

**PAY IT
FORWARD**



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2026 – 2027 GRANT GUIDELINES



Alike^{WA}



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OVERVIEW

Pay it Forward is an innovative mental health program which provides small grants funding to peer support groups.

Pay it Forward grants are funded by the Mental Health Commission for peer support group projects that promote positive mental health, prevention, early intervention, recovery, mental health literacy, group capacity and sustainability.

Grants can fund resources for wellbeing activities, tools to increase group membership and sustainability, and training to improve mental health literacy - contributing to strengthened resilience and improved mental health.

ELIGIBILITY

- Funding is open to Alike WA peer support group members
- Projects must demonstrate that they align with the Pay it Forward program outcomes (see assessment criteria)
- Projects should demonstrate clear objectives and anticipated outcomes
- Activities and service delivery must take place in Western Australia
- Applications are up to \$10,000 excluding GST
- Applicants must not be in receipt of funding from the Mental Health Commission
- Applicants should not be in receipt of significant mainstream funding
- Project budgets must be detailed, specific and transparent, and be accompanied by external supplier quotes
- Projects must have clear and tangible timeframes, and intended activity dates must be between 1 April 2027 and 10 January 2028

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Projects will be assessed on their individual merit and how closely they align with the below Pay it Forward program outcomes. Grassroots peer support groups, with limited access to alternate funding, will be prioritised.

- The project contributes to positive mental health outcomes by providing **prevention, early-intervention and/or recovery** initiatives for support group members
- The project demonstrates **promotion of positive mental health**
- The project builds **mental health literacy** for support group members
- The project contributes to building **support group capacity** (growth and expansion)
- The project contributes to **support group sustainability** (long-term running)

Priority will be given to applicants who have not been funded by Alike WA / ConnectGroups within the past 24 months.

WHAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

- Items or funding, including Salaries & Wages, that benefit an individual or associated business rather than the support group
- Projects or activities taking place outside of Western Australia
- Applicants with an Alike WA grant that is currently open
- Previous grant recipients who have not completed their final report
- Incomplete or inaccurate applications. All quotes and supporting documents must be provided before the application close date
- Projects with timeframes or activities that cannot be completed by the grant end date
- Purchases or activities that have taken place prior to funding approval
- Facebook or similar “daily limit” advertising unless through an approved vendor (e.g. marketing agency)

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

All applications are considered by an Assessment Panel made up of representatives from:

- **Alike WA Inc.**
- **Mental Health Commission of WA**
- **Peer Support Group sector**

Alike WA reserves the right to request further information in considering any application as well as the right to reject any application.

Your application may also be approved for partial funding. The decision made by the panel is final.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application approximately six weeks after the closing date.

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Alike WA's Engagement Team are available to discuss your project ideas and provide guidance during the application process. We encourage you to call 9364 6909 or email grants@alike.org.au

Engaging with Alike WA prior to the application close date will support you to ensure your proposed project meets program eligibility.

BUDGET AND QUOTES

- Applicants must provide quotes from an external supplier or vendor that match their project budget
- Requested budget amounts should exclude the GST component
- If purchasing from online sites, we will accept screenshots that clearly display the items, their cost and the GST component
- Items that have fluctuating costs (e.g. flights, hotel accommodation) will be assessed on the supplied quote. If the item is approved, any variance in cost will be required to be covered by the applicant

TIMEFRAME

Alike WA offers two PIF grant rounds each year. Before applying, consider whether the timing of this round is right for your project.

Applications for the next PIF grant round will open on 1 June 2027 and close on 23 August 2027. Funded projects must take place between 12 October 2027 and 27 April 2028.

GRANT AGREEMENTS

Successful applicants must enter into a written grant agreement with Alike WA before funds can be released. Please provide the contact details of a person authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of your group.

If Alike WA does not receive a signed grant agreement within seven days of issue, the offer of funding may be withdrawn and the funds returned to the grant funding pool for the next round.

PAYMENTS

Alike WA will be responsible for all payments to vendors and suppliers providing goods and services for grant recipients. The Alike WA team will facilitate payments, enabling grant recipients to focus on the outcomes of their project.

THERE IS NO DIRECT EXCHANGE OF FUNDS between Alike WA and grant recipients.

Alike WA is unable to reimburse payments made to a supplier by an applicant (individual or group).

All online subscriptions will require a credit card from the group, to be saved on the account after payment by Alike WA.

RECOGNISING ALIKE WA

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge Alike WA's support when promoting activities, events, resources or other materials funded through a Pay it Forward grant.

ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR GRANT

Successful recipients will be provided with a “**Supported by Alike WA**” logo and guidance on how it should be used. Where appropriate, the logo should be included on materials relating to the funded project, such as promotional materials, event information, publications, resources and relevant digital content.

COMMUNICATIONS

When sharing your funded project through social media or other communications, please acknowledge Alike WA's support using the wording provided to successful grant recipients.

Where possible, please also tag Alike WA in social media posts relating to your Pay it Forward project.

Further acknowledgement and communication requirements will be outlined in your grant agreement and the **Logo Guide for Grant Recipients** provided if your application is successful.

REPORTING

You will be required to complete a final report at the end of the grant period. We will notify you when your report is due. If you would like to submit it earlier, need additional time, or would like some guidance, please contact us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MANY APPLICATIONS CAN I SUBMIT?

There is a limit of one submission per applicant per funding round. This allows us to distribute funds fairly.

DOES THE PROGRAM SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR THE APPLICANT?

No. There can be no direct or indirect financial benefit to staff, volunteers or board members of an applicant group or organisation. Grant funding cannot be used to purchase goods or services from a business owned, operated or controlled by the applicant, or by any of its staff, volunteers or board members, where they would receive a financial benefit.

CAN I SUBMIT A JOINT APPLICATION WITH ANOTHER GROUP?

Yes, Alike WA encourages collaboration. However, one group needs to be identified as the point of contact for communication.

I APPLIED LAST ROUND, CAN I APPLY AGAIN?

If your application was unsuccessful in a previous grant round, you are welcome to apply again. You may wish to discuss your application with the Engagement Team for feedback and support.

If you previously received a grant, your grant project must be completed and the final report submitted before you are eligible to apply for the next grant round. Groups who have not recently received funding will be prioritised.

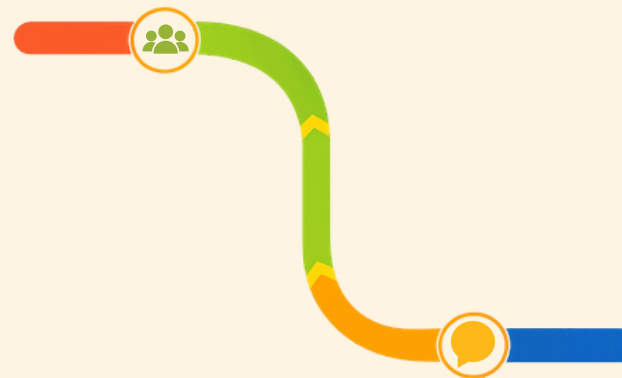


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