NSW Planning Portal API Grants

What is the NSW Planning Portal API grants program?

The Department is investing over $10 million to support the digital integrations of NSW council IT systems with the NSW Planning Portal. All councils across NSW can now apply for an individual grant of $80,000 each to achieve the digital integrations with the NSW Planning Portal.

Who is leading the grants program?

This grant program is being administered by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Why are we running a grant program?

To provide funding assistance to support councils to achieve the digital integration of their IT systems with the NSW Planning Portal through APIs.

The objectives of the grant are to:

- Relieve councils of their administrative burden in order to focus their efforts on the assessment process contributing to improved processing times.
- Support the flow of data between NSW Planning Portal and council's IT system thus eliminating the need for council personnel to transfer data manually.

What is the application process to receive a grant?

During the application period of 31 May 2022 to 09 June 2022, all councils can complete an online form, located on the NSW Planning Portal here. Accessing and completing the form will require a council to agree to use the funding as per the grant guidelines and agreement to sign the Funding Agreement (click here to download a copy).

Are all Councils eligible to receive a grant?

The grant funding is available for all 128 councils in NSW through this grant program following successful assessment of their application.

Please refer to **Grant Purpose** section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines for information on what funding must be used for.

How will the grants program be assessed and approved?

Please refer to **Grant Selection Process** section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines .

By when do the councils need to spend the money and what is the acquittal process?

All grant funding must be expended by the recipients by no later than 31 December 2023.

Recipients will be required to provide an acquittal report to the Department with evidence that demonstrates the funds were expended for the for purpose for which the funding is provided.

The recipient will be required to repay to the Department any amount of the grant funding that is not expended in accordance with the funding agreement.

How is the NSW Planning Portal helping the community?

The NSW Planning Portal is helping homeowners and businesses to save time and money by lodging in their planning applications online and being able to track them in real-time. This provides full transparency and accountability within the planning system, allowing everyone to know what's been lodged and why a decision was made.

For people seeking council approval on a new build or renovation, they can submit development

applications (DAs) online – anywhere, anytime, in the Department's online DA service.

Using the Portal has become mandatory for selected Greater Sydney and regional-centre councils

on 1 January 2022 and for the remaining councils on 1 July 2022.

NSW Planning Portal digital services and real-time reporting is aligned to the Planning Reforms to unlock productivity, deliver improvements, and reduce the complexity of the planning system.

What digital integrations are councils required to carry out using this funding?

Refer to the **Grant Purpose** section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines.

We have self-funded to complete our integrations outlined in the Grant Purpose section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines, could we use the funding to reimburse previously paid expense?

Yes, Invoices to be supplied as a proof of expenditure

Our council doesn't require integrations, are we still eligible to apply?

No, the funding is provided for the reasons stated in the **Grant Purpose** section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines only.

Our council has already integrated our IT system with Online DA V1 APIs, are we eligible for funding?

Yes, you will need to spend the funding for the reasons stated in the **Grant Purpose** section of the NSW Planning Portal API Grant Guidelines. This does not include reimbursement for integration with Online DA version 1.