

Screen-Based Production Grant FAQ

1. Why is the Alberta Production Grant being replaced?

The Alberta Production Grant was based on an arts grant, designed to fund smaller productions. With the growing number of projects choosing Alberta to film, the increased quality of production and increased budgets, we recognized the Alberta Production Grant no longer meets the needs of the industry. We are replacing it with a new grant program that takes a more sustainable and responsible approach to support for the sector and bring the largest economic and cultural benefit to Alberta.

2. What is different about the Screen-Based Production Grant?

The Screen-Based Production Grant is designed to reflect the industry we have in Alberta today. Where the Alberta Production Grant was designed with smaller-budget productions in mind, the Screen-Based Production Grant is meant to be flexible enough to address the needs of the large commercial productions that are choosing Alberta while ensuring we continue to support smaller, culturally-focused projects as well.

The new \$45 million grant program will provide effective support to the sector. Regardless of the mechanism employed, the increased budget will help maintain support for both cultural and commercial production including an increased cap of up to \$7.5 million. The Screen-Based Production Grant introduces more rigorous financial controls to ensure that funds are used in a responsible and sustainable way. The new program also includes grant evaluation criteria and funding envelopes to manage grants as opposed to first-come, first-served.

3. How do you apply under the new program?

Application intake will occur three times a year. Applications and support materials must be received by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline for each intake:

- March 31,
- July 31, and
- November 30.

Applications will be accepted starting 60 days prior to each application deadline. Program guidelines and other details will be available on October 25, 2017 when the new program launches.

4. How does the evaluation process work?

Applications will be submitted during three application windows and evaluated through a competitive process based on greatest economic and cultural benefit. Funding will be awarded based on application scores, with highest scoring applications receiving priority. Applications are evaluated by the Department and are assessed by assigning a score based on points assigned if the production can show economic benefit or cultural benefit to the province. At the conclusion of each intake, funding will be awarded based on application scores, with highest scoring applications receiving priority until all available funds for that intake are committed.

5. Where can I find the new guidelines and evaluation criteria?

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The full criteria and new program guidelines will be available on October 25, 2017 upon program launch.

Examples of economic criteria include:

- Job creation;
- Total spend;
- Returning Production;
- Production activity in Alberta;
- Use of Alberta personnel; and
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Some examples of cultural criteria include;

- Diversity and inclusion;
- Alberta subject matter;
- Albertan creative material;
- Reaching Albertans;
- Contribution to Albertan culture or history; and
- Community or regional impact.

The program will have a base cap of \$5 million with an opportunity for an increase of up to \$7.5 million for applicants based on the following additional criteria:

- Marketing Promoting and/or showing Alberta;
- Investment in Alberta infrastructure;
- Investment in innovation, technology or knowledge transfer;
- Use of a qualified production facility or studio;
- Ancillary business opportunities for Albertan companies; and
- Sustainable production practices.

6. How does the review process work? How is funding awarded?

- Once the AMF receives an application, it will be reviewed for completeness.
- All complete applications received by the deadline will be screened for eligibility.
- Once the eligibility assessment is complete, the applicant is sent a letter confirming whether they were eligible or ineligible to be considered for funding.
- The acknowledgement letter will confirm the tier under which the application will be evaluated.
- All eligible applications will then be evaluated with grant recommendations based on scoring going to the Minister for final approval.
- Upon Minister approval, eligible applicants will then be advised of a funding decision.

7. Can I apply at any time? How will I know if I receive funding?

- Productions can continue to apply for funding until the intake deadline.
- Once that intake period closes, all eligible applications received will be evaluated and awarded funding based on scores until funding is exhausted.
- Any not receiving funding can apply under the next intake.

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- All applicants that are eligible will be notified of a funding decision between 4 to 8 weeks of the intake closing. All efforts will be made to announce funding decisions as soon as possible.