

## AFG Independence Fund

# Application Guidelines

<b>Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Your application</b>	<b>2</b>
How to Apply - The Steps	2
How to Apply - The Details	2
What we're looking for	3
Goals and purchases	4
Common Items & Funding Caps	4
Amount of Funding	5
<b>FAQs</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Need Help?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Application examples</b>	<b>8</b>

## Overview

The AFG Independence Fund provides small grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 to support young people living in Accredited Youth Foyers across Australia. These grants are designed to **help you achieve your goals and move towards independence by offering financial support that aligns with one or more of the 7 Youth Foyer Offers.**

You can use the money you receive from the grant to buy an item or service that supports a goal you have for independence. This could be anything from driving lessons or buying a laptop (see the sections below for more inspo) - as long as it's connected to the 7 Youth Foyer Offers and a goal you have for yourself!

You will need to create an application to access the fund. There's a few different ways you can apply and Your Youth Development Worker / Coach can help.

The AFG Independence Fund is **available to current Foyer residents and is limited to only one per person.** If you have received AFG funding support in a previous round, you are not eligible to apply again.

The Foyer Foundation is responsible for distributing the fund to Foyers. Each Foyer will distribute the funds to successful applicants. We try to distribute funds as equitably as possible among Foyers and young people. In the case of high numbers of requests from one Foyer, a limit may be applied.

***NOTE! The fund can't be used for medication, paying off outstanding debts (e.g. utility bills or fines), or rent in advance***

## Your application

### How to Apply - The Steps

1. **Think about your goal:** What specific goal do you want to achieve with the grant? Identify a purchase you could make to support this goal.
2. **Do your research:** Find out the cost of the items you need and gather receipts or quotes.
3. **Talk to your worker:** Discuss your goal with your Youth Development Worker / Coach to ensure it aligns with your journey to independence.
4. **Write/create your application:** Visit the [website here](#). Clearly explain your Independence goal, and how the items you're requesting will help you achieve your goal. Include all necessary receipts or quotes.
5. **Submit your application:** Make sure you have completed all the steps and submit your application for review.

### How to Apply - The Details

You'll need to complete an application form online. The form will ask for your details and you'll also need to answer some questions that tell us why you're applying for the fund.

#### KEY QUESTIONS

- What's your goal?
- What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?
- What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?
- What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?

The form will ask you to write answers to these questions - if you'd prefer to submit your answers another way (e.g. voice note or video) please get in touch!



***HOT TIP: Imagine you're on Shark Tank - we're the panel of savvy investors and you're the one with a brilliant idea about how we should invest our money - but instead of a product or service, we're investing in YOU and your independence goal! Tell us why your goal is a great investment towards your independence - tell us your plan, and what else you're doing to meet your goal.***



***HOT TIP: Work with your Youth Development Worker or coach! They will help you make sure your goal is a SMART goal (which means your goal is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound) and that it builds on your strengths and talents***

## What we're looking for

Your application will be reviewed by the Foyer Foundation team to determine how much money you will be granted. Here's what we'll be looking for when we read your application:

### Are you eligible for the grant?

You're eligible to apply if you're a current resident of an accredited Foyer who has not received AFG funding in any previous round

### Have you got an independence goal?

We're looking to see if you've identified an independence goal related to at least one of the 7 Foyer Offers.

The strongest applications will have a SMART goal (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) and will clearly explain how the item/s you're planning to buy are connected to this goal.

### Have you made a plan and are you motivated to achieve your goal?

In your application, we're looking to see if you've

- Outlined the steps you will take to achieve your goal and how the item fits in with this plan
- Researched the items needed and their costs.
- Identified how this item builds on your skills, talents, and other contributions you'll make to meet your goal.



***HOT TIP: Your Youth Development Worker / Coach can support you to ensure your application meets the above criteria as part of one of your coaching sessions; especially making sure your goal and the plan to achieve it are SMART.***

## Goals and purchases

You goal and purchase must align with one or more of the 7 Youth Foyer Offers:

Education

Work

Health

Connection

Financial literacy

Housing

Independence

## Common Items & Funding Caps

Below are the maximum amounts we typically fund for common items.

These are not the only items you can request, but they give you an idea of our funding limits. You can also request less funding if you don't need the full amount:

Items	Full funding
Computer/Laptop	\$600
iPad	\$450
Driving Lessons	\$650
Car Registration / Car Works	\$400
Gym / Fitness (including group classes)	\$400
Large Furniture (e.g. couch, fridge)	\$400
Travel (e.g. public transport card)	\$200
Course Fees and Micro Credentials	\$600
Personal Presentation and Clothing	\$300
Work / School Tools (e.g. for apprenticeships)	\$500

*Note: This amount is not guaranteed. The amount awarded will depend on the number and quality of applications in the relevant round.*

## Amount of Funding

The better your application shows what we're looking for, the more likely you are to be funded the maximum amount for the item/s you've requested.

If your application is missing some elements, you may only receive partial funding.

### Full Funding

*This means you'll receive up to the maximum amount for item type*

You're more likely to receive full funding if your application is:

- **Clear.** You've explained your goal and how the requested items will help you achieve it
- **Detailed.** You've done your research and thought through what steps you'll take to achieve your goal and the personal contributions you'll make to get there. You've included invoices and quotes for items.
- **Written by you.** You wrote/made the application yourself (with support from your Youth Development Worker / Coach where helpful!)

### Partial Funding

*This means you'll receive around half the maximum amount for item type.*

You might only receive partial funding if your application:

- **Isn't clear enough.** Your goal is very general, or it's not clear how the item will support your goal
- **Isn't detailed enough.** You haven't explained how you'll achieve your goal, or what personal contributions you could make
- **Wasn't written by you.** Your Youth Development Worker / Coach can support you and create the application with you but they should not submit the application for you.

### Unsuccessful

*Means you aren't receiving any funding in this round.*

Reasons your application might be unsuccessful include:

- You didn't identify an independence goal related to the 7 Youth Foyer service offers
- You didn't explain how your goal and the item are related
- You've requested an excluded item (i.e. medication, paying off outstanding debts, or rent in advance)
- You didn't include quotes or invoices for items
- You are ineligible (i.e. have received funding previously, not a current Foyer resident)



**HOT TIP:** Make a plan for if you don't receive the full funding amount and include it in your application

## FAQs

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to \$1,000. Please see the above 'Funding Caps' for limits relating to specific items. These are not the only items you can apply for, they are just the most common. The average grant amount is typically around \$500.

#### Who should write the application?

The Independence fund is a great opportunity for young people in Foyers to sit down with their worker, discuss their goals, and plan their future. Ultimately, the application should be written by you in your own words, reflecting your personal goals and aspirations. Your worker can definitely support you.

#### How long should my answers to the questions be?

Aim for less than 150 words for each of the main questions related to your goal, plan, and the talents and resources. There's no penalty for going over, but try to be clear and give us enough detail so we understand how your goal and the item are related, as well as your plan without feeling like you need to write an essay.

#### Do I have to write my application?

If you'd prefer to tell us about your goal, your plan to achieve your goal, and the talents and resources you're contributing by voice note or video, please get in touch with LVK at the Foyer Foundation [lauren.vankrimpen@foyer.org.au](mailto:lauren.vankrimpen@foyer.org.au) who will assist you to submit your application.

There are some parts of the application we'll need in writing - this includes your personal details, the amount you are requesting, and any quotes or screenshots of the item you intend to purchase. Ask your Youth Development Worker / Coach to support you!

#### What can the funds be used for?

The purchase must align with one or more of the 7 Youth Foyer service offer areas

Education	Work	Health	Connection
Financial literacy	Housing	Independence	

Your application should clearly explain how the funding will support you to achieve your goal. See the section on Common Items for more information.

### Who is responsible for administering the money?

The Foyer Foundation is responsible for distributing the fund to Foyers. Each Foyer will distribute the funds to successful applicants. We try to distribute funds as equitably as possible among Foyers and young people. In the case of high numbers of requests from one Foyer, a limit may be applied.

### How will I find out if I'm successful? How will I receive the money?

If you're successful, we will notify your Foyer who will share the good news with you. You can then work with your Youth Development Worker / Coach to purchase the item - you might do this online or they will go with you to the store to make the purchase.

### How does the Foyer receive the funds?

Once the successful applicants are notified, the Foyer should raise an invoice for the total amount (combining all AFG Independence Fund applications) + GST to the Foyer Foundation. We will share more specific instructions and an invoice template when we share the outcomes for each Foyer. The Foyer Foundation does not deposit money into young people's bank accounts.

### Can the original application be varied?

We understand that goals and circumstances can change. If you would like to change what the funding is used for, ask your Youth Development Worker / Coach to reach out to us at the Foyer Foundation. Changes to the original application are not guaranteed, however they will be considered. It is important that any changes are linked to your Independence goals.

### What if I move out of Foyer before using the money?

Your Foyer can still work with you to buy your independence goal related items, even after moving out. Contact your Foyer to discuss how to do this. Note: You must be living in the Foyer when you complete the application. The fund is not open to Foyer alumni.

## Need Help?

If you need assistance with your application, talk to your Youth Development Worker or Coach. They can guide you through the process and help ensure your application is complete.

We'll also be hosting a drop-in session where you can come and ask questions about the application process.

**We're excited to see your application and help you achieve your dreams!**

## Application examples

These are **examples only**. Your application must be connected to your goals!

### Fully funded application

<b>What's your goal?</b>	My goal is to be able to drive myself to and from work. I'd like to achieve this goal by the middle of next year. This will help me with work and my independence because I'll be able to take more shifts at my job and rest more because I won't have to use public transport.
<b>What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?</b>	Driving Lessons (learn2drive school) \$650 (10 lessons x \$65) (screenshot of cost of lessons attached)
<b>What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?</b>	My plan for achieving my goal is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Talk to my worker about my goal to help me stay on track</li> <li>2. Start taking driving lessons</li> <li>3. Save up money from my job to buy a second hand car</li> <li>4. Save up money to pay for my license and registration</li> <li>5. Save up for additional driving lessons if needed or if I don't get full funding</li> <li>6. Get my Ps</li> <li>7. Buy a car and get it registered</li> </ol> <p>The driving lessons will help me get my license which means I'll be able to drive myself to work once I have saved up for a car.</p>
<b>What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?</b>	I'm a very determined person. I like having a goal and feel like I can make it happen. I'm also working on getting better at saving money and I think this goal will help with that. I've also got my worker helping me, and I have a friend at work who has their full license and they said they will help me practice driving. If I don't get the full amount of funding, I will either ask my friend to do more practice with me or save and pay for more lessons myself.

### Partially funded application

<b>What's your goal?</b>	I'd like a new MacBook Air to help me study for my course. My course is really important to me and will help me be independent and getting a laptop would be great.
<b>What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?</b>	\$600 for a MacBook Air (total cost is \$1527) (includes link to Apple website)
<b>What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?</b>	I've got a part-time job and some savings that I'll use to help me buy the laptop.
<b>What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?</b>	I'm saving money for the laptop.



**Unsuccessful application**

<b>What's your goal?</b>	I want to get a new couch
<b>What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?</b>	\$400
<b>What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?</b>	I'll buy the couch from the internet and put it in my apartment.
<b>What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?</b>	