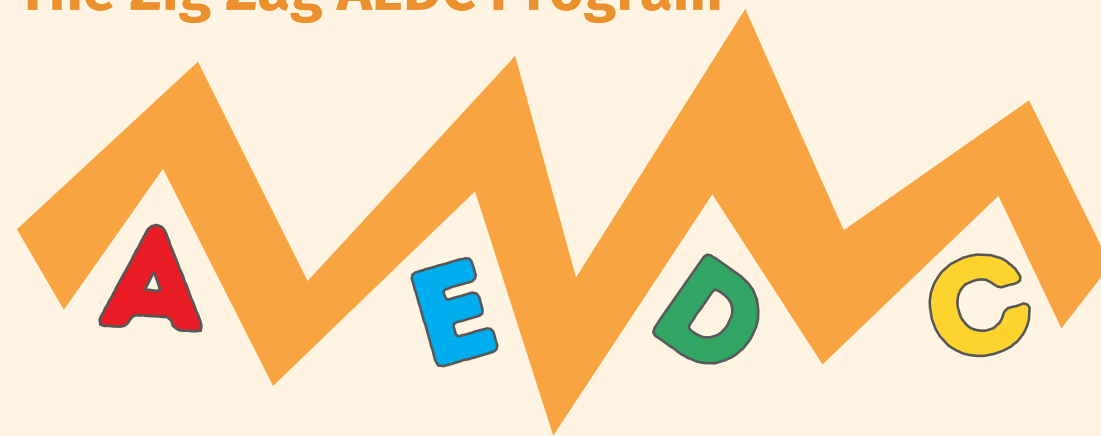


The Zig Zag AEDC Program



Zig Zag AEDC

Community Grants Program Funding Information Pack

Our Children • Our Communities • Our Future



Want more information?

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Australian
Early
Development
Census

An Australian Government Initiative



Zig Zag Early Years
Partnership



About the Zig Zag Community Grants

The Zig Zag AEDC Community Grants Program is the next phase in the City's Zig Zag AEDC; Strengthening the Early Years Initiative. The grant program is about supporting not-for-profit services and community groups who are delivering programs that support the positive and healthy development of local families with under 5s across the City.

The aim of the program is to help build the capacity of local not-for-profit services and community groups who are looking to, or are already, delivering early years programs in line with the Australian Early Development Census Data Areas (AEDC) to better prepare our under 5s for that first year of fulltime school and beyond.

What is the Zig Zag AEDC Program ?

In 2024, the City of Kalamunda received a grant from the Department of Communities to develop a sustainable program aimed at improving support and services for families with children under five. This initiative is guided by data from the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which highlights areas of vulnerability in early childhood development.

The Zig Zag AEDC Program takes a multi-layered, targeted approach to address these vulnerabilities, with the goal of creating lasting, positive change for young children across the City.

This program is a collaborative effort between the City of Kalamunda and the Zig Zag Early Years Partnership—a network of local services working together to foster community connection, share information and empower families.

The Zig Zag AEDC Community Grants Program is the next step in this initiative, supporting community-led projects that promote early childhood development and build a stronger foundation for our youngest residents.

Australian Early Development Census Data (AEDC) and why does it matter?

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide census that provides important insights into children's development and wellbeing based on five (5) areas of early childhood development, called '**Domains**'.

Each of these 'Domains' assess a different area of early childhood, which are:



Physical Health and Wellbeing: Focuses on children's readiness for the school day, self-care skills, and development of gross and fine motor skills.



Emotional Maturity: Refers to children's social skills, ability to manage emotions, and the absence of challenging behaviours like aggression, anxiety or hyperactivity.



Social Competence: Relates to children's ability to get along with others, show respect and responsibility and their willingness to learn and try new things.



Communication Skills and General Knowledge: Covers children's ability to express themselves, understand others and show general knowledge needed for learning at school.



Language and Cognitive Skills (school-based): Children's literacy, numeracy, memory skills and interest in learning.



Data is collected every three years when children hit their first year of full-time school, allowing teachers, parents, communities and governments to track trends, identify and respond more effectively to the needs of children locally.

Zig Zag Community Grants Overview

AEDC focused activities Up to \$500

Funding Available:

- Up to \$500 per group
- Collaborative partnerships are encouraged; however, each organization must submit its own application for up to \$500 to support their joint project.

Who Can Apply:

- Not-for-profit providers, community groups, and community playgroups.

Purpose:

To support family-focused events, activities or staff upskilling that promote healthy childhood development in line with the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Domains for children under 5.

Objectives:

- Increase Community Awareness
Raise understanding of the AEDC Domains among families and local communities.
- Upskill Educators & Staff
Support training and professional development through workshops, online staff resources and learning tools that build AEDC knowledge. This may include funding for facilitator costs and contributing to staff salaries or backfilling staff to enable participation.
- Align Local Programs with AEDC
Help early years services ensure their activities and goals reflect the AEDC Domains.
- Enhance School Readiness
Develop initiatives that build the emotional, social, language and cognitive skills children need for school.
- Promote Holistic Child Development
Focus on the whole child—supporting physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive development.
- Build Strong Community Connections
Foster partnerships between families, local services and the broader community.
- Improve Early Years Program Delivery
Use grant funds to enhance or expand existing programs to better serve young children and their families.
- Foster Collaborative Learning & Capacity Building
Encourage shared learning across services, including access to digital professional development tools and peer collaboration.

Note: The project/activity must be completed by **27 February 2026** and the organisation must provide a full acquittal of all funds provided by **31 March 2026**.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible	Ineligible
Not for profit & incorporated community organisations located within the City of Kalamunda.	For-profit organisations and political parties.
Event support or event materials for an AEDC Focused event.	Retrospective projects/costs /expenses incurred before the funding is approved.
Projects or activities that align with improving early childhood development in line with the AEDC Domains.	Groups that have outstanding acquittals with the City of Kalamunda or have previously failed to properly acquit funding within the last two financial years.
Educational tools aligned with targeting one or more of the AEDC Domains.	Ongoing venue & facility hire associated with the delivery of target project or program.
Activities/projects that improve volunteer skills or training and development costs.	Fund raising/commercial activities/projects.
Funding for facilitator costs and contributing to staff salaries or backfilling staff to enable participation in AEDC training.	Projects that will rely on recurrent funding and recurrent salaries & operational costs/ subsidised membership fees.
All funded activities must be welcoming and accessible to children and families of all backgrounds and abilities.	Catering, prizes or thank you gifts for staff. Deficit funding – for organisations.

Note:

- Applications will be looked upon favourably if the group is already part of the Zig Zag Early Years Partnership or demonstrates a clear willingness to commit to joining the partnership.
- All events and activities must be provided at no additional cost to participants, aside from the regular weekly membership subscription fee.

When and how to apply

Steps to apply for funding:

1. Before applying, discuss your proposal with the Community & Place team to ensure alignment with grant criteria.
2. Complete your application using the appropriate application form.
3. Submit your application via email to the Enquiries email before the closing date of **1 October 2025**.

Assessment process and submissions

All applications received will be assessed by the City's Community & Place team.

You will be notified of your application outcome up to 6 weeks after the application close date. Please note the City may request subsequent meetings with organisation officials during the assessment process.

Questions that will be considered as part of the assessment process are:

- Does the project extend and support the level of participation in AEDC themed activities within the community?
- Does the project improve parent/carer or service understanding and ability to deliver future AEDC programs?
- Funding contributions from the applicant are encouraged and will be looked upon favourably during the assessment phase.
- Can the proposal demonstrate the extent to which the broader community will be engaged or involved with the service/project/event?

Submit your application to the City via email: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au or hard copy addressed to the City of Kalamunda Community & Place team.



If your application is successful

- You will be required to acknowledge the City of Kalamunda and the Zig Zag AEDC Program as a sponsor to the project or event via social media, newsletter or other communication channels and display the City's and AEDC logo.
- Funding is granted as a single instance of support, without a promise of future funding.
- Any funding that has not been expended by the group must be returned to the City of Kalamunda.
- After your project, your organisation will need to provide an acquittal to the City that shows that you have completed the project according to your proposal.
- As part of this acquittal, you will need to provide copies of all invoices/receipts/proof of payment and an impact statement.
- Please submit 4 to 6 photos taken of the project's implementation that have been authorised and include photo consent, for the City to utilise in promotional activities.

