



**Department of Local Government
and Regional Development**
Government of Western Australia

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE REGIONAL COLLOCATION SCHEME

The Regional Collocation Scheme (RCS) is administered by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development's Financial Assistance Branch and was developed in July 2000 in response to:

- Limited services and associated infrastructure in regional areas;
- High capital and recurrent costs associated with service delivery in regional areas;
- Loss of or limited government, community and commercial services;
- Limited capital works grant funding programs to assist regional communities in developing facilities that accommodate community-managed community economic development services; and
- Need for greater consultation with regional communities in planning and delivering services.

Aims and Objectives of RCS

The aim of RCS is to assist regional communities with funding to build or renovate appropriate facilities for the collocation of government and community services involved in regional or community economic development.

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- Increase access to government and community services and associated infrastructure.
- Improve coordination of regional programs and service delivery.
- Encourage efficient use of government and community resources.
- Respond to the social and cultural issues within individual regional communities.

The potential benefits of grouping together compatible services and having service providers share resources such as staff, equipment, storage space and meeting rooms include:

- Reduced capital costs associated with construction;
- Reduced operational costs such as equipment, rent, utilities, maintenance and staffing, thereby improving the operations and viability of existing services;
- An increased capacity to attract and accommodate new services;
- Greater opportunity for services to be delivered and managed locally;
- Increased opening hours;
- Broadened work skills base of paid and volunteer staff; and
- The development of an economic and community focal point in the community.

About the Scheme

The Scheme is aimed at regional communities that have limited access to services and infrastructure. Priority is given to communities located in remote or otherwise isolated regional areas that can demonstrate exceptional need.

RCS is a capital works grant program only. It does not fund equipment or any operational aspect of a facility. RCS funds can only be used to assist with accommodating community economic development services in the facility.

Eligible expenditure items include:

- Construction costs of a new or refurbished facility (including limited final design costs); and
- Purchase of fixtures that are normally an integral part of a new building (eg air conditioning, floor coverings, security systems etc); or
- Purchase of an existing building.

The Department will not own or operate a collocation facility, nor will it be the sole funding agency contributing to the capital works. Applicants must source partnership funding from other agencies as well as themselves, through either cash or in-kind contributions.

The proposed facility should be accessible by the whole community, have broad community and stakeholder support and be financially viable.

Local Government agencies and incorporated community groups in regional areas may be eligible to apply for funding under the Scheme. Please refer to the Funding Guidelines for further information on the eligibility criteria.

Types of Services Collocating

Facilities should accommodate a mix of government-funded, community and/or private sector services involved in regional economic or community development, for example:

- Office space for business support services (permanent or visiting services such as tax agents, accountants, financial advisors, Business Enterprise Centres, legal services etc).
- Telecentres (public access to computer, email, internet, facsimile and other IT services; business and administrative support; some contracted government services).
- Bank agencies
- Libraries
- Training and adult education
- Employment services
- Multi-purpose meeting facilities
- Tourist information centres

Other services are also encouraged to be part of the facility to enable a better sharing of resources within the community and increase the likelihood of attracting other capital and operational funding to the facility.

For example, the project may include collocation with health and allied health, counselling, childcare or crèche, toy libraries, art and craft production or retail, Police services, Department of Justice services or agricultural and environmental support services etc. Every RCS project is different and the scale and scope of each project is driven by community need and circumstance. Each project needs to take into account:

- The community's wishes with respect to service delivery and use of available infrastructure funds;
- The compatibility of services;
- Proposed building ownership and management models; and
- The level of general community access to facilities within the building(s).

Ownership and Management

Collocation facilities are generally community or Shire owned and operated; and they involve a variety of funding sources for capital works and ongoing operational funding.

In most cases, the local community or Local Government has existing staff with the capacity to manage the facility. For example, in many RCS projects funded to date, the local Telecentre has been the major permanent service provider in the facility and often has the capacity (skills, experience and staff) to manage the day-to-day running of the facility, reporting to either a sub-committee of the community's Local Government or to a community-managed incorporated building management committee.

The role of the manager usually involves responsibility for the following:

- Booking system for use of the facilities in the building (equipment, meeting room, office space etc).
- Granting access to the facility (reception, authorising after hours and other special access).
- Employing and supervising paid and volunteer staff.
- Promoting the facility to the community, service providers and other clients.
- Financial management (rental payments and other fee for service income, grant acquittals, payment of accounts etc).
- Purchase of equipment.
- Organising cleaning, gardening and other maintenance
- Reporting on above to building management committee and/or owner of the building.

Further Information

For more information on the Regional Collocation Scheme and other sources of funding, please contact your local Regional Development Commission (RDC) or the Department of Local Government and Regional Development's Financial Assistance Branch by Telephone on (08) 9217 1500 or Freecall 1800 620 511 or www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au.

Please note that all applications must be lodged with the applicant's local RDC which will forward it on to the Department accompanied by a letter of comment. Potential applicants should discuss their proposal with both their local RDC and the Department before lodging an application.

Examples of Some RCS Projects Funded

Community	Project Description
Cunderdin	Purchase an existing building to house a Telecentre, videoconferencing, meeting room, library, toy library and offices for visiting services providers.
Westonia	Construct a new building to house a Telecentre, library, medical services, Landcare Officer, tourist information, local newspaper and offices for visiting service providers.
Darkan	Extensions and refurbishment of Old Roads Board building to house a Telecentre, library, agricultural services, BEC, local newspaper, accountant, Silver Chain, GP and child health clinic, HACC and offices for visiting services (Project commenced prior to establishment of RCS. RCS funding provided to assist with final stages only)
Leeman	Construct a new building to house the Telecentre, crèche, agriculture services, videoconferencing, meeting room, tourism and local newspaper
Wellstead	Construct a new building to house the Telecentre, library, museum, herbarium, agricultural services, medical room, tourism, videoconferencing and meeting room
Warooka	Construct a new building to collocate the Telecentre, Department of Community Development services, child health clinic, medical rooms, videoconferencing, meeting rooms, toy library and activity room
Beacon	Construct a new building to accommodate the Telecentre, community newspaper, Landcare, herbarium, equipment resource room, meeting room, videoconferencing facility, library, community archives and storage area, tourist information and display area. The facility will be built alongside the existing Community Centre and Hall that will now accommodate playgroup, occasional childcare, serviced office space for visiting service providers and a range of art, craft and cultural activities, creating a community services precinct in the town.
Kulin	Renovation and refurbishment of old Recreation building to collocate Telecentre, Shire library, community meeting and training room, community and professional office space, telehealth and videoconferencing facility, community newspaper, government and tourist information centre, doctor's surgery, child health clinic, health nurse's office, veterinary service and herbarium.
Pingelly	Purchase and refit of former drapery store and renovation of former child health centre to collocate the Telecentre, Pingelly Aboriginal Progress Association and CDEP, Shire library, Cyber Joblink, community meeting and training room, videoconferencing facilities, community and professional office space and community archive area.
Corrigin	Building an extension to Shire administration to collocate Telecentre, business enterprise centre, employment service, community meeting and training facilities, videoconferencing, toy library and community cinema.
Williams	Construct a new building to house the Telecentre, library, community meeting and training room, videoconference facility, agricultural and Landcare services, community newspaper, employment services, community cinema and children's activity area.
Perenjori	Building of an extension to Perenjori Telecentre building to collocate the Telecentre, Community Post Office, community newspaper, dedicated meeting, training and videoconferencing area, BEC, office space for visiting professionals and a crèche facility.
Jerramungup	Build an extension to existing Dept of Agriculture district office to collocate with the Telecentre, library, serviced office space, community meeting and training facilities, business enterprise centre, videoconferencing and community cinema.
Northcliffe	Construction of Northcliffe Interpretive and Cultural Centre to collocate the Telecentre, library, tourist centre, exhibition area, professional office space, meeting, training and videoconference facility, public toilets and shower facilities.

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Calingiri	Construct a new building to collocate the health service, Shire library, tourist bureau, community meeting and training facility, videoconferencing, computer, email and internet access, serviced office space, crèche. The facility will be built alongside the community hall and adjacent to the Shire Offices, enabling a better sharing of staffing and other resources and creating a community services precinct.
Kalannie	Construct an extension to the existing community hall to collocate the Kalannie Telecentre, RTC, library, toy library, training, meeting and videoconference area, community newspaper and community archive service.
Wundowie	Extension and refit of former childcare centre to collocate the Telecentre, library, adult education and meeting room and videoconference facilities.
Mingenew	Building an extension to the existing NAB Building to collocate the NAB, Mingenew Community Telecentre, Mingenew Post Office, dedicated training and videoconference facility, office space for visiting professionals and a community archives and storage area.
Walpole	Construct a new building to collocate the Telecentre, community newspaper, multi-purpose training, meeting and videoconference facility, bank agency and serviced office space. To be built alongside existing hall and lesser hall that will accommodate the crèche, library and historical society to create a community services precinct.
Boyup Brook	Construct an extension to the existing Telecentre building to collocate the Telecentre, TAFE training room, Challenge Bank facility, videoconference room and office space for visiting professionals.
Frankland	<p>Construct a new building to accommodate health services, Telecentre, library, Shire services, bank agency, serviced office space for rental, training and employment services, multi-purpose meeting and seminar room with videoconferencing, community newspaper, crèche and playgroup, tourist information and community display space.</p> <p>The building will be constructed alongside the existing community hall that is also undergoing refurbishment and will accommodate a range of indoor recreational and cultural activities, creating a community service precinct in the town.</p>
Bidyadanga	Construct a new building to accommodate a Telecentre, Centrelink, community mail service, community newspaper, multi-purpose meeting and training facility with videoconferencing, serviced office space for rental, function room and tourist information.
Jigalong	Refurbish a building to accommodate a Telecentre, community mail service, Centrelink facility, community radio, office space for visiting professionals and a multipurpose meeting, training and videoconference room.