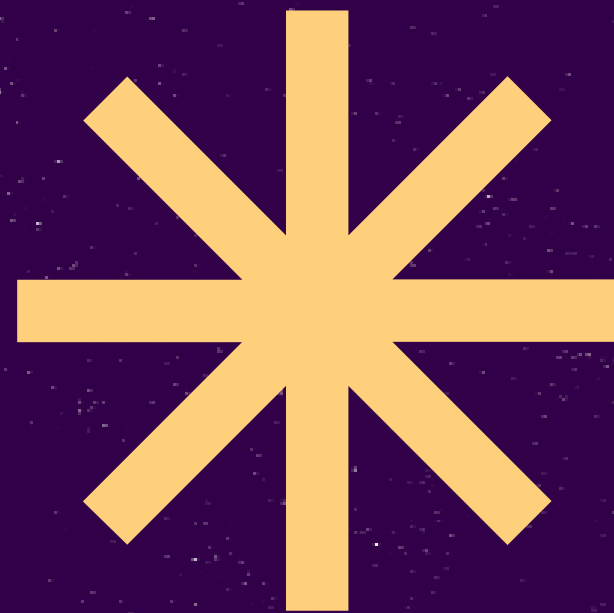


Your idea could change the way we approach mental health and wellbeing

Information Pack
Spark Grants 2025



Fay Fuller
Foundation

Spark Grants provide opportunities to explore preventative approaches for mental health and the conditions for wellbeing.

Guide to this Information Pack

This information pack has been put together to support you to apply for a Spark Grant. We recommend reading the [**Our Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing document**](#) and talking with us before developing your proposal.

On our website you will find a range of other support resources and information, including past partner projects, videos, and FAQs. You can also register to attend an [**information session**](#) or reach out to our [**Grants Manager**](#) to support you in understanding whether Spark Grants are right for your idea and organisation, or for support with the application process itself.

Grant details

Spark Grants are a one year grant, each to the value of \$40,000 and six partners are selected each open round. During the grant period you will have the support and partnership of the Foundation and access to a range of resources and networks.

The opportunity

Spark is about imagining and learning with community about what might be possible or different. It might start with an idea, seeing an opportunity, or responding to what community says is needed but for which there isn't currently funding, resources, or time to develop. For your proposal, it isn't about proposing solutions, programs, services or a plan for implementation but rather who you and your community are and what you want to know more about that might make a difference.

What this might look like or include

- developing a contextual understanding of what prevention and wellbeing mean to your community and context
- creating a vision, learning with community what isn't known, or gaining a deeper understanding about what might be possible
- being open to taking different approaches and changing direction as you learn along the way
- developing community activation, evidence, insights, or a plan for what it would take to bring this to life

Spark Grants create time and space to work deeply with community.



Applications 2025

OPEN: 3 March
CLOSE: 5pm 14 April

How to apply

During the application period, register or log into our **Grant Toolbox platform** through our website to submit your proposal. Please register under the primary organisation or individual who will be leading the work, there is an opportunity to add collaborating organisations later in the process.

Your proposal can either be uploaded as an attachment, written in an open text box or you can provide a link to an online platform to view or download.

We recommend registering a week before the due date if you haven't used this platform before. There is a [video available on our website](#) that walks through the whole process, but if you have any problems at all reach out for a chat.

Contact Information

Kate Arnold - Grants & Operations
kate@fayfullerfoundation.com.au
0408 335 006

Eligibility

To be considered for a Spark Grant your proposal needs to meet the following three criteria:

Be for a charitable purpose

We invite any type of registered organisation or group to apply where it can be demonstrated that the work is for the benefit of community and the outcome will be charitable and not for profit or individual gain.

South Australian Community Based

As a South Australian based Foundation we support community-based programs of work within South Australia. This criteria is assessed on the location of the work and whether it is to the benefit of a South Australian community.

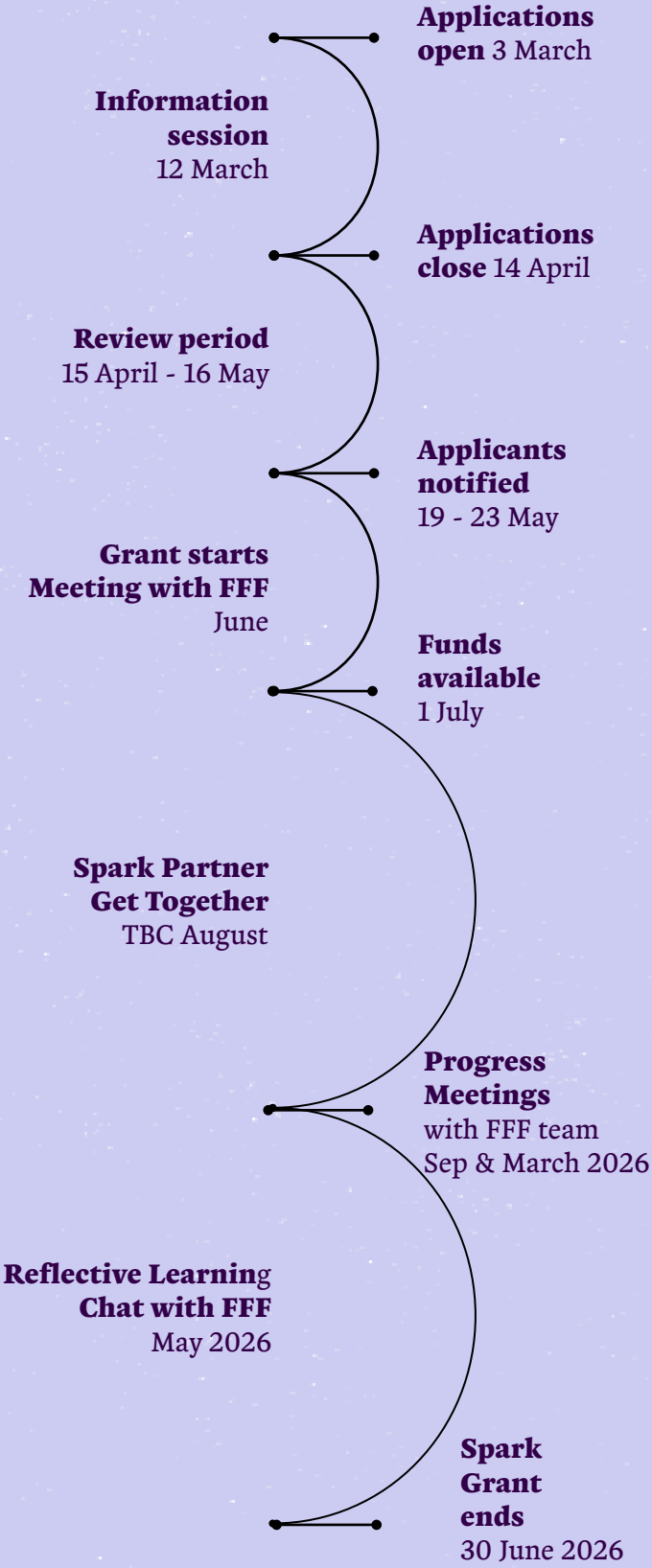
Development of a Preventative and Strengths based approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing

Spark Grants are intended to support the development of preventative approaches for mental health and the conditions for wellbeing in community. To learn more about this and how it differs from early intervention, read [Our Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) document.

Key Dates

The funds will be available from 1 July 2025, one month after the official start date of the one year grant. During June we will hold an online information session and arrange our first meeting to discuss your proposal and establish our ways of partnering together.

The official end date of this round of Spark Grants is 30 June 2026 but we recognise that your exploration may prefer to take a longer journey, experience hurdles or need to adapt, and we are happy to work flexibly and extend the timeline to suit your needs as required



Your application

Preparing your proposal

Through your proposal we will be looking to understand your ways of working, relationship with community, and your hopes for the work. It is also important for us to consider whether the proposal is well suited to the opportunity and resources provided by a Spark Grant.

Format

We want to hear from you in whichever way is easiest and preferred for you, this includes how you communicate as well as how you choose to prepare your proposal. For instance, your proposal could be a narrative, short answer responses, a video, or an audio recording and it might be conversational, academic, or a more formal proposal. We will not be considering presentation, grammar, or length when reviewing your proposal, only how what you have shared with us aligns to the guiding statements and assessment criteria.

Length and detail

We don't want you investing too much of your time or resources in us and encourage you to be brief and speak to the heart of the matter. As a guide this might look like 1-2 pages of information. However, we understand that you might want to share more, or find it hard to cut down, longer is ok too! We don't require letters of support, or background information but if there is anything important or relevant to support your application you are welcome to reference or attach.

Direct Questions

When you upload your proposal in Grant Toolbox we will also ask you to name:

- Your Community Group
- Location of the Work
- Type of Proposal

Information to include

The five guiding statements below invite the type of information it is important for us to understand to fairly and consistently assess your Spark Grant application. You are welcome to include anything additional that you think is relevant.

Who & How | Tell us about you and your community

This might include: who is involved, how you define community, information about your relationship, how you work together, and your roles and contributions.

What | Describe the opportunity; what you want to learn, understand or develop with community

This might include: information about what you are hoping to use this grant to support understanding, learning, or developing and how that is different from what is currently known, available, supported, experienced or possible

Why | Talk to us about why this is important

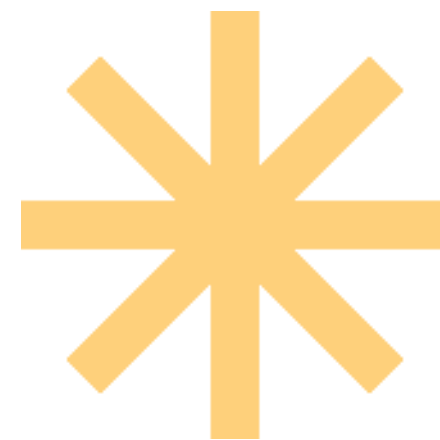
We encourage you to share about this from your own experiences and context, and might include: information about experiences, discussions, existing evidence, or what is currently happening in community that has informed your proposal.

How | Share with us about what you might do

This might include: key activities or ways you will learn with community, and how this grant will support you to do that with consideration to your context, the time and funding.

Hope | Express how this might support better mental health and wellbeing

This might include: what this experience might mean for those involved, what it might lead to or enable, and/or what might be developed or be possible by spending this time with community.



Process

Each application will be individually reviewed by two staff members against the eligibility requirements and the assessment criteria. We take a strengths-based approach to assessment and will be looking for examples of how what you have shared aligns with the criteria. If something is unclear in your application, we may phone the primary contact listed during the assessment period 15 April - 16 May.

We will then come together as a team to discuss the outcomes of our individual assessments to share and compare our thoughts and to ensure a consistency of approach, and a critical lens against any bias. Where we are missing insight into content included in a submission, we may reach out to our close partners and networks, but this will remain an anonymous and confidential process.

This team discussion will inform a recommended shortlist and assessment report which will be reviewed by the Board to inform the final selection of six partners. Where this decision can't be reached by just the selection criteria, consideration will be given to the diversity across the applications and the closest alignment with the intention of this opportunity.

Assessment and selection

Assessment Criteria

We will use the below criteria to review your proposal. Each criteria is equally as important as the next and will be applied to all of the information provided in your proposal.

Learning from and with people

We will be looking to understand how you will work with, and act on the voice of community and people with lived and living experience throughout your Spark Grant.

Open way of working

We will be looking to understand your openness to using this opportunity for learning, testing and adapting to deepen your understanding of what is possible and wanted by community.

Aligned to Spark Grants

We will consider how what you have proposed aligns with the resources and opportunity of a Spark Grant, with specific consideration to readiness and the amount of funding and time available.

Preventative and Strengths-based

We will consider how this proposal is aligned to building the conditions for preventative and strengths based support for mental health and wellbeing within your community's context.

Questions & Answers

Communication and Feedback

What communication will I receive about my application?

When you upload your proposal through our Grant Toolbox online platform, you will receive an automatic confirmation email (*make sure to check your junk mail*).

We will notify all applicants of the outcome of their proposal via email during the announcement period 19-23 May, with a public announcement made on the 26 May of the selected partners. For all communications, the information for the key contact provided in Grant Toolbox will be used unless otherwise indicated within the application.

What feedback will we receive?

We will provide written feedback to all applicants as to the outcome of their proposal, in particular the strengths that stood out to us, along with any specific feedback as it relates to an eligibility or assessment criteria. We understand detailed feedback can be valued, but believe it is contextual to the process so offer to provide this on a one-to-one basis if requested. Following the announcement, we will share overall insights on the themes and learnings from the grant round on our website.

Funding

Spark Grant Partners will receive a once off donation of \$40,000.

What can the funding be used for?

The funding is to enable you to work alongside your community to develop evidence, and deepen your understanding of key components of your idea as well as to build a network of supporters and stakeholders. The only restrictions on what resources the funding can be used for is that it must contribute to the exploration and development of your proposal, and be for the benefit of community. We understand and encourage that this may include contributions to operational and staff costs as well as recognising community members time, expertise and supporting ways of engaging and learning together through activities and experiences.

What are the reporting requirements for the funding?

We ask our partners to engage in a Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies roles, intentions and expectations, an example is [available here](#), but this will be workshopped with partners at the outset of our work together.

We ask that partners share their learnings and journey back with their community, and where appropriate the Foundation to share with the broader community.

We don't require a funding acquittal with individual receipts but appreciate any insights into how the funding enabled you to do the work.

Partnering with the Foundation



Key Milestones

The first step for new Spark Partners will be an online introductory meeting in June with all six partners. We will also reach out to organise our first individual catch-up, at which we can get to know each other, and your ideas a bit better. At this point we will finalise the ***Memorandum of Understanding*** and look to schedule meetings and establish ways of working throughout the grant period to support your work.

Throughout our partnership we will provide access to a range of resources as well as learning and networking opportunities as relevant to each partner.

We will also support a gathering of all interested Spark Partners to build relationships to share learnings and support, and ways to continue to connect and learn together.

What to expect if you receive a Spark Grant

Although there is no set method to undertaking your Spark journey, or strict budget and reporting requirements, the intention is that the Foundation will work alongside you as a partner. This means we will develop collaborative ways of working and learning together, to support and invite conversations where appropriate about:

- Supporting your thinking and planning on how to approach the work and resource utilisation;
- The way you work with your community to ensure you are reaching out and involving a diversity of voices through methods that are right for them, build agency and are culturally informed, compassionate, strengths based and accessible;
- What you are learning from people, your process during Spark, and how you'll use these findings to inform your next steps;
- What you might like to record or track during your work and what might happen after Spark finishes;
- Capturing your process, learnings and next steps to share back with your community and with us at the end of the journey.

Helpful hints for your Fay Fuller Foundation Spark Grant application

Not sure about writing a grant application or maybe getting a sense that this application might be a little different? Hopefully the following can help provide a little guidance when it comes to content.



Live in possibility, not solutions

For this grant, the end point doesn't have to be decided from the start, speak to how you might approach things, what you want the process to look or feel like, and what you want to know more about by the end - instead of what an output or solution could be.

Come from a strengths-based position

Instead of focussing on deficits, challenges or what is wrong, think about; What are the strengths of this community? What are their assets? What is the gap you want to fill by strengthening these or applying them to a new challenge? How might you leverage existing assets and build on strengths?

Demonstrate openness to adapt, iterate, and learn

We are looking for pieces of work that are shaped through deep engagement with community and that demonstrate a learning approach with a willingness to adapt based on community input and iterate throughout the project lifecycle informed by what you are seeing, hearing and learning along the way.

Consider, what is the story of this work?

You can flesh this out by providing a sense of the lay of the land or the current state, the challenge or opportunity, the good stuff you want to build on or leverage, and what you want to know more about or achieve by the end.

Tell us, who are the characters?

Who is involved? What is important to them? What are their characteristics and strengths? Who else needs to be involved? What should our individual roles be? What can we learn from each other?

Answer - why you?

What relationships, knowledge, understanding or expertise is it that you or your organisation hold that put you in prime position to do this work? Do you belong to the community or hold strong community relationships? Do you have a deep understanding of the system within which an opportunity has arisen? Do you come from a different technical background but can see how that could be applied to a new challenge? What about your way of working is aligned to iterating, adapting and deeply engaging with community?