



Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places Fund – Stream 3: Regional Infrastructure & Technology Program

Round 2 Frequently asked questions
6 August 2024

IMPORTANT

Potential applicants should note that, in advance of the State General Election on 26 October 2024, the Government will enter a caretaker period from 1 October 2024. The caretaker period will last until the result of the election is known. While the closing date for the receipt of applications for this grant program is before the start of the caretaker period, due to the imposition of Caretaker Guidelines and the need for the public service to not bind an incoming government, the department is unable to provide advice about the outcome of the funding round or allocate any funding until the result of the election is known and a new government has been sworn-in by the Governor.



Contents

Fund Overview	5
How does this program align with Queensland Government’s Innovation Precincts and Places Strategy?	5
Available Funding	5
How much funding is available through this program?	5
How many grants will be provided for this program?	5
Eligibility	5
How will I know if I am eligible to apply to this program?	5
What Queensland regions are eligible to apply to this program?	6
Is there a quota for spreading the funding across regions for this program?	6
Definitions	6
What is considered an Innovation Precinct or Place for this program?	6
Who is considered a Precinct or Place partner for this program?	7
Who is considered a Collaborative Partner for this program?	7
Precinct or Place Considerations	7
Is there a list of identified Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places and does my precinct have to be on that list?	7
It is up to the applicant to determine whether their precinct or place aligns with the definition noted in the guidelines.	7
Can a local government authority or agency apply for this program?	8
Can a state or federal government authority or agency apply for this program?	8
Are Federally funded or Local Government funded innovation precincts eligible for this program?	8
Does a university makers space or entrepreneurship space count as a precinct for this program?	8
Are we eligible if our precinct only has one operational entity the time of the application?	8
Multiple applications or locations	8
Can more than one application be submitted in relation to a single innovation precinct or place?	8
Can I submit multiple applications if I am a partner of multiple precincts?	8
Can the precinct cover multiple physical addresses?	8
Can a precinct exist within a precinct?	9
Can the partners be in different locations - but same greater area?	9
What can be funded through this program?	9
What cannot be funded through this program?	9
Project Costs	9
What kinds of costs are eligible for payment through this program?	9
What kinds of costs are ineligible for payment through this program?	9

- Matched / Co-funding contributions 10
- Do I need to provide a funding contribution to be considered for funding? 10
- Will there be an opportunity to seek further costs should the project budget change after approval?..... 10
- What are cash contributions?..... 10
- Can salaries associated with submitting the grant application be captured in ‘cash contribution’ calculations?..... 10
- Can the applicant contribution be completely provided by another entity?..... 10
- Timeframes 11
 - When can I start incurring costs that will be funded through this program? 11
 - When do deliverables need to be provided for this program? 11
 - When does an innovation precinct or place need to be ‘existing’ to be eligible for funding consideration? 11
- Application 11
 - What documents should I include with my application?..... 11
 - How many applications can I submit? 11
 - How do I submit an application? 11
 - When do applications close? 12
 - Do I need quotes before I apply? 12
 - Supplier / provider considerations 12
 - Can we use multiple contractors and suppliers for our project? 12
 - Do contractors and suppliers need to be unrelated and independent of the applicant, precinct or place partners and collaborative partners? 12
 - Do suppliers need to be Queensland based? 12
 - Is there a list of supplier or providers I can use? 12
 - Will an application be disadvantaged if a supplier is also on other non-related submission? 12
 - Can I be a supplier through my area of expertise if I am a partner of an innovation precinct or place that has submitted a funding application? 12
 - What if I am having technical issues with the SmartyGrants application? 13
- Funding Agreement 13
 - When will I need to enter a funding agreement? 13
 - How is the funding paid? 13
 - Do all funds have to be paid to suppliers or providers? 13
 - Do I need an ABN? 13
 - Are grant payments subject to GST? 13
- Future Funding 14
 - If there are funds remaining after this grant round, will they be made available for other grants? 14
 - Is there any support for innovation precincts and places that are not yet established and/or are in the process of being developed? 14

Will being accepted into this grant program be a requirement to access future Advance
Queensland grants? 14

Further information 14

 How do I find more information about the Program? 14

Fund Overview

How does this program align with Queensland Government's Innovation Precincts and Places Strategy?

The Queensland Government released the [A Place to Innovate: Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places Strategy](#) following significant consultation with key stakeholders. The purpose of the strategy is to identify ways the Queensland Government can support coordination and collaboration in the innovation economy and accelerate the development of innovation places.

The strategy will drive opportunities through three key pillars:

1. People: empowering innovation place leaders and stakeholders to collaborate and thrive
2. Place: maximising innovation from infrastructure
3. Purpose: harnessing opportunities and achievements of innovation places.

One of the key initiatives in the strategy is the delivery of the \$15 million Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places (QIPP) Fund.

The QIPP Fund will deliver on the three key pillars across streams:

- Stream 1 – Strategic Initiatives Program (Purpose and Place)
- Stream 2 – Innovation Place Leaders Network (People, Purpose and Place)
- Stream 3 – Regional Precincts and Places Infrastructure & Technology Program (Place).

Available Funding

How much funding is available through this program?

Grants of up to \$3 million (excluding GST) are available to support projects that are able to commence within six months of approval and be completed by no later than 36 months from contract start date.

How many grants will be provided for this program?

The number of recipients will depend on the amount of funding allocated to the funding round and the quality of the applications submitted.

Eligibility

How will I know if I am eligible to apply to this program?

To be eligible for this program the applicant must be:

- a corporate entity, not an individual
- GST registered, with an ABN
- a precinct or place partner in an innovation place located in regional Queensland

- collaborating with one or more organisations based in regional Queensland.

What Queensland regions are eligible to apply to this program?

Applications are open to Queensland Innovation Places and Precincts **excluding** those located in any of the following South East Queensland council areas:

- Brisbane City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Noosa Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Council

Is there a quota for spreading the funding across regions for this program?

There are no quotas regarding funding amounts per region.

Definitions

What is considered an Innovation Precinct or Place for this program?

An innovation precinct or place is defined as having the following elements:

- Involvement and identification with one or more of Queensland's priority innovation growth areas through the precinct or place, which may include:
 - Using the following innovative technology to advance industry:
 - automated systems
 - robotics and artificial intelligence
 - nanotechnology
 - biotechnology
 - quantum technologies
 - innovation in cybertechnology and defence industries
 - innovation in methods to drive sporting success (Sports Tech)
 - innovative methods to improve agriculture and food including novel proteins and low emissions production systems (AgTech)
 - using innovative methods to achieve a sustainable future in a decarbonising economy by:
 - developing environmentally responsible mining practices including innovative methods to accelerate new economy/critical minerals industry
 - managing Queensland's waste and pollution and developing the circular economy
 - mitigating and preventing climate change
 - developing sustainable energy solutions including technology supporting green hydrogen
 - developing sustainable housing solutions
 - developing energy storage solutions
 - developing sustainable water solutions
 - building resilience against

- future potential pandemic crises,
 - natural disasters e.g., droughts, floods, cyclones and bushfires
- innovation in any other area or industry that could demonstrably contribute to Queensland's economic growth.
- an existing, clearly defined, established physical site/s
- two or more entities co-located at the precinct or place with a common interest around a central innovation theme/s
- a focus on benefitting the Queensland innovation ecosystem at the precinct or place, evidenced by one or more of the following:
 - onsite incubation of one or more innovation driven startups, or SMEs
 - hosting of regular activities that support the development and growth of the innovation ecosystem in Queensland
 - hosting of regular events to activate, promote and accelerate innovation in priority precincts in Queensland
 - initiation of programs focused on promoting diversity and inclusion across the innovation ecosystem.

Who is considered a Precinct or Place partner for this program?

An innovation precinct or place partner is an organisation that:

- is an unrelated entity to the applicant organisation
- is physically co-located within the innovation precinct or place which is subject of the application
- is aligned with the brand and identity of the innovation precinct or place
- has a shared purpose and vision, agreement and/or common interest with the future development and growth of the precinct or place.

Who is considered a Collaborative Partner for this program?

A collaborative partner is an organisation or individual who supports the application (either through services or contribution) and is a separate (external) unrelated entity to the applicant and precinct or place partners and is not physically co-located within the innovation precinct or place.

A collaborative partner is not required to be co-located in the innovation precinct or place which is the subject of the application.

Precinct or Place Considerations

Is there a list of identified Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places and does my precinct have to be on that list?

While a list of innovation places was identified as part of developing the [A Place to Innovate: Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places Strategy 2022 - 2032 \(advance.qld.gov.au\)](#) these were considered to reflect a point in time only. Queensland's Innovation Precincts and Places continue to evolve in response to changing market, industry, technology and stakeholder requirements and a list is not maintained by the department.

It is up to the applicant to determine whether their precinct or place aligns with the definition noted in the guidelines.

Can a local government authority or agency apply for this program?

Yes.

Can a state or federal government authority or agency apply for this program?

No. State and Federal Government agencies are not eligible to apply but may be considered as a precinct or place partner or collaborating organisation for program eligibility.

Are Federally funded or Local Government funded innovation precincts eligible for this program?

Applications can be accepted from any precinct or place partner in an existing Queensland-based innovation precinct or place providing they meet the eligibility criteria and the program intent.

Does a university makers space or entrepreneurship space count as a precinct for this program?

It is up to the applicant to determine whether the definition of an innovation precinct or place applies to their site based on the criteria outlined in the program guidelines.

Are we eligible if our precinct only has one operational entity the time of the application?

No, a minimum of two entities (precinct partners) as defined in the guidelines need to be operational at the time of application.

Multiple applications or locations

Can more than one application be submitted in relation to a single innovation precinct or place?

Yes. All eligible applications from an innovation precinct or place will be assessed however only one funding application will be approved per innovation precinct or place.

Note that applications supported by all precinct and place partners of an innovation precinct or place will be highly regarded.

Can I submit multiple applications if I am a partner of multiple precincts?

Multiple applications can be made by eligible applicants providing an applicant makes only one application for a particular innovation precinct or place.

All eligible applications from an innovation precinct or place will be assessed however only one funding application will be approved per innovation precinct or place.

Note that applications supported by all precinct and place partners of an innovation precinct or place will be highly regarded.

Can the precinct cover multiple physical addresses?

An applicant would need to demonstrate the specific attributes of the individual precinct noted in the program guidelines were shared by all physical addresses.

Can a precinct exist within a precinct?

An applicant would need to demonstrate the intended precinct has a distinct innovation identity/brand separate to the rest of the precinct (i.e. not a sub-element) and that it separately met the stated specific precinct attributes (from the Guidelines)

Can the partners be in different locations - but same greater area?

Precinct or place partners need to share the same established, clearly defined physical site as the Queensland Innovation Precinct or Place that is the subject of the application. Collaborative partners are not required to be co-located with the applicant and the precinct or place partners.

What can be funded through this program?

The proposed project must be focused on the establishment of infrastructure and/or the acquisition of plant and equipment including digital infrastructure at the innovation precinct where the applicant is physically located.

Projects can include costs to improve physical connectivity to the innovation precinct including cabling and connection costs.

What cannot be funded through this program?

Your application is ineligible (and will not be considered) if the proposed project focuses **solely** on:

- using the grant funding to purchase, lease or licence a building or premises
- maintenance costs for existing infrastructure
- costs to only access internet services
- developing a construction plan
- developing a property development proposal
- obtaining construction development approval
- acquisition of digital infrastructure – external to the precinct/place
- salaries (including salary/related on costs) for project staff.

Applications made by applicants that are part of a conceptual or proposed innovation place that does not have a physical site at the time of application will not be considered for funding.

Project Costs

What kinds of costs are eligible for payment through this program?

Grant funding may be used for the following eligible project costs:

- Capital works and/or physical infrastructure costs including:
 - buildings
 - digital infrastructure – internal to the precinct/place
 - cost of plant and equipment required specifically for the project.

What kinds of costs are ineligible for payment through this program?

Items not eligible to be paid for from grant funding include:

- purchase of an existing building
- lease or licence costs
- costs associated with the core business of the applicant including organisational overheads
- payments between applicants, precinct or place partners and associated entities.

Applicants cannot apply for funding of initiatives that have already been funded by other government agencies.

Matched / Co-funding contributions

Do I need to provide a funding contribution to be considered for funding?

While not mandatory, applications that include a cash contribution from the applicant and precinct or place partners will be highly regarded.

Will there be an opportunity to seek further costs should the project budget change after approval?

No. Where projects require additional funding to be completed over and above the grant funding sought, all additional costs will need to be covered by the applicant and its partners.

What are cash contributions?

Cash co-contributions from applicants, precinct or place partners and/or collaborative partners can take the form of:

- cash to meet the cost of project delivery
- salaries (including salary-related on-costs) for applicant employees directly involved in developing the project.

Can salaries associated with submitting the grant application be captured in ‘cash contribution’ calculations?

No. As noted above only salaries for employees directly involved in developing the project can be considered through the fund.

Can the applicant contribution be completely provided by another entity?

Yes, contributions can be provided by an entity other than the applicant (i.e. a collaborative partner). A collaborative partner is an organisation or individual who supports the application (either through services or contribution) and is a separate (external) unrelated entity to the applicant and precinct or place partners and is not physically co-located within the innovation precinct or place.

A collaborative partner is not required to be co-located in the innovation precinct or place which is the subject of the application.

Timeframes

When can I start incurring costs that will be funded through this program?

Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the project commencement date can be claimed by successful applicant organisations. The agreed project commencement date will be confirmed in the funding agreement with the department and will be no earlier than the date of funding approval.

When do deliverables need to be provided for this program?

If your application is successful, the project must commence within six months of being advised of grant funding approval and be completed by no later than 36 months of contract start date.

When does an innovation precinct or place need to be 'existing' to be eligible for funding consideration?

The innovation precinct or place must be established with all the attributes noted in the program guidelines at the time of application.

Application

What documents should I include with my application?

The SmartyGrants application form asks specific questions and will prompt you for any required supporting documentation. Only information submitted at the time of application will be considered. Applicants need to provide additional information to support their application, including:

- letters of support from precinct or place partners and collaborative partners demonstrating their level of commitment to the project
- project proposal, including a project plan and budget
- quotes for all services, plant and equipment to be delivered through the project.

How many applications can I submit?

An applicant may only submit one application per innovation precinct or place.

How do I submit an application?

All applications must be submitted electronically through the SmartyGrants portal.

Details on how to apply can be found on the Department's website – <https://advance.qld.gov.au/grants-and-programs/oct/queensland-innovation-precincts-and-places-fund-regional-precincts-and-places-infrastructure-and-technology-program>

When do applications close?

Applications will close when all funding has been allocated.

Upcoming assessment dates will be advertised on the program website.

Do I need quotes before I apply?

Yes, all applications must include quotes for all proposed project elements. Applications without this information will not be considered eligible for funding consideration.

Supplier / provider considerations

Can we use multiple contractors and suppliers for our project?

Yes.

Do contractors and suppliers need to be unrelated and independent of the applicant, precinct or place partners and collaborative partners?

Yes. The applicant, precinct or place partners and the collaborative partners must not have any shareholding (including parent-subsidiary relationship), commercial or personal connection with the proposed contractor and suppliers involved in delivering the project. Applicants will be required to declare any interest in the entity providing a proposal or quote for project.

Do suppliers need to be Queensland based?

While not compulsory, proposals that use Queensland suppliers will be favourably regarded.

Is there a list of supplier or providers I can use?

The Department is unable to specify or recommend individuals or firms that can provide services for your project. Applicants are encouraged to undertake their own research to determine who is best placed to support successful delivery of your project.

Will an application be disadvantaged if a supplier is also on other non-related submission?

No.

Can I be a supplier through my area of expertise if I am a partner of an innovation precinct or place that has submitted a funding application?

It depends on the circumstances.

You are not permitted to supply services or materials if the applicant, precinct or place partners and the collaborative partners have any kind of shareholding (including parent-subsidiary relationship), commercial or personal connection with you or your business. Applicants will be required to declare any interest in the entity providing a proposal for project.

You are permitted to provide services or materials to innovation precincts or places where there is no shareholding, commercial or personal connection between your business and any of the applicant, precinct or place partners and/or the collaborative partners in the application.

What if I am having technical issues with the SmartyGrants application?

If you need help using the SmartyGrants form, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out [Applicant Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#).

Please contact the Department if you continue to have issues with SmartyGrants, by emailing innovationplaces@dtis.qld.gov.au and quote your submission number.

Funding Agreement

When will I need to enter a funding agreement?

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement with the State of Queensland through the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

Successful applicants will be required to execute a Funding Agreement within approximately 30 business days of being notified that the funding application has been successful.

Failure to meet this timeframe may result in the funding offer being withdrawn.

How is the funding paid?

Payment of grants will be made based on agreed periodic project milestones and may take the form of:

- an initial payment paid on provision/confirmation of a signed agreement between the applicant and the key providers / suppliers
- a final milestone payment paid on provision of documentary evidence that the project has been completed, including evidence that total project expenditure has been incurred and co-contributions have been made by all relevant parties.

Do all funds have to be paid to suppliers or providers?

Yes.

Do I need an ABN?

Yes. To be eligible for this program the applicant must have an ABN and be registered for GST.

Are grant payments subject to GST?

Yes. Applicants must be registered for GST and all grant payments will be paid inclusive of GST.

Future Funding

If there are funds remaining after this grant round, will they be made available for other grants?

Any funds not allocated during the program will be reinvested into future Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places initiatives, including considerations for future grant programs.

Is there any support for innovation precincts and places that are not yet established and/or are in the process of being developed?

Applicants for the Regional Precincts and Places Infrastructure and Technology Program need to be from an existing, clearly defined, established physical site. The Queensland and Australian Government's provide a range of support for startups and scaleups that may not meet this definition. Further information is available on the <https://advance.qld.gov.au/> website.

Will being accepted into this grant program be a requirement to access future Advance Queensland grants?

No. This grant program is independent to all other Advance Queensland programs and applications will not form consideration for any other programs.

Further information

How do I find more information about the Program?

Additional information can be found on the Department's website: <https://advance.qld.gov.au/grants-and-programs/oct/queensland-innovation-precincts-and-places-fund-regional-precincts-and-places-infrastructure-and-technology-program>

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