



Scripted Production Fund Guidelines

This fund provides grant finance to Western Australian Producers for feature films, telemovies and scripted series which will be made in Western Australia. Projects must have bonafide marketplace attachments from traditional and/or new distribution platforms with significant audience share.

Competitive application rounds will be advertised throughout the financial year.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to \$700,000 per project.

Funding is calculated by combining **Base Funding** plus **Funding Incentives**.

- **Base Funding** is calculated at 10% of the Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of a project, capped at \$500,000.
- **Funding Incentives** are calculated via the 'Funding Incentives Table' on Page 4, capped at \$200,000.

Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant meets all the criteria.

Production funding cap: an applicant / applicant company can access a maximum of \$1.4 million per financial year across all Screenwest production funding programs.

Eligibility

Applicant / Company Eligibility

The applicant / company must:

- Be a Western Australian Resident Producer or Western Australian Resident Company as defined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
- Meet the general eligibility requirements of the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

Project Eligibility

1. The project must be a:
 - Feature film; or a
 - Scripted series for traditional television broadcast, streaming or online platform.

The Applicant must clearly demonstrate substantial changes (as determined by Screenwest Management) if the project has previously been declined for funding.

2. The project must have a:
 - Current letter of intent or deal memo from a bonafide distributor, broadcaster or streaming platform for one or more of the following:
 - Theatrical release;
 - Television broadcast on free to air or pay/cable television; or
 - Online release with significant audience share.
 - Distribution plan for Australian domestic and Rest of World (ROW) sales.

The Applicant must provide copies of each document with the application.

3. The project must score a minimum of 10 points in the 'Western Australian Elements Table'.

Western Australian Elements Table (explanatory notes provided under the table)

Ref	Western Australian Element	Total Points
A	Producer (with a reasonable and material share of creative control, copyright and profit entitlement)	2
B	Underlying WA IP (original concept, book or play created by a Western Australian)	2
C	Identifiable, major Western Australian location/setting or character (identifiable to the national audience)	2
D	Writer	2

Ref	Western Australian Element	Total Points
E	Director	2
F	Director of Photography	1
G	Line Producer OR Production Manager	1
H	1 st AD	1
I	Production Designer OR Costume Designer	1
J	Editor	1
K	Composer	1
L	Sound Design	1
M	Flexible Points	2

Explanatory Notes:

- To qualify as Western Australian for points allocation, practitioners must meet the definition of a Western Australian Resident outlined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
- The total number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the table. For example, a project that has two Western Australian producers attached will receive a maximum of two points.
 - Individuals can receive points in multiple categories.
 - Writer/ Directors can receive full points in both categories provided they receive full credits and make up at least 50% of the writing or directing team.
- Flexible Points can be attributed to outcomes that haven't been accounted for. The outcomes must align with Screenwest's Strategic Plan priorities. For example, a Western Australian ex-pat or high-profile Western Australian cast member is attached to the project. The Applicant must present a compelling case for these points.

Funding Incentives

Additional funding (on top of the Screenwest Base Funding) may be available via the incentives below.

Funding Incentives Table

Ref	Category	Criteria	Potential Funding
A	Underlying Western Australian IP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA content derived from, or profiles, a significant work, character or event specific to WA either historically, artistically, scientifically or socially. • A recognizable WA setting. • WA authorship and/or adaptation. • Other significantly identifiable WA element in the content of the production. 	Up to \$50,000.
B	Western Australian Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A WA Director receiving full credits for a feature film. 	Up to \$50,000.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A WA Director receiving full credits for scripted series. 	Up to \$75,000 (pro rata if more than one director). Maximum cap per person \$50,000.
C	Key Western Australian Heads of Department	<p>Incentive applies to the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line Producer • Production Manager • Director of Photography • Unit Manager • Production Accountant • Location Manager. 	Up to \$100,000 (capped at \$20,000 per role).
D	Diversity & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA First Nations ATL Key Creative. • WA ATL Key Creative who identifies as being culturally and linguistically diverse or identifies as living with a disability. 	Up to \$25,000.

Ref	Category	Criteria	Potential Funding
E	Western Australian Flexible Incentive	<p>This incentive can be attributed to outcomes that haven't been accounted for. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of a WA Key Creative or HOD who receives a full credit in a position for the first time. • Employment of a WA Expat Key Creative. • Significant WA profile cast attachment. • Outcome/s aligned with Screenwest's Strategic Plan priorities. <p>The Applicant must present a compelling case for this Incentive.</p>	Up to \$25,000.

Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment

After receiving production funding through this fund and upon approval of the post-production drawdown milestone, the Western Australian Resident Producer with projects that have exceeded \$5 million in QWAE will be invited to apply out of round for:

1. Project development investment funding:

Funding available - up to \$50,000 across a maximum of three Screenwest Development Investment Agreements. Funding will be provided in tranches of up to \$25,000.

- Screenwest's [Scripted Project Development Fund](#) guidelines and agreement terms will be used to assess and contract this funding.
- Development funding caps apply as per the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

2. Travel funding:

Funding available: up to \$5,000 that will be provided in a single tranche.

- Travel funds are a contribution towards the cost of attending business meetings that fall outside of the current travel guidelines.

- Screenwest's travel fund agreement terms will apply.

All agreements must be executed within 12 months of commencing post-production on the project that was supported through this fund.

In exceptional circumstances applications that are outside the above WA Producer Project Development Incentives eligibility criteria may be considered.

Funding is not automatic and is subject to the availability of Screenwest funds.

Completion Funding

Projects are eligible to apply for completion funds where:

1. a rough cut or equivalent has been produced; and
2. the project has received bonafide market or significant festival interest or support by way of a presale and/or a distribution agreement.

Completion funding must be used to help meet the costs of post-production yet to be undertaken.

Production companies will need to show that any deferred payments, options or clearances have been paid or have been funded. Screenwest will not fund retrospective deferrals.

Projects are not eligible for completion funding if they have already received Screenwest production funds.

Projects that receive completion funding are not eligible for the Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment.

Application Materials

Refer to the [SmartyGrants application form](#). The form can be viewed in 'preview' mode and downloaded. Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

Assessment Criteria

All eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. *Team*: track record of the applicant(s) and key creatives.
2. *Cultural and Creative*: cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia.
3. *Economic*: economic benefits of the project to Western Australia including the amount of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) and the employment of key Western Australian crew and post personnel.
4. *Commercial*: strength of the market attachments.
5. *Quality and Feasibility*: strength of the script, creative statement and production methodology including the appropriateness of the finance plan.
6. *Strategic Alignment*: how the project aligns with the relevant strategic initiatives as set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.
7. *Diversity*: how the project supports Screenwest's commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation including overall diversity of projects funded by Screenwest.
8. Availability of Screenwest funds.

Production Budget Requirements

Below the Line Crew Capacity Program

Productions that receive Screenwest production funding over \$100,000 must budget for Attachment or Mentorship opportunity/ies in consultation with Screenwest. The number of opportunities will be determined by the amount of Screenwest production funding a project receives.

Refer to the [Below-The-Line Crew Capacity Program – Production Funding Terms of Reference](#) for more information.

Fees

Productions are required to budget for:

- Screenwest administration fee of 2% of the funding amount capped at \$5,000.

- Repayment of any Screenwest project development investment funding plus premiums (applies to projects that receive Screenwest project development investment funding).

First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

There must be strong First Nations Australian representation on all projects that tell First Nations Australian stories, through the involvement of First Nations Australian key creatives and thorough consultation, incubation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Diversity Statement

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on and off screen, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

It is important that you / your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in the project.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly as differences in gender; age; Indigenous identity; cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD); disability; sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+); location (including regional and remote regions) and socio-economic status.

Application Process

- Before applying, read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
- Review the online application form on the [SmartyGrants portal](#). Make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with the application.
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact.

How To Apply

1. Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material.

Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

1. Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
2. A panel consisting of Screenwest Management, a Board Director and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
3. Panel funding recommendations are presented to the Screenwest Board for approval.
4. Final funding decisions are made by the Screenwest Board.
5. You can expect a decision within 8-10 weeks of the funding round closing date.
6. Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Production funding and travel funding are provided as a grant.
- Project development funding is provided as a repayable investment.
- Any Screenwest project development investment repayment obligations must be met.
- Successful applicants will enter into a Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.
- Receipt of funding should not lead to any expectation of continued assistance from Screenwest beyond the term of the project PGA.

Program Contacts

General Enquiries

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