foyerfoundation

Application Guide

The Foyer Independence Fund

Everything you need to know to put together a strong application - and get up to $1,000 towards your next big goal. The Independence Fund is proudly supported by AFG and People First Bank.

OVERVIEW

What is the Independence Fund?

The Independence Fund gives young people living in Accredited Youth Foyers across Australia grants of between $100 and $1,000 to spend on something that aligns to your goals. You can use the money to buy any item or service that supports a specific independence goal as long as it's connected to at least one of the the 7 Youth Foyer Offers and a goal you have for yourself.

Who can apply?

- You must be a current Youth Foyer resident
- Each person can only apply for one grant per funding round.
- If you've received a grant from the Independence Fund previously, you're not eligible.

How do I apply?

You'll need to complete an application to be considered for a grant. There are two ways to apply - through a written form or a recorded message. Your youth worker can help you. See the *How to Apply* section for all the details.

IMPORTANT

Funds cannot be used for: medication, paying off outstanding debts (for example utility bills or fine), or rent in advance.

WHAT'S COVERED

The 7 Foyer Offer Areas

Your goal and your purchase must connect to at least one of these areas:

EDUCATION
Laptops, school supplies, stationary, micro-credentials, course fees (RSA, First Aid, and more)

HEALTH
Gym memberships, cooking classes, or anything that supports your physical and mental wellbeing.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
Budgeting workshops or online courses to get confident with managing money.

INDEPENDENCE
Driving lessons, public speaking, leadership courses - anything that builds your confidence and autonomy.

WORK
Workwear, tools and certification fees to help you land and keep the job you want.

CONNECTION
Conferences, networking events, community projects - find your people and build your network.

HOUSING
Furniture, kitchen appliances, and essentials to set up your space when you move out of Foyer.

HOW TO APPLY

Five steps to a great application

1 Set your goal

What specific goal do you want to achieve? What item of service would help?

2 Do your research

Find the cost of what you need. Gather receipts, screenshots or quotes.

3 Talk to your worker

Share your goal and ensure it aligns with your journey to achieve your goal.

4 Write or record

Complete the form. Describe your goal in your own words. Prefer a video or voice note? Email LVK here.

5 Submit application

Make sure all steps are complete, then hit submit. You'll get a confirmation email.

THE APPLICATION

What you'll be asked

The form has four main questions. Here's what we're looking for in each:

What's your goal?

Describe your independence goal related to one of the 7 Foyer Offers clearly. A strong goal is connected to what you value or want for yourself in life and is SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound.

What item are you buying and how much does it cost?

Name the item or service, include the cost and attach a quote, receipt or screenshot. The amount you apply for should reflect the actual price.

What's you plan to achieve the goal?

Walk us through the steps you'll take. What will you do, in what order, and how does the item or service fit in? Mention any personal contributions you'll make (saving money, extra practice etc).

What skills, talents and resources are you bringing?

Tell us what you're already doing or have going for you. This could be a part-time job, a supportive friend, a relevant skill or your determination. Help us understand what motivates you.



HOT TIP #1

Aim for around 150 words per question - enough to give us a clear, specific picture. Quality over quantity responses are key!



HOT TIP #2

Work with your Youth Development Worker or Coach to make sure your goal is SMART, and builds on your strengths and talents.



HOT TIP #3

Think of your application like a Shark Tank pitch - except instead of product, we're investing in YOU. Tell us your goal, plan, what you're doing to work towards it already and why this item or service is the missing piece.

FUNDING OUTCOMES

Full and unsuccessful outcomes

The better your applications shows what we're looking for, the more likely your application will be successful. Here's how outcome work:

Outcome	What it means	Why it happens
√ Full funding	You receive the full amount you applied for.	• A clear SMART goal that is connected to one of the 7 Foyer offers, and an explanation of how the requested item or service will support its achievement. • A detailed outline of the steps the applicant will take to achieve their goal, including any personal contributions they will make toward it. • Invoices or quotes are included for the requested item or service. • An original application, written by the applicant with support from a youth worker if needed.
X Unsuccessful	No funding this round	• Goal is too general and does not clearly connect to the 7 Foyer offers, or it is unclear how the requested item or service will support the goal. • Application does not explain how the goal will be achieved or what personal contributions will be made. • Application does not appear to have been written by the applicant. • Request includes an excluded item or service (e.g. medication, outstanding debts, or rent in advance). • Quotes or invoices were not included with the application. • Applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria (e.g. funding has been received previously, or the applicant is not a current Foyer resident).

APPLICATION EXAMPLES

Full funded application

These are examples only - your application needs to reflect your own goals!

What's your goal?	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.
What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?	Driving Lessons (learn2drive school) $650 (10 lessons x $65) (screenshot of cost of lessons attached)
What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?	My plan for achieving my goal is to: 1. Talk to my worker about my goal to help me stay on track 2. Start taking driving lessons 3. Save up money from my job to buy a second hand car 4. Save up money to pay for my license and registration 5. Save up for additional driving lessons if needed or if I don't get full funding 6. Get my Ps 7. Buy a car and get it registered 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.
What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?	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.

Unsuccessful application

What's your goal?	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.
What item are you planning on buying and how much does it cost?	$600 for a MacBook Air (total cost is $1527)
What's your plan for achieving your goal and how does the item support that?	I've got a part-time job and some savings that I'll use to help me buy the laptop.
What skills, talents, and resources are you using to help meet your goal now?	I'm saving money for the laptop.

COMMON QUESTIONS

FAQs

How much can I apply for?

Up to $1,000. The amount you request should reflect actual costs of what you're buying - include quotes or receipts to back it up.

Can I record a video or voice note instead of writing my application?

Yes - if writing isn't your thing, you can submit your answers as a voice note or video. Contact lauren.vankrimpen@foyer.org.au to arrange this. Some parts (your personal details, the amount and quotes) will still need to be in writing - your youth worker who will assist you to submit your application.

How will I find out if I'm successful?

We will let you know if your application is successful by email. We'll also let your Foyer know, because they will receive the funds on your behalf. You can then work with your Youth Development Worker / Coach to make the purchase - online or in person.

Can I change what I use the money for after I'm approved?

Maybe. 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 or Coach to reach out to the Foyer Foundation. Changes to the original application are not guaranteed, however they will be considered.

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

Your Foyer can still work with you to make your purchase after you've moved out. Contact your Foyer to discuss how to do this. Remember you must be a current resident or student when you submit your application.

How does the money get to me?

If your application is approved, the Foyer Foundation sends the funds to your Foyer - not directly to you. Your Foyer will then work with you to make the purchase, either online or in-store. Your Youth Development Worker or Coach will walk you through how it works.

Where does the money for the Foyer Independence Fund come from?

The Independence Fund is funded by sponsors - companies that donate money to support people living in Foyers to become independent. AFG and People First Bank are two of the big ones. Without them, these grants wouldn't exist!

How is my personal information collected and stored?

The information you provide us in your application is stored securely and treated with care. We may share high-level, de-identified data - such as the total number of people who received funding, and from what states - with our funders and to promote the fund's impact. No personally identifiable information is ever shared. For full details on how we collect, store, and protect your information, please see our Privacy Policy here.



Ready to start your application?

You can start your application here: foyer.org.au/foyer-independence-fund-application/

SUPPORT

Need help?

Your youth worker is your best first stop. They can help you shape your goal and strengthen your application.

If you or your youth worker have questions about the Foyer Independence Fund process email lauren.vankrimpen@foyer.org.au

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