



Matched Development Investment Fund Guidelines

Program overview

Matched Development Investment funding is designed to support Western Australian companies or individuals that have secured documentary or scripted development funding from a nationally or internationally recognised broadcaster or distributor.

The applicant must provide a suitable letter of commitment from the broadcaster/distributor and an appropriate development plan and budget.

Funding Available

- Documentary applicants may apply for up to \$25,000 per project per application.
- Scripted (feature and TV series) projects – applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 per project per application.
- The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the market investment, the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.
- In cases where there is more than one market investor, Screenwest will match the highest market partner contributor only.
- Funding will not be awarded retrospectively, for example, fees for drafts written prior to submitting an application.

Eligibility

An application must first meet the following eligibility criteria to be competitively assessed for funding through this program.

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian resident or company. (Non-Western Australian productions will only be considered where the Production Company brings demonstrated strong economic and/or ongoing creative opportunities to the State).
3. Hold the underlying rights at the time of application. Screenwest's development funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
4. Have secured project development funding from a nationally or internationally recognised broadcaster or distributor and provide Screenwest with a suitable letter of commitment from the broadcaster/distributor.
5. Submit the application within eight (8) weeks of the date on the market partner's letter of commitment.
6. Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants who have an outstanding acquittal report and/or deliverable(s) or have not fulfilled their contractual obligations relating to prior Screenwest funding are not eligible to apply unless an alternative arrangement is agreed with Screenwest prior to application. Applicants should contact Screenwest directly for advice on their specific situation.

Eligible project formats:

- Scripted television series
- Features and telemovies
- Documentary programs

If an application has been unsuccessful in receiving support in the past, it cannot be re-submitted to Screenwest unless it has been substantially changed, developed or reworked.

A document must be included with the application listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application. Screenwest may not accept a re-submitted application if the relevant Screenwest Executive determines the project has not changed substantially.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring or is likely to bring the Western Australian Government or Screenwest into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest.

Terms of Funding

Funding is provided as a repayable investment. Successful applicants will enter into a written Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew:

- (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project
- (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and
- (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited.

Whilst Screenwest approval or sighting of these agreements may not be required at the time of contracting, Screenwest reserves the right to verify them at any point.

Failure to fulfill acquittal and/or meet deliverable requirements as specified within the funding agreement is a breach of contract.

If contractual obligations are not met, Screenwest has the right to recoup funds already paid to the applicant and it may disqualify the recipient from being eligible for future Screenwest funding until outstanding funds are paid back and the matter resolved with Screenwest.

How to Apply

The applicant will need to submit the following:

1. A completed Application Form.

2. Cover letter listing all materials submitted.
3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. Suitable letter of commitment from the broadcaster/distributor giving proof of broadcaster or distributor funding.
5. A document containing a logline, one paragraph summary and a detailed one-page synopsis.
6. A clear development strategy outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken (e.g. writer's notes and a clear strategy from the producer on how they are going to move the project forward to commissioning).
7. A development budget that breaks down the investment from all investors, including the Applicant. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget.

A written budget rationale that explains the Screenwest funding request; what the costs are for and how they will be spent.

8. If relevant, there must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for. Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.
9. The latest draft script, preliminary treatment or a detailed concept document including character outlines and episode synopses (in the case of scripted drama/comedy series). Script or treatment must have a title page with project name, draft number, full date (day month year), writer name and producer/production company name.
10. CVs (one page) of the project principals and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in developing and producing projects.
11. A marketing/production financing strategy.

Applicants must ensure all requested material is completed and submitted together. Applications that do not include all requested material may not be accepted for assessment.

Assessment Criteria

Screenwest competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. The applicant's and key creative team's track record.
2. The quality of the overall proposal.
3. Provision of and legitimacy of the market partner commitment / support of the project.
4. A clear and achievable development strategy.
5. Likelihood of the project being fully financed.
6. Economic and/or cultural benefits to Western Australia.

Indigenous Content and Participation

Where there is Indigenous content or participation in any project, Screenwest requires that each applicant complies with protocols related to the treatment of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP). For more information on ICIP, please refer to the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.

There must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for consultation so that people giving consent can more fully understand what they are consenting to.

Please note, these requirements apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.

For information on what Content, Consent and Consultation means, please refer to the Screenwest website for more information on [Filming with Indigenous People, Content and Land](#).

For more detailed information on Indigenous Content and Participation protocols, please refer to [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

Additional considerations

- Screenwest will take into consideration whether the applicant has several concurrent outstanding projects in development or production that may impact on the quality and timely delivery of further projects as part of its assessment of the application.
- Screenwest seeks to reflect the diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through projects funded and practitioners supported. The funding panel will take into consideration diversity elements of a submission during the assessment process.

Closing Date

Applications may be submitted at any time.

Submitting Your Application

- Applications will be accepted through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal](#). Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.
- An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants to confirm that Screenwest has received the application.
- **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within two working days.**

If you are unable to submit an application online or are having difficulties, please call Screenwest on [+61 8 6169 2100](tel:+61861692100) or 1800 463 043 (regional callers).

Program Contacts

Program Managers

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Michael Drake, Development Executive: Content & Talent (Scripted)

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Toll Free: [1800 463 043](tel:1800463043) (WA regional callers only)

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Please note that meetings with the program contacts can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email the relevant program contact for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.