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| 2021-22 Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program and 2021-22 Medical Equipment Replacement Program FAQS2021-22 Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program and 2021-22 Medical Equipment Replacement Program FAQS |

# What is the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program and the Medical Equipment Replacement Program?

## How much funding is available in 2021-22?

The Victorian Government announced in the 2021-22 State Budget **$50 million** for the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program and **$35 million** for the Medical Equipment Replacement Program which focus on replacing existing highest priority critical risk plant and engineering infrastructure and medical equipment assets that are used for acute services in public hospitals and are at the end of their effective lives.

There is a grant component (Specific-purpose capital grant) and a central submission process (the High Value Statewide Replacement Fund) for both engineering infrastructure and medical equipment:

* **$50 million** for the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program ($37.5 million for the High Value Statewide Replacement Fund and $12.5 million for Specific-purpose capital grants) and
* **$35 million** for the Medical Equipment Replacement Program ($17.5 million for the High Value Statewide Replacement Fund and $17.5 million for Specific-purpose capital grants).

## What is in-scope for funding for the High Value Statewide Replacement Fund?

The High Value Statewide Replacement Fund (the ‘Fund’) - $37.5 million for engineering infrastructure and $17.5 million for medical equipment is available for replacement of existing in-scope single items over $300,000 (excluding GST) that carry high risk in terms of service provision. The Funds are managed via a bid-based submission process.

Appendices 1 and 2 of the Guidelines provide the in-scope and ineligible replacement items - https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/engineering-infrastructure-replacement-program-and-medical-equipment-replacement-program-guidelines.docx

## Are medical equipment or engineering infrastructure assets that are in aged care, dental health, mental health, sub-acute areas eligible for replacement?

No. Funding is available for in-scope replacement assets for acute services in public hospitals only.

## Are major technical upgrades to existing assets to extend effective life eligible under the Fund?

Yes. Where the upgrade results in a major extension of an asset’s effective life and with demonstrated benefits.

## Is an asset that is leased eligible for replacement under the Fund?

Yes. If the asset is at end of lease and end of life and has been in use at the health service for a number of years. Documentation relating to the lease will need to be submitted to the department.

## Can I apply for projects that may be eligible under other funding sources?

Yes. Health services can still apply. Note that under the conditions of funding, funding is not available for projects previously funded or already approved for funding from another source.

# Applications

## When do applications close?

**20 September 2021.**

## How do I complete an application form?

Applications are via an on-line form and should be lodged through the *SmartyGrants* portal, located on the website <https://dhhs.smartygrants.com.au/2021_2022_EngineeringInfrastructure> <https://dhhs.smartygrants.com.au/2021_2022_MedicalEquipment>

The application form must be completed in its entirety. Further information and evidence should be provided as attachments, including Service Demand and Utilisation information for all medical equipment, Statement of Requirements for selected medical imaging equipment, life cycle costings for projects of $1 million and over, available at https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/engineering-infrastructure-replacement-program-and-medical-equipment-replacement-program-guidelines.docx together with supporting documentation such as schematic designs and plans, costings and quotations and risk reports which are to be attached to the application form.

**Technical assistance**

Technical assistance regarding completion of the on-line form can be obtained through reviewing <https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants/> or contacting *SmartyGrants* via their email address service@smarty.grants.com.au or calling (03) 9320 6888.

## Will hard copies or emailed submissions be accepted?

No. All submissions must be submitted via the *SmartyGrants* Portal.

## What information should the application include?

Applicants should read the 2021-22 Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program and 2021-22 Medical Equipment Replacement Program Guidelines before submitting, available at https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/engineering-infrastructure-replacement-program-and-medical-equipment-replacement-program-guidelines.docx Please consider eligibility and alignment of the proposal with the Guidelines and criteria, prior to submitting your health service proposal. The application form must be completed for each proposal. Relevant supporting documentation must be included as attachments to the application.

## Does an application form need to be completed for each asset for both medical equipment and engineering infrastructure?

Yes, there are separate application forms for engineering infrastructure and medical equipment replacements and these must be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

## Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, Health services may submit as many applications as required in alignment with eligibility criteria. It is important that each application is prioritised according to the Chief Executive Officer’s ranking and in alignment with internal strategic plans.

## Are applications for medical equipment and engineering infrastructure replacement prioritised together?

No. Medical equipment priority replacement is reviewed, assessed and finalised separate from engineering infrastructure.

## Does the Eligibility checklist need to be completed?

Yes. The checklist will assist health services and the department to identify if projects are eligible and to minimise unnecessary work.

## Where do I get the information to score the critical risk categories (Clinical, OH&S and Service Availability)?

The guidelines provide information on critical risk scoring and prioritisation. Risk matrices are incorporated in Appendix 3 of the Guidelines - https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/engineering-infrastructure-replacement-program-and-medical-equipment-replacement-program-guidelines.docx

## Does a life cycle costing spreadsheet need to be submitted with each application?

No. A life cycle costing spreadsheet needs to be completed for assets of $1 million (excluding GST) or greater, or as requested by the department. The spreadsheet is located on the website and needs to be completed and attached to the application form.

## Can I make changes to my application after it has been submitted?

Yes, you can alter your application after it has been submitted by accessing the *SmartyGrants* online portal, but this can only be done before the application period closes.

## How will my application be assessed?

All applications will be considered in the context of Program objectives, state-wide priority context and the submission’s alignment with Victorian Government objectives. The assessments and prioritisation will be performed in accordance with set criteria.

## How will I know the outcome of my submission?

All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome of their submission following completion of the assessment and approval processes.

## If successful, what are my reporting requirements?

Milestone reporting on the progress of the project will be required on a monthly basis and in accordance with the CEO Letter of Acceptance.

# Further information

## Where can I get further information or assistance?

Technical assistance regarding completion of the on-line form can be obtained through reviewing <https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants/> or contacting *SmartyGrants* via their email address service@smarty.grants.com.au or by calling (03) 9320 6888.

For assistance regarding the funding programs please contact MERP&EIRP@health.vic.gov.au

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