



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of
State Development

Skills SA

Department of
State Development

Equipment and Capital Grants

2024-25 guidelines

Introduction

The South Australian Government is investing in the capability and capacity of training providers.

Equipment and Capital Grants are a \$9 million investment to support state-of-the-art training facilities, contemporary infrastructure and technology and industry-relevant equipment aligned with areas of skill demand and economic priorities in South Australia. Up to \$3 million will be awarded in grants each year to 2025-2026.

The first round of Equipment and Capital Grants in 2023-24 resulted in grants being awarded to 16 providers. For information about grants awarded, see [Equipment and Capital Grants](#)

2024-25 priorities

Eligible organisations are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$250,000.

Grants will be aligned to emerging and priority skills needs and industry sectors in focus in the recently released [South Australian Skills Outlook 2024](#) specifically:

- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing
- Construction
- Defence and manufacturing
- Digital, technology and cybersecurity
- Education and training
- Health and care
- Renewable energy and hydrogen
- Resources

Grants will support training providers to:

- increase and improve retention and vocational education and training (VET) completions for South Australian students, particularly increasing engagement, retention and completion of First Nations learners
- increase access to and delivery of foundation skills training, and improve transitions from Adult Community Education (ACE) to VET
- increase and improve delivery of training in regions, particularly where capacity is currently constrained, and
- improve the capacity and capability of their educator workforce
- implement innovative training products and delivery (including new technologies), particularly in response to local and emerging skill needs.

Proposals that support amplification of investment and outcomes of Skill Shortage Solutions, Fee Free training places and Course Development Grants will be prioritised in assessment.

1. Who can apply

Applications are invited from providers who:

- have a current Funded Activities Agreement (FAA) with Skills SA, **AND**
- deliver vocational education and training (VET) **AND** are not-for-profit¹ **AND/OR** are an industry association² **AND/OR** are Aboriginal Owned **OR**
- deliver adult community education (ACE), **OR**
- are TAFE SA.

Eligible providers can apply for **one grant per funding round**.

2. How to apply

Applications open **Tuesday 22 October 2024** and close **Friday 15 November 2024, 5:00pm (ACDT)**.

If your organisation is eligible to apply, you will receive an email from Skills SA with a link to an online application form.

To apply, you will need to set up a *Smarty Grants* account or log in to an existing account.

When an application is submitted, the nominated contact person will receive an automated email confirming receipt and a copy of the application.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Tips for applying

- Before commencing an application, you should read and understand these guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions published at Training Provider Centre | Equipment and Capital Grants (providers.skills.sa.gov.au).
- Keep your responses to the questions clear and concise and ensure the most critical information is in a prominent position.
- As your application will be **de-identified** during the assessment process, it is important you assume the reader is not familiar with your context or organisation.
- Before submitting your application, make sure it is complete and accurate. You will also need to complete a budget template and attach this to your application.
- If you have questions, submit these [here](#). Skills SA will respond to questions via web content while applications are open.

¹ Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA), on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission register or holds a comparable legal status.

² RTOs identified as 'industry association' as the training organisation type identifier published on training.gov.au.

3. What you can apply for

Grants of up to \$250,000³ are available for the purchase⁴ or lease of:

- contemporary and/or state-of-the-art training facilities
- industry-relevant equipment for use in training (including specialist consumables demonstrably supporting the equipment and/or intended outcomes of this grant)
- hardware and software that supports a contemporary learning environment (for example virtual reality equipment, artificial intelligence systems)
- training products and contemporary teaching materials and learning resources that support delivery of foundation skills training and/or regional delivery.

In addition, funding can support:

- engagement of industry or relevant expertise required to implement and apply equipment, infrastructure and products purchased through the grant
- costs associated with establishing shared access to privately owned facilities, equipment and products (including legal costs, lease or rental costs, insurance).

Applications **must** identify co-contribution.

All grant activities must be completed by **30 June 2025**.

What cannot be funded

- Purchase of land
- Delivery of VET or non-accredited training to students
- Business as usual consumables/resources used for training
- Repayment of a loan or debt
- Project activities that commence prior to both parties executing the grant contract
- Recurrent operational costs, business as usual activities and project management costs.

³ Skills SA reserves the right to award grants valued at more than \$250,000 where there is a strong business case and significant impact is evidenced for industry, non-metropolitan regions and students.

⁴ There is a preference for ownership of facilities, equipment and products, particularly where shared access is established.



4. How applications will be assessed

The assessment approach for Equipment and Capital Grants is competitive. Applications will be de-identified and assessed against four assessment criteria:

- Business case
- Impact and sustainability
- Value for money, including co-contribution
- Organisational capability and capacity, including past performance.

Applications must address all selection criteria.

4.1. Business case

Applications must provide a justification for grant funding, which includes the rationale and benefits for the business. Applicants should clearly identify:

- what business need, opportunity, problem or barrier you are seeking to address
- what will be purchased with the funding
- how this will address the need, opportunity, problem or barrier, and increase the business capacity and capability of your organisation.

Applications should include references and examples where appropriate.

4.2. Impact and sustainability

Applications must demonstrate how the grant funding will contribute to the delivery of adult community education and/or vocational education and training. Applicants should clearly identify:

- how the grant will contribute to the 2024-25 priorities (see Introduction)
- who will own the infrastructure, equipment and products, how long the equipment will remain current and relevant, how additional costs associated with the equipment will be managed (i.e. depreciation costs) and what will happen when equipment becomes obsolete
- how the grant will benefit students, employers, industry and/or regions in the immediate⁵, medium⁶ and longer term, and how this will be sustained.

Applications should include applied evidence from reliable sources where relevant.

Assessment will positively weight applications that:

- address 2024-25 priority areas
- demonstrate shared access and benefits through partnerships with other organisations
- involve facilities, equipment or products that are to be owned by the applicant.

Skills SA will also assess that no dependency for ongoing government investment is created beyond the life of the grant.

⁵ By the conclusion of the grant.

⁶ In the year after the grant has concluded.



4.3. Value for money

Applications must demonstrate value for money where funding requested is appropriate for identified benefits and impact. Applicants should clearly identify:

- how much funding is being requested, for what and provide quotations for each asset budget item
- the value and type of co-contribution from the applicant
- how the short to medium term benefits identified for the applicant, students, employers, industry and/or regions will be measured and validated.

Applicants **must** identify a financial contribution to the goods and services being purchased. Applicants may also identify in-kind contributions associated with delivering the project's outcomes and objectives.

4.4. Organisational capability and capacity

Applications must demonstrate that the applicant is capable and has capacity to deliver the grant. Applicants should clearly identify:

- key project activities that are reasonable, realistic and will support the delivery of the grant and realisation of benefits
- how you will ensure success, including relevant examples of previous grant experience
- what risks there are, and what steps you will take to mitigate them.

Past performance will be considered where an applicant has received funding from Skills SA in the past three years. This includes contract compliance, current delivery to South Australian students and the achievement of past contracted outcomes.

5. How grants will be paid

Successful applicants will be offered a Funded Activities Agreement project annexure, which will include the funding value, payment structure and reporting milestones.

Payment will be made against agreed key milestones negotiated during contract development. Where contract milestones are not achieved, Skills SA may require repayment of funds.

Grant recipients will be assigned a Skills SA project manager who will provide specific information on reporting requirements, claims templates and marketing support.

6. Timeframes

FUNDING ROUND OPENS	Applications open Tuesday 22 October 2024
FUNDING ROUND CLOSES	Applications can be submitted at any time before Friday 15 November 2024 at 5.00pm Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT). No applications will be accepted after this time.
OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS	Applicants will be advised of the outcome by late November 2024 . This timeframe is subject to change.
GRANTS COMPLETED	Grant activities and reporting must be completed by 30 June 2025 .