthening governance requirements. The two-stage approach is linked to the achievements of key performance indicators and is intended to support this objective.

What key performance indicators apply?

For 2026-27, the first **base** payment will be paid following the execution of the Project Funding Schedule. The second and final payment of the **top-up** allocation will be paid upon confirmation that the council has met the following requirements:

- adoption of the council's budget by 1 August, or by a date determined by the Minister
- submission of DLGWV's quarterly grant reporting for June and September 2026.

From 2027-28, the key performance indicators will be carried forward and also include confirmation that the council's General Purpose Financial Statements have been completed within legislative timeframes, or by a date determined by the Minister.

Are councils required to submit progress reports?

No, progress reporting is not required for this program. However, officers from the department may contact councils to ascertain project deliverables.

Who can I contact about the Fund?

Councils can contact the department at LGDgrants@dlgwv.qld.gov.au or their local Regional Advisor.