

Guidance for Victorian Schools: Australian Government Schools Upgrade Fund

Round 2

<p>Grants for infrastructure projects over \$250,000 are available.</p> <hr/> <p>Key Dates</p> <hr/> <p>31 October 2023: SUF EOI opens.</p> <p>20 December 2023: VSBA endorsement form to be submitted.</p> <p>20 February 2024: Latest VSBA will provide schools with endorsement to enable submission to SUF EOI.</p> <p>29 February 2024: SUF EOI closes.</p> <hr/> <p>To apply:</p> <p>(1) Obtain VSBA endorsement: www.vsba.smartygrants.com.au</p> <p>(2) Complete a SUF Expression of Interest form: www.education.gov.au/schools-upgrade-fund</p> <hr/> <p>Contact schools.upgrade.fund@education.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>Program Guidelines</p> <p>Please read the Australian Government School Upgrade Fund program guidelines before applying.</p> <p>Funding overview</p> <p>The Australian Government will provide \$215.8 million to support capital infrastructure upgrade projects in government schools across Australia under Round 2 of the Schools Upgrade Fund (SUF), including \$48.1 million in Victoria.</p> <p>Grants for projects over \$250,000 are available (no maximum grant amount).</p> <p>The SUF can include grants for investment in large-scale capital projects such as new facilities, major refurbishments, and upgrades including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building or upgrading specialist facilities, such as STEM, art, music, technical and applied studies, libraries, and sporting facilities • upgrading playgrounds and outdoor learning facilities • for schools with a high proportion of ageing relocatable buildings, replacing these. <p>The SUF can also include minor capital works projects where they exceed \$250,000. Schools are encouraged to submit these projects (in preference to large-scale projects) in order to share the available funding across schools.</p> <p>All Government Schools are eligible to apply.</p> <p>Assessment prioritisation</p> <p>As per the Australian Government Guidelines, the SUF is to be prioritised based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. a low Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value relative to the jurisdictional median. ICSEA value and percentile for each individual school can be found in the “school profile” section of the My School website: https://www.myschool.edu.au/ II. disadvantaged schools that have not received significant capital funding in the past two years (that is, projects valued at \$250,000 or more in 2022 or 2023). III. projects that support schools that cater to disadvantaged students, such as special schools, special assistance schools or majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools.
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As stated in the SUF guidelines, 'States and territories will make funding decisions using the information from the expression of interest process and any other information available'.

Consistent with other Victorian Government infrastructure programs, the Victorian Government will also consider:

- IV. If the proposed project is a priority condition project.
- V. The school's commitment to maintaining their school site.
- VI. That the project can't be funded through existing school funds.
- VII. Compliance with relevant Departmental facilities policies (e.g. but not limited [School Facilities Schedules Policy](#) and the [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#)).
- VIII. The feasibility of the proposed project.

Submit recent applications: Minor Capital Works Fund (MCWF) and Inclusive Schools Fund (ISF)

The Australian Government SUF Expression of Interest form enables schools to submit applications submitted to recent State-based processes through a short-cut process.

Where schools have previously submitted applications to MCWF 2023-24 or ISF Round 9, they are encouraged to also submit the same application to the SUF as an additional opportunity to receive funding (projects that are ultimately successful in MCWF or ISF won't be put forward to the Australian Government for funding recommendation).

Announcement of successful recipients of the MCWF 2023-24 and ISF Round 9 are scheduled from December 2023.

How to apply and assessment process

1. Before applying to the Australian Government, the SUF guidelines state that 'the relevant Department of Education for the school has endorsed the project'. To action this, please complete the [VSBA endorsement form](#). This form asks for your school details and information about your project proposal. If you have applied for a MCWF 2023-24 or ISF Round 9 project, a streamlined form is provided to prevent any unnecessary duplication of information.
2. You must submit the VSBA endorsement form by **20th December 2023 or your application will not be considered** for recommendation.
 - If you do not submit a VSBA endorsement form, yet submit a SUF Expression of Interest, your application **will not be considered** for recommendation.
3. From 21 December 2024, using the information provided in the VSBA endorsement form, the VSBA will work to confirm project scope and costs to support schools' submission of the SUF EOI. This will ensure announced funding amounts are reflective of the project scope and assist in the effective delivery of successful projects.

- You may be contacted by a Quantity Surveyor or VSBA staff member to support this process. Noting this will be during school holidays, there is no expectation that Principals or other members of teaching staff will respond to VSBA or their representatives about the project application until Term 1 2024 resumes.
4. By 20 February 2024, you will receive notification (via email) from the VSBA that your project has been endorsed to submit an application. This email will also include guidance about what to include in sections D and E (questions 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) of the Australian Government Expression of Interest Form. Once received, you can apply to the SUF and complete the [Australian Government Expression of Interest Form](#) by 29 February 2024.
 - As part of the endorsement to submit an application, preliminary costings will also be provided to schools from the VSBA to support completion of the SUF EOI form. To support this process, it would be appreciated if any communication relating to your project proposal are responded to promptly at the commencement of Term 1, 2024.
 5. Endorsement to submit an application does not guarantee that your project will be recommended for funding. Applications are still subject to a further costing, assessment and prioritisation process. VSBA's endorsement is limited to SUF Round 2 applications and is not valid to support any future funding applications Schools may make.
 6. Once the Australian Government provide the VSBA with the SUF applications, these will be used to further inform project scope, costings and the assessment process.
 7. Following this process, the VSBA will make recommendations to both the Victorian and Australian Government's.

Successful projects

VSBA will deliver all SUF Round 2 projects, which is consistent with the Department's [Capital Building Projects in Schools Policy](#):

"Projects valued at more than \$200,000 (including GST) are managed by the VSBA".

Contact

Need help or support?

Please don't hesitate to contact the VSBA's School Grants Unit at:
schools.upgrade.fund@education.vic.gov.au