



Families and Children Activity

July 2021 grant extensions – additional information for Communities for Children Facilitating Partner

Can my organisation commence contract negotiations with Community Partners for service delivery beyond 30 June 2021?

Neither your organisation, nor the department, will be legally bound to a grant extension until such time as both parties have reached agreement on any terms of the variation and your organisation has signed a formal variation to your grant agreement. It is the decision of your organisation to determine when to commence negotiations with Community Partners and to formalise arrangements.

Timeframes for delivery of a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and their interaction with Activity Work Plans (AWPs) are discussed below and are not intended to delay organisations confirming Community Partner contracts for 2021-22.

What is the process and timeframe for completing new AWPs to support continuity of service delivery under the new extensions of funding?

The department acknowledges the unique nature of the CfC FP model and the need for Facilitating Partners (FPs) to engage Community Partner organisations early to ensure service continuity.

The department is keen to work with providers and be flexible as the transition occurs to the new five-year grant agreements. A timeline of key dates relevant to CfC FPs is at Table 1 (**attached**).

As discussed below, FPs may use existing CSPs to develop AWPs for 2021-22, with the understanding that this may result in a decision to continue existing Community Partner arrangements, where still appropriate.

An updated AWP template for 2021-22 will be provided in early April 2021 and will enable organisations to document any changes from the previous AWP should changes to subcontracting arrangements be preferred. Guidance will be provided in the AWP template.

Completed AWPs can be submitted to your Funding Arrangement Manager at any time prior to the due date of 15 August 2021.

Where a change to subcontracting arrangements may impact your ability to meet the 50 per cent evidence-based program requirement, please discuss this with your Funding Arrangement Manager.

What is the process and timeframe for completing a new CSP to support service delivery under the new extensions of funding?

The department acknowledges the role of the CSP in outlining the goals and priorities for the community to be addressed over the life of the grant agreement.

A new CSP will be required by 1 April 2022 and will cover the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026. The new CSP template will be provided at the end of April 2021, allowing around eleven months to undertake the necessary strategic planning processes. However, where organisations are ready to progress their development of a CSP earlier, the department can support this process.

While organisations develop new CSPs, the existing CSP should be used to inform the transitional AWP for 2021-22. The new CSP will be in place to inform AWPs developed from 2022 onwards.

Updated Operational Guidelines will also be available as close as possible to the letter of offer being circulated.

How many AWPs will CfC FPs be required to complete over the course of the five-year funding extension?

CfC FP's will be required to submit three AWPs under the new five-year funding extensions:

- One year AWP due by 15 August 2021 for the period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 (unless alternative transitional arrangements have been agreed),
- Two year AWP due by 1 April 2022 for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024,
- Two year AWP due by 1 April 2024 for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026.

When will the updated CSP template be available?

The department has been undertaking a refresh of the CSP template and will include this in the CfC FP Operational Guidelines anticipated to be made available as close as possible to the letter of offer being circulated.

What does the extension mean for the evidence-based program requirements?

Evidence-based program requirements will continue under the new five year grant agreements.

CfC FPs will be expected to continue meeting the requirement that at least 50 per cent of funding used for direct service delivery be used to purchase high quality evidence-based programs.

Further Information

Please contact your Funding Arrangement Manager if you have any questions.

Table 1: Timeline – Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FP)

This table sets out the proposed timeline for the delivery of key milestones for CfC FP providers.

When	Item
w/c 5 April	CfC FP Activity Work Plan (AWP) template for 2021-22 (transitional for first year) distributed to providers via Funding Arrangement Managers
From 26 April	Formal offers and Grant Agreements distributed
From 26 April	Operational Guidelines published, including CfC FP Community Strategic Plan template
w/c 28 June (i.e. 1 July)	New grants begin
w/c 9 August	Final AWP's due to DSS via Funding Arrangement Managers
April 2022	Final Community Strategic Plan due (can be submitted earlier)
April 2022	AWP for two year period due