

Changes to the Alberta Media Fund

A new grant and tax credit are being created for the Screen-based production industry

Summary of changes

- The Screen-based Production Grant is being transitioned to a new refundable Film and Television Tax Credit program. Economic Development, Trade and Tourism is responsible for the new tax credit.
- The Screen-based Production Grant is closed and no additional funding will be allocated. All existing funding commitments will be honoured by Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.
- A new Alberta Made Production Grant is being created for local production companies producing Alberta content.
- Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women and Economic Development, Trade and Tourism will share details as these new programs are finalized.

Transition

To bridge the transition of the Screen-based Production Grant to the tax credit, productions that began filming after March 2019 will be eligible to apply during the first year of the Film and Television Tax Credit Program, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria and program requirements.

Funding

Existing provincial funding to the film and television sector (\$45 million per year) has been maintained.

More than \$180 million has been allocated in support for film and television production over the next 4 years.

A total of \$92 million will be allocated to Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women over the next 3 years, until 2022, to honour existing commitments under the Screen-based Production Grant:

- 2019-20: \$42.4 million
- 2020-21: \$33.4 million
- 2021-22: \$16.3 million
- 2022-23: \$0

A total of \$90 million has been allocated to Economic Development, Trade and Tourism to implement the Film and Television Tax Credit. Due to the commitments under the Screen-based Production Grant, the tax credit budget will be phased in over 3 years:

- 2019-20: \$0
- 2020-21: \$15 million
- 2021-22: \$30 million
- 2022-23: \$45 million

In addition to this support, \$1 million will be allocated within Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women for a new Alberta Made Production Grant program targeted towards Alberta owned small productions.

Screen-based Production Grant

Existing agreements

Existing agreements under the Screen-based Production Grant will be honoured and the program will continue to be administered by Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women through the Cultural Industries Branch.

For any questions on your existing Screen-based Production Grant, please contact the program at 780-422-8584 (for toll free in Alberta, dial 310-0000 before in the phone number) or by email at culturalindustries@gov.ab.ca.

Pending applications

Applicants who applied to the May 2019 and August 2019 intakes will not receive funding through the Screen-based Production Grant Program. However, dependent on project details, applicants may be eligible to apply to the new Film and Television Tax Credit or the grant program.

Film and Television Tax Credit

The new Film and Television Tax Credit is part of government's commitment to grow Alberta's cultural industries by 25%, or \$1.5 billion, over the next decade. Alberta will now have a tax credit incentive that is similar to those offered by other provinces. Policy, legislation and program delivery accountability for the Film Tax Credit Program are being transferring to Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

The refundable tax credit will support both Alberta production and labour costs, up to a maximum of \$10 million per project. The budget for the tax credit will be:

- \$15 million in 2020-21
- \$30 million in 2021-22
- \$45 million in 2022-23

The Film and Television Tax Credit is expected to launch in 2020.

If you have further questions, please email fttc.program@gov.ab.ca.

New grant program in development

A new Alberta Made Production Grant is being created for Alberta owned production companies. Productions with a minimum of \$50,000 Alberta expenditures, and maximum budgets of \$500,000 CDN, will be eligible to apply for a grant of up to 25% of all eligible Alberta expenses.

The program has a \$1 million annual budget, and is designed to address the unique funding needs of smaller Alberta productions by helping them access capital more quickly and easily than a tax credit.

The grant will help develop Alberta's film ecosystem by supporting entry-level productions and emerging talent while still providing funding to established Alberta producers working on smaller budget projects.

This new grant program is expected to launch in early 2020.

Eligibility

The grant will be available to Albertan productions that:

- have total budgets under \$500,000 CDN and have a total eligible Alberta spend in excess of \$50,000
- can demonstrate the applicant company has 51% or greater Alberta ownership, and
- are developing intellectual property that have 51% or greater Alberta ownership

Other eligibility criteria will align with the previous Screen-based Production Grant, but documentation reductions will be implemented wherever possible to reduce red tape while ensuring program risks are mitigated.

Relation to the Screen-based Production Grant

The new grant program is not intended to replace the Screen-based Production Grant program in whole or in part. Rather, it is being designed to target a much more specific project budget threshold (up to \$500,000 CDN total budget as opposed to up to \$10 million total budget under the Screen-based Production Grant) with Alberta ownership.