Clinic Extension Grants 2019-20

Guidelines

SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) Clinic Extension Grants of up to $5,500 are now available. This funding is available to increase the reach of cervical screening clinics over a specified period of time, by enabling existing cervical screening providers to extend clinic hours or support outreach clinics to screen women who are overdue or who have never been screened.

Notes

- Organisations which already receive government funding for services that include cervical screening are not eligible to apply. (for the purposes of this application the term ‘government funding’ does not include MBS funding of PIP QI funding via the PHN’s).
- If you are planning on targeting Aboriginal women as part of your application, please contact us as there is a separate set of grants that support projects for Aboriginal women.

Applications close COB Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Background and target group

SA Health’s SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) is a partner of the National Cervix Screening Program (NCSP). It aims to reduce the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer amongst South Australian women. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Cervical Screening in Australia 2019 report shows that SA is achieving the highest cervical screening participation in the nation (58.7% vs 56.9% nationally). While this figure is comparatively good, it also indicates that 41% of women are not participating as recommended. Furthermore, South Australian screening participation is steadily declining, reflecting a national trend towards reduced participation in cervical screening.

NCSP Renewal (Changes) and Key Messages

Based on new evidence and better technology, the NCSP changed on 1 December 2017 to improve early detection and save more lives. This is often referred to as ‘The Renewal’.

The two yearly Pap test for women aged 18 to 69 is now a five yearly human papillomavirus (HPV) test for women aged 25 to 74. Women are due for their first Cervical Screening Test two years after their last Pap smear. The changes include:

- Women are invited when they are due to participate via the National Cancer Screening Register
• The Pap smear has been replaced with the more accurate Cervical Screening Test
• The time between tests has changed from two yearly to five yearly
• The age at which screening commences has increased from 18 years to 25 years
• Women aged 70 to 74 are now invited to have an exit test.
• Self-collection has been introduced as a key strategy for engaging under-screened and never-screened patients. Eligibility criteria includes being at least 30 years or over, under screened (i.e. 4 years since their last Pap smear) or have never been screened and have declined a practitioner-collected specimen. Information on self collection including Pathology providers is available on our ‘for healthcare providers’ web page: http://bit.ly/cervicalscreeningforGPs

Extra reassurance may be required for women under 25 who are concerned about the changes, particularly if they have screened in the past. It is important to remind them that testing for the HPV virus is more accurate than the old test, and starting at 25 is completely safe. Cervical cancer is very rare in people under 25, and over 25 years of screening this age group has not reduced the rates of cervical cancer for these women.

**Barriers to screening**

Trends in participation rates show a link between increasing cervical screening participation rates and an increase in socio economic status. Vulnerable population groups, remote communities and socio economically disadvantaged areas have lower cervical screening rates, and greater numbers of women who are either lapsed screeners or have never been screened.

Factors that may increase participation rates include: accessible and sensitive health care services, female general practitioners (GP’s), nurses, culturally appropriate health services, information in community languages, use of appropriate interpreters, assistance navigating a complex health care system, knowledge of and information about preventative health and screening, cost, proximity of health services and transport.

The Clinic Extension Grants are one of a range of strategies used by the SACSP to engage with and build capacity in the health sector and under-screened communities to increase participation rates and prevent cervical cancer.

**Target group(s)**

All clinics funded under the Clinic Extension Grant must target under-screened or never-screened women. This would include:

• Women aged 25-74 years who have not had a Pap smear/Cervical Screening Test for four or more years.
• Women who have never had a Pap smear/Cervical Screening Test

**Note:** Women may be eligible for self-collection (collection of a vaginal swab for HPV testing).

In addition, you may also choose to target specific groups such as:

• Women of low socio economic status
• Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and newly arrived refugee women
• Women with disabilities
• Working women (who are overdue) – i.e. after hours / weekend clinics
• Immuno-compromised women
• Same sex attracted women and transgendered participants
• Women who have experienced sexual trauma
Your application should outline how the specific needs of your target groups are being considered.

**How much is each grant worth?**

Clinic Extension Grants up to $5,500 are available and will be paid in one lump-sum payment to successful grant applicants. Applications are assessed on merit.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Only incorporated organisations based in South Australia with an ABN are eligible.
- Organisations which already receive government funding for services that include cervical screening are not eligible to apply. NB: for the purposes of this grant, MBS funding is not considered as ‘government funding’, and neither is the PIP QI funding via PHN’s.
- Women who are 4 or more years since last cervical screening, or who are never-screened must be targeted.
- Extended hours will be for the purpose of cervical screening providers working in general practice, community health or outpatient services to offer free cervical screening clinics outside of standard business hours such as after hours or weekend clinics. **If offering extended hours please specify what these hours are** (for example: ‘opening 5 pm until 8 pm on Thursdays’)
- Outreach clinics are for existing cervical screening providers to run free outreach services in rural/regional communities, high need suburbs or communities within metropolitan Adelaide.
- All extended and/or outreach clinics must be a free (bulk billed) service for all women attending
- A minimum of two cervical screening clinics or outreach clinics must be implemented
- Evidence must be provided regarding the number of under-screened women (four or more years) who can be reached through your practice and this proposal. Please refer to the application form for further details.
- Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate effective use of medical records management tools (i.e. Medical Director, PENCAT, Practice Based Reminder systems) and reminder systems to identify and invite women clients who are >4 years overdue for cervical screening and/or demonstrate effective promotional activities or partnerships with community organisations to ensure participation of vulnerable under-screened women and communities in cervical screening clinics.
- Numbers of women screened must be recorded and provided for the project evaluation and acquittal at the end of the project. Data required includes: number of overdue women screened, number of never-screened women screened, and the number of total women screened as a result of the project.
- As part of your Clinic Extension Grant, you should promote the Renewal key messages to women. If you haven’t done so already, consider ordering resources from the Commonwealth website [www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical/resources](http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical/resources) to support these messages.

**2019/20 Funding Priorities**

- Applications that aim to sustain strategies and outcomes to improve cervical screening to under-screened or never screened women beyond the life of the grant funded initiative.
• Preference will be given to clinics that offer bulk billing for cervical screening as part of usual practice (e.g. beyond the period of grant funding), where this information is clearly communicated to prospective patients.

• Applications that utilise incentives, additional or creative efforts to maximise bookings and reduce Do Not Attend (DNA) rates for the women invited to participate.

What will be funded

Funding will cover the costs associated with implementing cervical screening extension clinics or supporting outreach programs including:

• Promotional expenses including advertising costs
• Venue
• Transport (for nurses or general practitioners providing outreach services, or for women attending services)
• Administration that supports targeted cervical screening clinics or clients or both
• Incentives for participants (i.e. women’s health and pampering activities/products, afternoon tea)
• Interpreting/ translating language services
• Practical support for women to attend screening (i.e. support workers)
• Practices have the option of undertaking a broader quality improvement process under the newly launched PIP QI program offered via Primary Health Networks (PHN’s). Practices are eligible to apply for both PIP QI and Clinic Extension Grant funding and this approach will not be penalised in the grant assessment process.

What will NOT be funded

• Establishment of new or ongoing cervical screening clinical services (unless future sustainability without assistance can be demonstrated).
• Cervical screening clinical services that generate commercial and competitive income or profit.
• Funding of existing debts or shortfalls.
• Sponsorship of fundraising events.
• Employment and training programs (training for community or women’s health nurses to become cervical screening providers).
• Capital items such as computers or other office equipment, mobile phones and clinic equipment.
• Resource development costs where a similar resource is or has already been developed by SA Cervix Screening Program or the National Cervical Screening Program.
• GP/medical salary

Examples of activities that CAN be funded:

• Outreach education, health promotion and cervical screening provided to under-screened women in isolated rural areas.
• Improving access to appropriate, sensitive and respectful Cervical Screening Test services for under-screened women with, for example, the assistance of an interpreter.
• Implementing self-collection for eligible women.
• Partnerships with other GPs, health or community services, community groups or organisations to support cervical screening clinics targeting under-screened women.
• Out of hours/twilight/Saturday morning clinics with a female GP and/or practice nurse.
• Follow up reminders to women >4 years overdue for cervical screening.
• Providing incentives for targeted/invited women attending a clinic (e.g. pamper packs, coffee vouchers, movie tickets, gift cards, free nails session etc.).
• Provision of bulk billing service with female GP and/or practice nurse.
• Utilising a visiting or agency female GP, practice nurse or the Rural Women’s GP Service.
• Additional administrative support to improve medical records and reminder systems to identify and invite women who are overdue for their Cervical Screening Test.

**Application process and timelines**

It is not possible to fund all application requests. Funding should therefore not be anticipated or deemed automatic.

All applications will be reviewed and assessed against criteria with recommendations made and sent to a senior executive at SA health for approval.

Successful applicants will receive a letter notifying them of the outcome of their application. This will be approximately 2 weeks after the closing date for applications.

The current Cervix Screening Grant Program will fund approved projects for a **six month period** 2019-2020 financial year. This allows time to plan activities thoroughly to run clinics during the period January - June 2020.

Successful applicants will receive a grant agreement detailing the terms and conditions of funding. Please note that organisations may have **to wait** from the time the grant round closes to receive their grant funding.

**Accountability requirements**

All organisations approved for **funding will be required to:**

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sign and comply with reporting requirements</td>
<td>in the grant agreement. You may also be required to fill in finance related forms to ensure you receive funding correctly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide numbers of women &gt;4 years since last cervical screening who were identified (pre project implementation), invited to attend and numbers of Cervical Screening Tests provided (post project implementation) to identified women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide reports and financial expenditure statements</td>
<td>which must be completed and returned to SA Cervix Screening Program at agreed milestones. Clear pro-formas are supplied for these reports.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding can only be used</td>
<td>for the purposes of the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriately acknowledge</td>
<td>the SA Cervix Screening Program, as the funding body and use the SA Health logo in any promotional material. The logo can be supplied on request.</td>
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How do I apply?

Read these grant funding guidelines

Fill in the grant application form. Applications will be available online at:

Hard copies of applications will not be accepted. All applications are to be filled in electronically and returned via email to:

megan.vanzanten@sa.gov.au

For any assistance please contact:

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