

# Early Adopter Grant Program FAQs

The NSW Government is providing up to \$3 million in total to support councils implement AI solutions from the AI Solutions Panel through the Early Adopter Grant Program.

---

Latest update: 30 April 2024

---

## 1. Who can apply for the grant?

All eligible NSW councils can apply for the grant. Detailed eligibility and evaluation criteria can be found in the grant guideline.

## 2. What is the timeline for the Grant Program process?

Grant applications are now open and close at 11pm, 22 May 2024. Successful grant recipients will be confirmed by June with grant funding to be awarded by 30 June 2024. A detailed timeline can be found in the grant guideline.

## 3. Can councils request an extension for submitting their grant application?

An application received after the closing date and time, 11pm on 22 May 2024, will only be considered by the department provided that:

- a) it is clear that the cause of the delay was beyond the applicant's control
- b) we are satisfied that the competitiveness and integrity of the program will not be compromised.

Please refer to the grant guideline for more information.

## 4. How will grant recipients be decided?

A department committee will select recipients based on a competitive process, in which councils must address all eligibility and evaluation criteria as outlined in the grant guideline.

## 5. Will additional rounds of the Grant Program be available in next financial year?

There is currently only one round of funding available.

## 6. What measures are in place to ensure councils can effectively use the Early Adopter Grant funding?

The department will hold several engagement sessions targeted at council planning and procurement teams to support the engagement and management of an AI Solutions Panel supplier as part of a successful grant project.

Supporting material for all councils, including a Panel Operating Guideline, is also available. This includes technical guidance for councils as they develop their AI projects.

As part of the grant application process, councils will need to demonstrate their readiness to procure and implement an AI product solution from the AI Solutions Panel.

Grant recipients must supply an activity plan to be included in the grant funding agreement. Grant recipients will be responsible for meeting project milestones and delivering the project within the timeframes and terms of the agreement.