

Regional Skills Relocation Grant

Fact sheet

Regional Skills Relocation Grant

The NSW Government has established the Regional Skills Relocation Grant to increase the availability of skilled and experienced workers for businesses setting up in, relocating to, or existing in regional NSW.

Grants will be available for regional NSW businesses operating in eligible industries to assist with the relocation costs of eligible skilled workers moving from metropolitan areas to regional NSW.

Approved businesses will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 to assist with the relocation expenses incurred by the eligible skilled workers they employ. The relocation expenses covered by this grant are:

- furniture removal
- travel for immediate family to relocate
- temporary accommodation for up to three months
- furniture storage for up to three months.

The NSW Government has committed \$10 million for applications over the next four years; \$2.5 million will be available each year, providing 250 grants of up to \$10,000.



Eligible industries

To be eligible for funding, employers must be a business or co-operative:

- operating in an 'engine' industry, enabling industry or emerging engine industry as described in the relevant Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), or
- aligned with government strategies including the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW

Industries identified in the REDS reflect the regions competitive advantage and ability to trade their goods outside the local area or sell their services to non-locals. Retail and restaurants are ineligible because they only operate and sell locally. Examples of 'engine' or 'emerging' industries include:

- agriculture
- forestry
- manufacturing
- mining
- tourism.

Other eligible industries are those enabling industries that provide key inputs or services to an 'engine' or 'emerging' industry identified in the REDS. For example, transport and logistics are eligible where they address barriers faced by eligible industries such as agriculture and manufacturing.

In rare cases, population-serving industries that are typically ineligible may be deemed eligible where it can be demonstrated that such service 'exports' are material to the Functional Economic Region (FER).

Further information on industry eligibility is available at nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/regional-economic-development-strategies

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Eligibility

Eligible businesses must be operating in a regional NSW eligible industry and:

- are relocating to, or setting up in, regional NSW and creating at least five ongoing full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in a regional local community

or

- are already operating in regional NSW and seeking to recruit eligible workers.

The business must be seeking employees that:

- are relocating from a metropolitan area to regional NSW, with the regional residence being at least 50 kilometres from the original metropolitan residence and within the region of the eligible business
- have an occupation featuring on the Commonwealth Skilled Occupation List for the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491).

This list of occupations is specifically designed to meet the needs of regional Australia.

To search for an eligible occupation simply apply the filter - 491 – Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – State or Territory nominated from the drop down Skilled Occupation List menu <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skill-occupation-list#>

- are Australian citizens or permanent residents on the date they commence employment.

How to apply

Businesses can register their interest with the Department of Regional NSW. Registered businesses operating in eligible industries will be invited to complete an eligibility form.

1. Register

- Businesses setting up in, relocating to, or already operating in regional NSW register with the Department of Regional NSW.

2. Eligibility

- Registered businesses operating in applicable eligible industries are invited to complete an eligibility form.
- Eligible businesses receive confirmation and a grant pre-approval ID, valid for 12 months.

3. Activation

- Businesses notify the department within 15 days of filling the role and complete a grant activation form.
- The department determines the eligibility of the employee and provides confirmation of grant activation.

4. Claim

- Eligible employees must have worked a minimum of 3 months before relocation costs will be reimbursed.
- Businesses submit the reimbursement form with copies of paid invoices to receive the grant payment.

5. Evaluation

- The business and employee complete an evaluation survey up to 12 months from the employee's commencement date.

More information

All initial enquiries should be directed to the Department of Regional NSW:

e: regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au
p: 1300 679 673