



Guide for Practitioners

Activation Grants of \$25,000 are available to help for Kempsey-based communities, ensuring no one is left behind when challenges arise.

These grants are designed to help strengthen community connections and deliver on prioritised resilience building initiatives. Funding can kickstart projects based on your community’s priorities, determined through the Six-Step Future Ready Communities Model.

This guide provides an overview of the application process, eligibility requirements, and benefits for your community.

Key Features



Rolling Intake: Apply any time, with ongoing support. Open until June 2026 or until funds are fully allocated, whichever comes first.



Community-Driven Initiatives: No pre-defined resilience building initiatives needed at the time of application – focus on applying the Six-Step Model which will unearth the initiatives.



Flexible Terms: Grant monies can be expended over two years (approx), allowing communities to work at their own pace.

What We Fund

Yes	No
✓ Training and Education: Skills development to build community capacity.	✗ Pre-planned projects without evidence of community input.
✓ Social Welfare: Initiatives addressing societal challenges such as mental health, housing stability, employment, youth engagement, and crime prevention.	✗ Political campaigns or advocacy.
✓ Disaster Preparedness and Response: Initiatives to improve community readiness.	✗ Recreational or social activities that don't benefit the wider community (e.g., socially vulnerable groups).
✓ Initiatives may include physical improvements and equipment, services or programs that connect and prepare communities.	✗ Direct financial aid to individuals or affluent communities.
	✗ Routine costs like ongoing salaries or operational expenses.

Funding Structure

Grants offer up to \$25,000 in two stages:

- Stage 1: Up to \$5,000 to support early engagement activities (Steps 1-3).
- Stage 2: The remaining funds can be used to implement resilience-building initiatives identified during the process. (Steps 4 & 5).

Funds are released in the two stages as needed, aligned to milestone achievements and implementation readiness.

Who Can Apply

A Resilience Canopy Practitioner must submit the application on behalf of their community. However, the Practitioner will not be the legal entity responsible for managing the funds.

Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to apply if:

- You represent a place-based or interest-driven community, primarily located within the Kempsey Local Government Area, that is “ready to engage”.
- Your community is committed to becoming a registered Canopy Community, applying the Six-Step Model to establish a shared vision and resilience building priorities.
- A legal entity or auspicing arrangement is in place to enter into a funding agreement with The Resilience Canopy and to accept and manage the grant funds. Alternatively a sub-committee can be established under the Canopy during the early engagement phase as a pathway to formalisation.

How we assess applications

Applications are assessed on a balance of the following criteria:



Community readiness

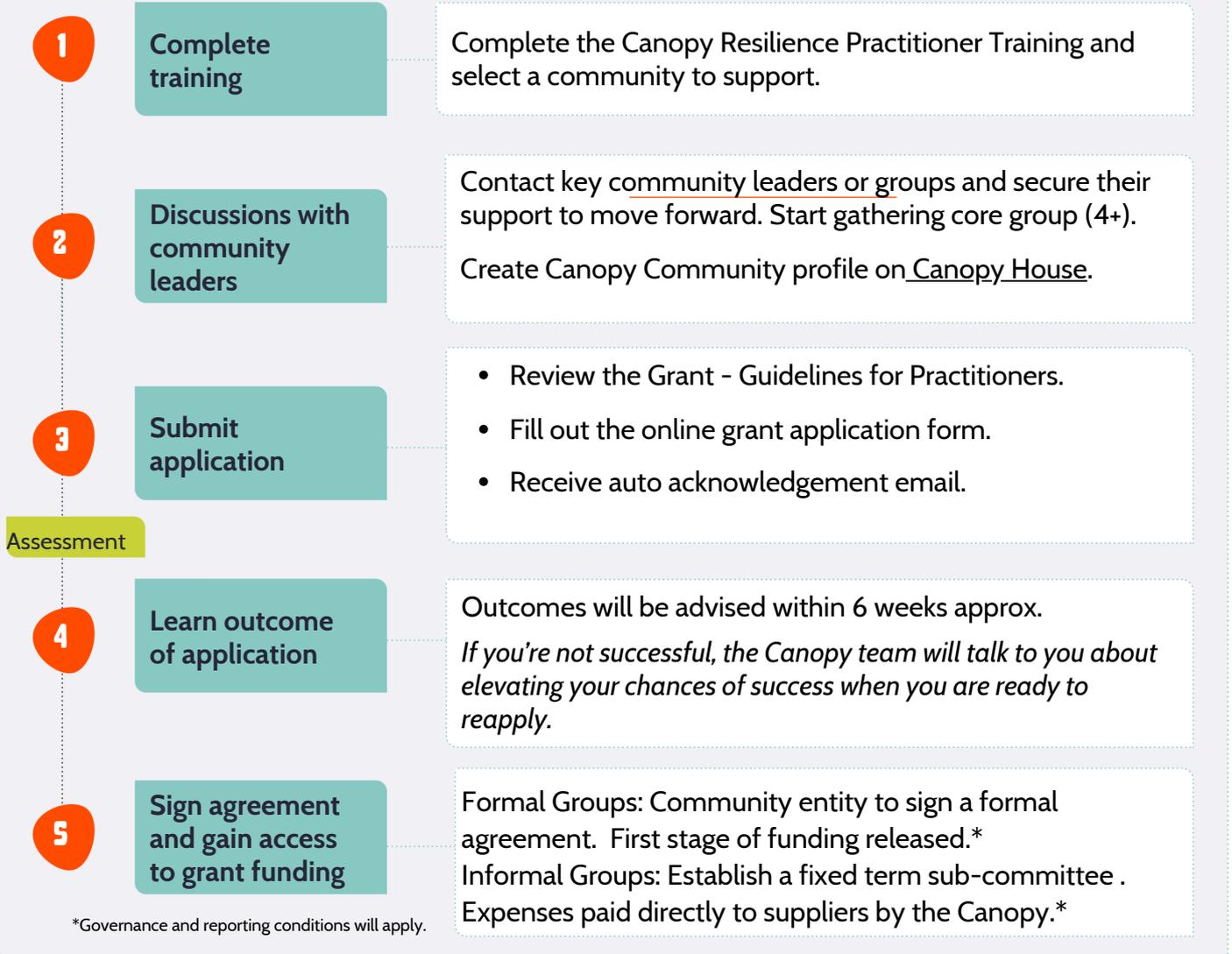


Level of hazards and disadvantage



Community resilience profile, current and past events and impact

How the process works



Good to know

- Projects should not be fully defined at the time of application.
- Applications are reviewed by a Steering Committee with members from Kempsey Shire Council, Essential Energy, and The Resilience Canopy, with final approval from the Canopy Board.
- Regular progress checks are required, including a report after Steps 1-3, annual progress reports thereafter, and a final acquittal report. The grant term is up to June 2027.

Preparing to submit an application

Kempsey Program

Rolling Intake available until June 2026 or all funds are allocated, whichever comes first.

Important: The application form must be completed in one session, as it cannot be saved and resumed later. Use the word template to prepare application details before starting.

Estimated Time:

- Preparation -1hr
- Completion of Form - 15 minutes.

Pre-Application Checklist

What you'll need:

- ☑ Complete a community profile in Canopy House.
- ☑ Considered any additional details not already covered in Canopy Community profile.
- ☑ Details about the Core Group (4+ people)
- ☑ Details about who might benefit from the grant

Ensure you have spoken with a Resilience Canopy community coordinator before applying to confirm you have everything you need!

- ☑ Details about what support you might need from us
- ☑ Proposed Grantee Arrangement: Intention to enter into a formal agreement or establish an interim sub-committee operating under the Canopy.

Further guidance on these requirements can be found in the application form.

How to apply

Step 1:

Create a Canopy Community Profile

Step 2:

Complete online application form

Supporting documents can be uploaded with the application form or emailed to: info@resiliencecanopy.com.au

Apply Now



[Click here to apply](#)

Further Information

For more details on The Resilience Canopy, [visit our website](#).

If you need assistance with your application, contact our support team.

Lyndal Harper - Resilience Canopy Strategic Programs Lead (NSW)
lyndal@resiliencecanopy.com.au

Working together to provide a helping hand to build stronger, future ready communities.

The partnership between The Resilience Canopy, Essential Energy, and Kempsey Shire Council is designed to empower communities facing social, economic, and disaster-related challenges. By combining local relationships, Essential Energy's investment and expertise, and The Resilience Canopy's focus on resilience-building through training and community-led initiatives, this partnership strengthens local capacity to tackle future challenges. Together, they provide vital support to help communities survive, thrive, and overcome disadvantage.

