

Project Support Grants April 2021

For details on this grant program, including the GUIDELINES, please go to <http://mdo.sa.gov.au/projectsupportgrants/>

Frequently asked questions

Who can apply?

The Music Development Office (MDO) Project Support Grants program is designed for South Australian artists, songwriters, producers and artists, live music venues, promoters, booking agents, recording studios, and other music entrepreneurs, businesses, or organisations. See the Guidelines for a complete list of eligibility criteria.

What are the different grants available? How much money can I apply for?

Stream A – Creative Development (ARTISTS) grants are capped at \$15,000 per grant.

Stream B – Business Development (MUSIC BUSINESSES) grants are capped at \$15,000 per grant.

Can I apply for more than one category?

No. As an applicant, you must choose between Stream A or B.

However, if you are submitting an application on behalf of someone, e.g. an artist manager writing an application for one of their artists, then the **artist would be considered the applicant** in Stream A, and the manager would be eligible to apply for a separate project regarding funding for their own management business in Stream B.

If you are a South Australian live music venue you can apply for Stream B in the Project Support Grants program, **and** the (separate) Live Music Venues Grants program, as long as you are not applying for the same exact expenses in each application. For details on the Live Music Venues Grants program, see the MDO website <http://mdo.sa.gov.au>.

How are applications assessed?

It is important to note that while the Music Development Office manages this funding program, it does not determine the final outcomes. Applications are assessed by industry representatives with a local and national perspective. This panel makes recommendations to the Minister for Innovation and Skills, who decides which applications to approve. Please refer to the Guidelines for details.

How much funding is there in total?

The MDO Project Support Grants April 2021 round has a total budget of \$320,000 which is divided evenly between Streams, with \$160,000 available in Stream A and Stream B.

If successful, will I get all the money that I requested in my application?

In competitive funding rounds, there are usually a greater number of worthy applications than the available funds can support. As such, the assessment panel of industry representatives may choose to offer partial funding to some applicants.

What if my project can't proceed unless I get full funding?

You may choose to explain this in your Budget Notes. Similarly, if your project can proceed with part funding, you may choose to state this in your Budget Notes, specifying what modifications you would need to make to your project if it were not fully funded.

If your project is strongly dependent on other pending income sources (e.g. another grant in progress, unconfirmed sponsorship, crowdfunding campaign), you are strongly encouraged to explain this in your Budget Notes, along with your contingency plans if you are unsuccessful in securing these other sources.

Any notes to Budget regarding the above will not make your application more or less likely to be funded. All applications are assessed on their own merits according to the criteria.

How do I apply?

Applications will be found via a link on the MDO website's [Project Support Grants](#) page. This link will open an online webform. You can enter information directly into the webform and in some cases, you will be able to upload documents.

Applications will be open from Friday 9 April to 11:59pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021. Please note, the automated system **will not accept late applications** and you are encouraged to apply well in advance of the deadline.

Who do I contact if I have technical difficulties?

Contact the MDO for questions on any technical difficulties with the application by phone 08 7320 3337 or email mdo@sa.gov.au.

Support for questions, including technical difficulties, will only be available **until 5pm** on Tuesday 27 April.

Can I submit my grant through the Arts SA Grants Portal?

The MDO is not part of Arts SA. The MDO is an initiative of the Department for Innovation and Skills and no longer administers grants through the Arts SA grants portal. Any grants displayed on the portal are NOT issued by the MDO, and contemporary music is likely to be ineligible for Arts SA programs. If in doubt, please contact the relevant [Arts SA](#) officer or contact the MDO: 08 7320 3337 or mdo@sa.gov.au.

Can I access my previous Contemporary Music grants material (e.g. funding agreements, acquittals) through the Arts SA Grants Portal?

At present (April 2021), previous grant recipients are still be able to login to the Arts portal to view their historical documents. In some cases where grants submitted through the portal are still in progress, you may receive automated reminders via the portal regarding the due dates of your acquittals. In future, all

grant administration will take place through a separate system, and you are encouraged to keep copies of important documents in your own files for reference.

What do I need to submit?

You will need to submit a completed application form via the web form <http://mdo.sa.gov.au/projectsupportgrants/> – see the **Guidelines** (downloadable pdf) for a list of Essential Information for each application.

You will be required to answer multiple choice and open-ended questions, with specific requests to upload documents or link to your online presence. Please ensure that all web links in your application are active.

Can I link to material on my own Dropbox?

You will **not** be able to link to files/folders in **Dropbox** or other **online storage systems**. Any material submitted in this format **will not be accessed or reviewed** as part of your application. If these files/folders contain Essential Information as per the Guidelines, your application may become **ineligible**.

Does my project have to involve new material?

No, your project does not necessarily have to involve new material. For instance, you may seek funding to support marketing activity for an existing product or event. In terms of recording activity, the re-recording of existing material should offer something new, e.g. a new version of your own original work. In all cases, assessment panel will review whether this type of activity is competitive in the round. You cannot apply for projects that involve strictly cover material, tributes, or someone else's work.

Do I have to use funding for Music Business Projects within the period of COVID-19 restrictions, or can I use it when my business can trade again?

The MDO will accept applications that outline strategies or plans taking place within the eligibility period: 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. When designing your project, you should keep in mind what information is available at the time and consider your activity and timeframe accordingly.

Can I use Creative Development funding to plan an upcoming tour (e.g. post COVID-19 restrictions)?

Funding in this round supports the preparation of recording or touring that occurs within the eligibility period: 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. Keep in mind what information is available at the time when planning your project.

Can I apply for recording and touring in the same application?

Yes. There are no 'categories' for projects. However, in a competitive round, you should be able to strongly demonstrate how each activity within a project supports your goals for career development.

My project has already started, is it eligible?

The MDO cannot retrospectively fund activity (ie. reimburse activity that has already occurred). However, if your project is still in progress beyond the eligible start date for the round (1 July 2021), you can apply for expenses you will incur from that date. For example, if you're currently recording but won't be mastering until July, you could apply for funding for mastering. You cannot simply retain an earlier invoice from activity at the recording studio and pay it from July. For tours or event series, expenses relating to performance dates after 1 July 2021 are eligible.

I'm a new musician/band, am I eligible for Creative Development funding to write new songs? What about recording my debut release?

Yes. The application process will offer you the opportunity to submit support material that can speak to your skills, experience, and role within the industry. You can apply for recording activity as well, and high-quality demos can be helpful in the assessment process if available. In a competitive round, you are encouraged to only submit support material that shows your strongest work.

Can I upload my music or videos as support material?

For music or video files, you must provide links, not the files themselves.

Where do I link to my music or videos?

Your links should lead directly to a platform that hosts music or video (e.g. YouTube, Spotify, Soundcloud etc). If you link to a private page on these platforms (e.g. for unreleased material), make sure you provide the password or access instructions. You will NOT be able to link to Dropbox or folders containing material. Test all links prior to submitting your application. Due to the high volume of expected applications, staff will not have capacity to contact you regarding any broken links.

Is the purchase of streaming equipment an eligible expense?

Yes, this is an eligible expense in both Stream A and B.

If you're applying for this equipment in Stream A, you should demonstrate how it will significantly contribute to the creation and/or improved quality of your artistic output during the project. Purchase of equipment or instruments for the sake of it is not likely to be considered a competitive application.

If you're applying in Stream B, you should demonstrate how this equipment will significantly contribute to your production, presentation, or delivery of live original music, and how it supports your business model.

As a live music venue, can I purchase new PA equipment with the Music Business Project Support funding?

Yes. You should demonstrate how this equipment will significantly contribute to your production, presentation, or delivery of live original music, and how it supports your business model.

As a live music venue, can I use Music Business Project Support funding to support noise attenuation costs?

Yes. You should demonstrate how this equipment will significantly contribute to your production, presentation, or delivery of live original music, and how it supports your business model.

Can I use Music Business Project Support funding to pay my staff?

Ongoing salaries are not eligible within this funding. However, activity that supports the proposed “Project” is eligible. For instance, funding can be used for relevant service fees in the project’s management, production, presentation, or delivery of live original music, e.g. artist, engineer, lighting technician fees. By contract, service fees for ongoing costs are ineligible, e.g. if security is required at your venue regardless of your live music programming/project.

As a live music venue, can I pay artist or creative personnel fees from a MDO Project Support Grant?

Yes. However, if a project’s South Australian artist fees are funded by another source, you cannot apply for more artist fees to increase payment to the same artists. You can however apply for funds to include additional South Australian artists, interstate, or international artists in the project, or for other expenses within the project.

Can I apply for an APRA AMCOS or Australia Council for the Arts grant and an MDO grant at the same time?

Yes. You are encouraged to seek other income streams for your activity. If these other grants are intended to contribute to the same project as your application to the MDO Project Support Grants, you should outline the amount, confirmation, and allocation of the grants in your budget. You cannot apply for funding to cover the same expenses as other income sources.

If successful, when will I get the funding?

All payments to successful applicants in Stream A should be complete by the end of June; payments to successful applicants in Stream B should be complete by end of July. Upon notification, successful applicants will be encouraged to process the paperwork **exactly as instructed by the MDO**, to avoid delays in payment. Generally, there is a 1 to 2 week deadline to return Funding Agreements to the MDO or a funding offer will expire.

When will I hear back about whether my grant is successful or not?

All applicants, successful **and** unsuccessful, will be notified of their results by email, and the MDO anticipates notification to occur by late May. We cannot offer a specific notification date due to the amount of processing involved. If you have confirmation that your grant was successfully submitted, then please wait until you receive the second email with your outcome notification.

What if I have a grant already but that project can't proceed as planned now?

You can apply to the MDO for an extension or variation, please contact: mdo@sa.gov.au. You should not begin any alteration to your grant in terms of activity or use of funding until you have liaised with the MDO.

Can I apply for this new MDO grant if I already have a funded project that's still in progress from a previous MDO grant round?

Yes, as long as you are not applying for expenses that were already covered in your previous grant.

Will there be a 'regular' round of the Contemporary Music Grant Program in this financial year?

No, the Project Support Grants replace the Contemporary Music Grant Program for 2020-21, and 2021-2022.

Do I have to make a financial contribution (e.g. matched funding) to the proposed budget?

No, you are not obligated to do so, but are encouraged to consider additional funding sources for your project, whether it's a cash contribution, other grant, sponsorship/partnership, or in-kind goods and services.

Do I have to have an ABN to apply?

No. However, professional practicing musicians and businesses should have an ABN, and you will be asked why you do not have one. Applicants must have at least 6 months professional / operating experience.

On the application form, what does Auspicing mean?

In this context, Auspicing is when you require an organisation to handle the financial management of the grant on your behalf if you are successful in receiving funding.

Do you fund classical and jazz?

Yes, any genre is welcome to apply in the Project Support Grants program as long as the project involves original music.

Does the project have to involve South Australian music exclusively?

Only projects that involve original music that is composed and performed by South Australian based artists are eligible for Stream A. Collaborations with non-SA artists and producers are welcome, but the purpose of the project should be to support an outcome for the participating South Australian artist(s).

Music supported by Stream B applications must also be original. There is some scope to include non-SA touring acts for projects involving venue programming and for events (if travel conditions allow), however in most cases the majority of participating artists should be South Australian. If not, you should be able to make a strong case as to how the project supports your business model and contributes to the broader South Australian music ecosystem.

Can I get feedback on why my application has not been funded?

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, feedback will not be available for applicants unless there was a significant issue (e.g. missing mandatory information, or failure to meet eligibility requirements). In competitive rounds, there is generally not enough funding to meet demand. As such, strong and competitive applications may still miss out.

Can I get feedback while I'm writing my application?

You are welcome to contact the Grant Program Manager with questions on the grant program terms and conditions, eligibility, criteria, or assessment process.

Due to the volume of applications expected in a competitive round, staff will be unable to read drafts of applications or take multiple meetings or enquiries from the same applicant.

You are encouraged to ask questions well in advance of the closing date and should expect delays in the week prior to the closing date as staff work to service a high volume of enquiries. You can contact Elizabeth Reid, Grant Program Manager on 08 7320 3307 or at mdo@sa.gov.au.

Are there out of round grant opportunities?

Out of round applications are only accepted for projects that are career defining, life changing, time sensitive opportunities that 1) could not have been planned ahead to fit within the normal grant round timeframe, and 2) cannot be postponed until the next grant round. Out of round grants are not for applicants who missed the grant deadline or are simply undertaking a new general project between rounds. The MDO will determine if your project is eligible for an out of round application, which would then be assessed by an industry panel.

If an out of round grant is successful, funding comes from the budget of the next Project Support Grants round, and thus reduces the total pool of funding for that round. As such, the application has to be considered highly competitive, and meet all above criteria, before it is referred to the industry panel for assessment. Referrals to the panel do not guarantee the application's success. Out of round grants will generally only be considered after the current funding round has been assessed (May 2021).

Are there quick response grants?

MDO grants that are assessed in scheduled round can take six to eight weeks between the closing date and notification, due to the time required in processing the material. Any grants considered outside of a normal round will still require many of the same stages in processing, and thus may take a minimum of four weeks prior to notification, and a further one to two weeks for payment.

What is considered a strong or competitive application?

MDO Project Support Grants are assessed by a panel of industry representatives who review each application according to the program criteria outlined in the Guidelines. In competitive funding rounds there are usually a greater number of worthy applications than the available funds can support, and thus strong applications may still be unsuccessful.

Are these grants part of a stimulus package?

No. The MDO has reshaped and simplified the way we can support you and these grants to complement other funding available nationally and in the state. We have repurposed our Contemporary Music Grant Program into the Project Support Grants to ensure the South Australian music industry can continue to develop, create, and connect during this time.

Can I use this funding for living expenses e.g. rent, loss of income?

No. The MDO has repurposed our current Contemporary Music Grant Program to complement existing funding available through Commonwealth and State Governments and ensure the South Australian music industry can continue to develop, create, and connect during this time and moving forward. Please continue to check business.sa.gov.au to view other support for our small business community, and for state-wide information about the COVID-19 pandemic please visit SA.GOV.AU.