

# Empowerment Fund

## FACT SHEET

### What is the Empowerment Fund?

The Empowerment Fund seeks to address barriers the social services sector faces relating to data and evaluation capability, and enable greater sharing of useful evaluation findings and improved data collection and management processes.

The Department of Treasury and Finance (the Department) will manage the Empowerment Fund and will provide grants, via a competitive process, to social service providers or not for profit and community-based organisations in Victoria and their peak bodies and intermediary organisations.

Government provided \$2 million in funding for the Empowerment Fund through the *2023-24 Budget* (under the *Maximising outcomes from social investment* initiative).

### Why did we develop it?

In recent years, service providers and sector peak bodies have shared feedback with us on their challenges in understanding the impact of early intervention. Outcome measurement and data capability are commonly cited hurdles.

We understand that finding resources to collect, store and apply data and outcomes insights, as well as investing in program evaluations, is challenging. Especially where the priority is on delivering services.

The Empowerment Fund has been established in direct response to this sector feedback.

### Key features

Grant funding via two streams will be available to individual organisations or through joint applications/consortiums. Funds are accessible for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

| Stream   | Amount (ex GST)       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Stream A - Data capability:</b> to provide improvements to data capability.                           | \$25 000 to \$400 000 |
| <b>Stream B - Evaluation:</b> to support program evaluations, including internal capabilities and tools. | \$25 000 to \$250 000 |

Successful applicants will make insights from their funded activities publicly available. DTF will work with successful applicants to ensure any public material is safeguarded to address potential sensitivities.

### How to apply?

The Department will accept applications until **5pm, Friday 29 March 2024**.

All applications should be submitted through the Empowerment Fund Online Application Portal on the DTF website here: <https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/funds-programs-and-policies/empowerment-fund>. The Program Guideline and the Application Form are accessible on the DTF website.

Any questions on the application process or the Empowerment Fund generally, can be sent here: [earlyintervention@dtf.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyintervention@dtf.vic.gov.au)