

## FAQs

### **1. What is a Backing the Future Grant?**

**Backing the Future Grants** are grants of \$50,000 to individuals researching, piloting or accelerating early-stage ideas. They will be available to individuals whose work supports young people in rural and regional NSW or Queensland, across VFFF's four focus areas: [Caring for the Environment](#), [Contributing to Society](#), [Decent Work](#) and [Exploring Christian Faith and Values](#).

### **2. Who can apply for a Backing the Future Grant? Are there age restrictions?**

Applications are open to individuals who are 18 or older and have an early-stage idea that benefits young people in rural and regional areas. VFFF encourages young people aged 18-30 to apply.

The first round in August 2022 will be open to individuals whose work is focused on young people in New South Wales and aligned with one or more of VFFF's four focus areas.

### **3. What is an early-stage idea?**

An early-stage idea must be more than just an initial idea. It should be an idea that has been in active development for less than 3 years.

### **4. What can the grants be used for? Can funds be allocated to personal expenses?**

The grants can be used for a range of activities (e.g. salary, technology, rent for office space), as long as it supports the initiative proposed in the Backing the Future grant application.

### **5. How do I apply?**

1. Click the apply now link on VFFF's website.
2. Create an account.
3. Complete the eligibility quiz.
4. If successful, complete the written and video application process.
5. After review, applicants will be contacted regarding whether they have progressed to an interview.

### **6. How many grants are awarded per year?**

20 grants are awarded across 2 granting rounds. 10 grants will be allocated for work in NSW and 10 grants will be allocated for work in QLD.

### **7. Are there geographical limits for where my work can be conducted?**

Work must be conducted primarily in NSW and/or QLD, with a focus on supporting rural and regional young people.

### **8. Do I need academic qualifications to apply?**

No.

### **9. Will grants be tax assessable?**

Candidates are encouraged to seek taxation advice regarding their individual circumstances.

**10. When do applications close?**

Applications close on 31 August for the first NSW round.

**11. What supporting information is required? Is there an opportunity to supply references or letters of support with your application?**

There is a section in the application form to provide additional information. This can include links to letters of support, articles, CV and/or LinkedIn profile. This is not mandatory but will help VFFF get to know you better!

**12. What is required to be a strong applicant?/What makes a good application?**

Potential applicants should read through the above information to understand what is considered a strong applicant.

**13. What could be some common reasons for an unsuccessful application?**

If you meet any of the exclusion criteria listed you will not be successful in your application. This criteria includes:

- Projects and/or ideas that have been in active development for more than three years
- Individuals seeking support for: scholarships, public fundraising appeals, endowment funds established to provide a corpus for institutions, disaster appeals, political projects, litigation and/or political lobby groups or individual churches

**14. What are the stages of the application process? How long is the review and selection process? When will applicants find out if they are successful?**

The first stage of the application process consists of an application form with both a written and video component. If successful, applications are reviewed by VFFF's Youth Advisory Group and shortlisted. Shortlisted applicants are contacted for an interview with the Grants Committee. If successful, applicants will receive a \$50,000 grant towards their initiative. Please refer to the VFFF Backing the Future grants page for timings for each grant round.

**15. Can I get feedback on my application if I am unsuccessful?**

Applicants who are unsuccessful at both the first and second stages of the selection process will be provided with feedback from VFFF.

**16. If unsuccessful in this round, can I apply in the future?**

Yes.

**17. What are the reporting requirements for grants?**

Backing the Future grantees will be required to report back at the end of the grant. This report will include both written and video components. VFFF team members will also contact grantees regularly to check in regarding the progress made towards achieving their goals.

**18. What kind of support is provided during the grant term? Are professional development opportunities available to successful recipients?**

Support will be developed to suit the needs of grantees. As this is the first iteration of Backing the Future Grants, the support provided by VFFF has not been finalised.

**19. Will VFFF consider proposals that do not fall within the focus areas of *Decent Work, Contributing to Society, Caring for the Environment and Exploring Christian Faith and Values*?**

No.

**20. Would VFFF consider grant applications that have relevance across more than one focus area, for example *Decent Work and Contributing to Society*?**

Yes. In the application, please select the one focus area with the closest alignment to your proposal and refer to any other focus areas as appropriate.

**21. Who do I contact if I have technical difficulties with submitting my application?**

If your question is about uploading a video to the application, please read through our technical guide to see if your question is answered there. If there is another technical issue in submitting the application, please contact [foundation@vfff.org.au](mailto:foundation@vfff.org.au).

**22. If you have a similar initiative to another applicant, does that reduce your chance of success?**

This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**23. What is the time investment that is required? How many hours a week? Does the initiative for funding need to be what I am pursuing full time?**

VFFF does not specify a certain amount of hours for the work. However, this work should be a high priority for applicants and there should be time allotted to work towards the initiative.

**24. What are considered accessibility challenges in submitting the video component?**

Accessibility issues refer to barriers encountered when creating and/or uploading a video e.g. internet or connectivity issues or challenges accessing or utilising video technology.