

Bushfire Additional Support Grant

Information for applicants

12 April 2021

Red Cross has additional support grants for people who continue to experience financial hardship from the FY19/20 bushfires.

- This grant is **only for people who have already received an additional support grant from Red Cross**, but are still in financial hardship and on government payments or benefits that demonstrate low income.
- Applications open on **Tuesday 13 April 2021** and close on **Sunday 2 May 2021**. This is the third round of applications for this grant.
- Applications will be assessed after the closing date and eligible applicants will receive their payment in the week commencing **17 May 2021**.

What is the additional support grant?

This round of the additional support grant is for people who have already received an additional support grant from Red Cross, but are still in financial hardship and on government payments or benefits that demonstrate low income.

This is the third round of the additional support grant. The first round was launched in November 2020, and payments were made in December; the second round opened in February 2021, with payments made in March. Over both rounds, we received more than 3,000 applications, and \$21m was provided to 2,293 eligible applicants.

Who can apply for the grant?

You can apply for the third round of additional support grant if you:

- have previously received one of our additional support grants;
- can provide evidence of government payments that demonstrate low income; and
- are still in financial hardship as a result of the fires.

You cannot apply if you have not received nor applied for an additional support grant payment in the previous rounds, or if your application for any of the previous rounds was unsuccessful.

We're here to help.

1800 RED CROSS (1800 722 276) | grants@redcross.org.au.
redcross.org.au/grants.



You must be currently receiving government benefits or financial assistance to apply for this round (i.e., you are not eligible if you have stopped receiving government assistance since your previous additional support grant payment).

How much does the grant provide?

The amount we can pay each eligible applicant will be determined by the funds we have left, the number of people who apply, and what they tell us they need – up to a maximum of \$2,500. We will try to help as many people as we can, which means we may not have the funds to provide all the financial assistance required.

How can I apply?

We are notifying eligible applicants by SMS and email, as well as through our recovery teams on the ground, with a link to apply.

You can also apply any time before **2 May 2021** at redcross.org.au/grants. If you need support to apply, please give us a call on 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276).

When can I apply for an additional support grant?

Applications for the final round are open from **Tuesday 13 April** and close on **Sunday 2 May 2021**.

What information do I have to provide?

Because you have already received an additional support grant from Red Cross, we will only ask you to:

- declare ongoing financial hardship;
- provide evidence of your identity and that you are currently receiving specific government financial assistance (such as a health care, disability or pensioner card); and
- tell us how much further financial assistance you will need based on the needs you identified in your previous additional support grant application – up to a maximum of \$2,500.

What can I use the grant for?

The grant can help with a range of costs related to the bushfires. These could be:

- additional rebuilding or re-establishment costs
- basic necessities like groceries, utility bills or school fees
- further repairs to make homes safe to live in
- clearing unsafe and bushfire-damaged trees on your property
- ongoing out-of-pocket medical costs
- other costs related to individual circumstances due to the bushfires

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Because of our legal and charity status, we cannot provide funds for business expenses such as loss of income, farm fences or outbuildings, farming equipment or stock losses, replacing tools of trade, or for investment properties and holiday homes.

Why can't I use the grant for business expenses?

We are bound by Australia's charity laws, which stipulate that we must provide relief to people in hardship or financial distress. In practice, this means we cannot provide funds for business expenses such as loss of income, farm fences or tools of trade, but we can help with living costs, out-of-pocket hospital costs, home repairs or other personal costs related to the fires.

Why do I need to show I am receiving government assistance?

Health care cards, pensioner cards, disability cards and other types of government support cards are issued to people who are on a low income and may face additional challenges. Because we are prioritising people based on need, and supporting those who may find it hardest to recover, we are asking for these cards or other documents as evidence in your application.

I am in hardship but not receiving government support. What can I do?

We want to help as many people in ongoing and genuine hardship from the bushfires as possible. Please contact our bushfire grants team to discuss your circumstances. You can call 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) or email grants@redcross.org.au.

Why does the additional support grant have a deadline?

Our funds are running out, and we need to make equitable payments with the amount we have left. The fairest option was to give people a set period to apply, review all applications, and then make payments to eligible applicants.

What if I can't apply before the deadline?

Get in touch with our bushfire grants team at 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) or email grants@redcross.org.au. We will do our best to help you.

I haven't received the email or SMS inviting me to apply.

You can still apply online at redcross.org.au/grants. If you are not sure you are eligible or have any questions, please call 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) during business hours or email grants@redcross.org.au.

I didn't apply for a grant in previous rounds. Can I apply now?

No. This round is only open for people who have successfully applied in the first or second rounds of the additional support grant.

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redcross.org.au/grants.



I received an additional support grant payment in December or March. Can I apply for another payment?

Absolutely. This round of the additional support grant is for people who have already received an additional support grant from Red Cross, but are still in financial hardship and on government payments or benefits that demonstrate low income.

I applied for an additional support grant in the last round, but my application was unsuccessful. Can I apply this time?

Unfortunately, if your application was unsuccessful, you cannot apply for this round.

What do I do if I can't access the internet in time to submit my application?

Contact our grants team on 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) to discuss your options.

What should I put in my application to ensure it is accepted?

Just tell us if you still need support and provide us with the documentation required (evidence of your identity and that you are receiving specific government financial assistance, such as a health care, disability or pensioner card).

Why can't you tell me up front how much I can get?

We only have a limited amount of funds left, and we have to allocate these funds fairly and according to people's needs. We can only do that once we have received and counted all applications. Once applications close on 2 May, we will assess them and make payments to eligible people, depending on what they need and the total funds available.

How will I know if I am getting a payment?

All applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome via SMS or email. Payments to eligible applicants will go out in the week commencing **17 May 2021**, directly to the applicant's bank accounts.

Why is this grant only open to people who have already received an additional support grant?

The people who have previously received an additional support grant have lost their home or loved ones in the fires, or needed to make urgent repairs to their homes, or faced significant hospital costs from injuries sustained in the fires. Some of these people are still in ongoing hardship and are receiving government financial assistance. This grant provides them with a little extra support if they need it.

I have never applied for a Red Cross grant, but I was affected by the bushfires. Can I still apply?

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redcross.org.au/grants.



If you have never applied for a Red Cross bushfire grant, you cannot apply for this round of the additional support grant.

Our other bushfire grants have now closed. If you were affected by bushfires in FY19/20 but were not able to apply, please contact our grants team at 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) or email grants@redcross.org.au to discuss your circumstances. We will do our best to support you.

Will there be another round of additional support grants in the future?

We have limited funds left, so we cannot announce further funding without seeing how many people apply for the third round of the grant, and what their needs are. We may not have the funds to provide further financial assistance after that, so we recommend you apply in this round if you still need further support.

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