



Inspiring Western Australia
Small Grant Guidelines 2026

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Overview

Inspiring Western Australia is offering **community grants up to \$4,000** to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) projects and events in Western Australia during National Science Week.

National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science, held in August. In 2026, it runs from 15 - 23 August, offering communities across the country the chance to take part in exciting science events and activities.

Your project should focus on eligible activities in August 2026 as part of National Science Week. Where possible, it should engage historically underrepresented groups in STEM or highlight the contributions of scientists from these communities, including:

- First Nations communities and projects that highlight First Nations contributions to STEM
- Regional and remote communities
- Women and girls (including projects that highlight their achievements in STEM)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) people
- People with disability
- Neurodivergent people
- People from low socio-economic backgrounds
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People facing age-based discrimination

A grant may be used to fund a new project or amplify existing activities. To strengthen your application, clearly identify your target audience and how you will engage them. Ensure your project meets all essential criteria before proceeding.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 16 February 2026	Applications open
Wednesday 1 April 2026	Applications close (5pm AWST)
Friday 1 May 2026	All applicants notified of outcome
Friday 29 May 2026	Successful applicants submit tax invoices
August 2026	Events delivered
<u>No later</u> than Friday 25 September 2026	Post-event reports due

Eligibility

To be eligible, your organisation must:

- Be a **registered organisation** (ABN or auspice required)
- Uphold the **National Principles for Child Safe Organisations**, comply with all relevant Western Australian child safety laws and provide documentation upon request.
- Run your event during **August 2026**.
- **Not** run a **school-only** event*
- Provide a **clear budget that meets grant guidelines**.
- Collect participant feedback and meet reporting requirements**
- Have appropriate **insurance** coverage for your event

Your event should benefit the **wider community, not just school staff or students.*

*** Inspiring WA will provide participant feedback surveys and reporting templates. Not meeting reporting requirements may affect future funding eligibility.*

Application Questions

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed through the following questions.

1. **Please describe your event.** *Include a brief overview, the timeline or schedule, key activities, and who will be involved.*
2. **Explain how your project will create a positive and impactful STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) experience for participants?**
3. **What skills, experience, and resources does your organisation have to successfully run this event?** *Include any key people or organisations you will be working with.*
4. **How will you reduce the environmental impact of your project during planning and delivery?**
5. **Is your target audience an underrepresented group in STEM, as outlined in the grant guidelines?**
6. **Is your project working with, or part of, an organisation that represents an underrepresented community in STEM?** *This could be a partnership, such as a girls' coding workshop working with a women-in-tech mentoring group, or your organisation itself, such as a regional community centre running STEM events for the local community.*
7. **Please attach a letter or other supporting documentation showing your partnership with, or representation of, an underrepresented community in STEM.**
8. **How will you promote your project to your audience?** *Please outline the methods you will use, such as social media, flyers, newsletters, or other ways to reach participants.*
9. **How do you plan on collecting feedback and attendance numbers from your project?**
10. **What risks could affect your project (e.g., weather, venue changes, staff availability, participant safety), and how will you manage them?**
11. **How much will this project cost participants?**

To give your application the best chance of success, ensure your activity meets all essential criteria, as many desirable criteria as possible, and that all questions are answered.

Budget Guidelines

You can apply for up to **\$4,000 (excluding GST)** to cover costs like:

- Consumables (e.g., lab materials, art supplies for STEM workshops)
- Speaker/contractor fees
- Marketing and promotion (e.g., posters, social media ads, radio ads)
- Catering (a suggested 15% of budget towards catering)*
- Project officer salaries or wages (a suggested 20% of budget towards salaries and wages)*

Projects that demonstrate additional cash or in-kind support**—such as venue hire, materials, or staff time — will be highly valued.

**Inspiring WA invites budgets that demonstrate clear value for money. If your budget exceeds the suggested amounts for catering or wages but can justify the additional expenses, we encourage you to submit it.*

Successful Applicants

If your application is successful, you must:

- Sign a **grant agreement** outlining key requirements.
- Submit **photos** from the event to Inspiring WA and provide photo consent forms.
- Collect and submit **participant feedback** (survey templates provided).
- Complete a **final report** by 25 September 2026.
- **Notify Inspiring WA within 10 business days** of becoming aware of any major changes to your event.
- **Return funds** within one month if the event cannot proceed.

Failure to meet reporting requirements may impact eligibility for future grants.

Additionally, successful grant recipients will be asked to provide the following:

- **Project Summary for Website** – Provide a 150-word summary of your project for the Inspiring WA website once notified of your successful application.
- **Presentation Session** – You will be invited to a virtual session to present your project. Attendance is optional but recommended for first-time recipients.

Inspiring WA reports all grant activities to the National Inspiring Australia Network and the Commonwealth Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), who funds the program. These requirements help demonstrate the impact of National Science Week and ensure continued support for science engagement.

Resources

Below are resources to assist you in your application.

Application Support Materials:

- [Example of Grant Budget](#)
- [Example of Application Responses](#)
- [Application Response Example](#)

Past Grant Recipients:

- [Inspiring WA STEM Grant Recipients 2024](#)
- [National Science Week Grant Recipients 2024](#)
- [Inspiring WA STEM Grant Recipients 2025](#)
- [National Science Week Grant Recipients 2025](#)

Event Videos from Previous Grants:

- [*WA Gould League: Beyond Boundaries Expanding Access to STEM and Nature*](#)
- [*Victoria Park Community Centre: WOMEN ROCK!*](#)
- [*ICRAR: Connecting to Science through Stories and Sky*](#)

If you have further questions, please contact wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au.