



INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Application Guidelines He Aratohu mā ngā Kaitono

March 2026

If you have any accessibility requirements or require this information in a different format, please contact: industrysupport@nzfilm.co.nz

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) invests in talented filmmakers and exciting New Zealand films to be enjoyed in Aotearoa New Zealand, and around the world. Great films are made by well-prepared teams supporting the vision of a well-developed script.

The Industry Development Fund devolves support to the sector to deliver programmes to develop craft and practice to help our filmmakers make the strongest films possible.

We are interested in receiving applications for intensive, project-based, filmmaker development programmes.

The Fund's key objectives for 2025-2026:

- Impactful script development processes that lead to strong, distinctive feature film scripts
- Director skills development with a focus on distinctive directorial voice, and preparing directors for their first and second feature films
- Producer skills development that prepares producers for their first and second feature films. Strong collaborations between filmmakers on filmmaker initiatives with a focus on produced film outcomes, including short films

We are also interested in initiatives and programmes that identify and support newer storytellers from Māori and across New Zealand's diverse communities.

WHO CAN APPLY

Screen sector organisations, companies or collectives that are registered in New Zealand may apply to this Fund.

WHAT THIS FUND CAN SUPPORT

You can apply to the Fund, to cover operational and delivery costs of your proposed programme(s) across two funding strands:



Strand 1: this funding strand will open twice in the 2025-2026 financial year (July 2025-June 2026) for applications of up to \$350,000. *You are required to book a pre-application meeting at least 2 weeks before the funding round deadline.*

Applications are expected to be submitted for one round of Strand 1 funding in one year, however, where a second application demonstrates significant merit or aligns strongly with the Fund's objectives, the NZFC may at its discretion consider additional applications. We encourage applicants to contact us prior to submitting a second application.

Decisions for Strand 1 applications will take up to eight weeks.

Strand 2: for this funding strand, you may apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 at any time, as long as funds are available. Decisions for Strand 2 applications will take up to four weeks.

NZFC cannot approve funding for events or programmes that have already taken place.

MATERIALS YOU MUST SUBMIT

Organisational history and expertise

- A short biography/history of the applicant / organisation, with links to a website.
- An outline of who will deliver the programme (the person/people), and evidence of their relevant skills and experience.

Programme Detail

- A full schedule of activity/delivery of the programme
- Who the programme is for
- Intended outcomes of the programme
- A history of delivery and achievement if the programme has been run previously
- Details of how this proposal aligns with the key objectives of this fund and its criteria (see below)
- A detailed budget, including any other investment and income. Please include actuals from the previous year's budget (if applicable).

HOW TO APPLY

- **Submit your application using the NZFC's application portal**
- Please see the NZFC website under the Industry Development Fund, for application deadlines.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We will assess the application and your proposed programme for:

- **Objectives** - How they align with or contribute to:
 - the Fund's key objectives (outlined above), and
 - the following strategic objectives, as set out in the NZFC's Statement of Intent:
foster creative and commercial excellence;
develop authentic and diverse projects that are uniquely of Aotearoa;





*collaborate strategically to promote employment and productivity;
develop talent with diversity, equity and inclusion at the core.*

- **Credibility and Experience** – whether the organisation and team delivering the initiative are known for their expertise and have a proven track record in the relevant field.

We will consider your proposal in line with the NZFC Rautaki Māori Strategy and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We will assess each application based on these criteria, the materials provided, your team, and the funding availability at the time you apply.

By submitting an application for Funding, you agree to these Industry Development Funding Guidelines (except to the extent varied or waived by us) and the [Code of Conduct](#).

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- **Strand 1:** funding applications are assessed by the NZFC Funding Team and at least one experienced external industry practitioner.
- **Strand 2:** funding applications are assessed by the NZFC Funding Team.

- Our decision to allocate Funding is discretionary. Our decision is final.
- We will notify you in writing of the outcome of your application. The estimated turnaround for a decision is four to eight weeks from receipt of an eligible application.
- If an application is declined, a subsequent application for the same programme can be made only if the application materials have changed significantly or you are invited to re-apply by NZFC. Information about how the plans for the programme have changed must be included in the subsequent application.
- If a resubmitted application has been declined twice in one financial year, you will not be eligible to apply again in that financial year.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will use reasonable efforts to keep the information you provide confidential. We may share information about your application with NZ On Air, where appropriate, during the assessment process for funding coordination purposes. Please note that any information you give us can be requested under the Official Information Act 1982. If we get such a request, we can talk to you before responding.

Īmēra mai, mēnā he pātai āu.

If you have any further questions, please email us at industrysupport@nzfilm.co.nz

