



Filmmaker Assistance Program

English Program / Ontario Studio

Guidelines

The National Film Board's mandate is to reflect Canadian experiences and perspectives through the production and distribution of innovative Canadian audiovisual works accessible in relevant media of today. The Filmmaker Assistance Program (FAP) is designed to help developing independent filmmakers complete their films by providing technical services and support.

The below guidelines are specific to the Ontario Studio. For more information about our work, please visit the [Ontario Studio webpage](#). For more information about the FAP programs of other studios, please visit the [FAP Program page](#).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Films to be directed by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants
- Applications accepted from Ontario residents only
- Applications accepted from directors ONLY
- Films directed by emerging filmmakers only. We define “emerging” as an individual filmmaker who has completed no more than three film or video projects (not including student films)
- Film students are not eligible
- Films will be selected according to the following criteria:
 - the production's relevance to the NFB's cultural and social objectives
 - originality of concept
 - creative treatment
 - innovation in the production
 - films which serve audiences not now adequately served
- Projects will be considered in either film or video format
- Assistance under this program shall be limited to one production per year per filmmaker, (i.e., two or more productions cannot be assisted concurrently)
- Productions receiving money or services from another program at the NFB are ineligible
- Projects may only be submitted once for consideration
- Documentaries, animations, experimental films, and short dramas are eligible under this program



- Productions containing excessive gratuitous violence, sexual violence, or sexual exploitation are not eligible; the NFB reserves the right to apply its judgment in this regard, and its decisions are final

VALUE OF FAP ASSISTANCE

- FAP assistance will be limited to a ceiling of \$5,000 CAD.
- Only one FAP allocation per project will be allowed.
- Payment shall in no case be made directly to the Filmmaker. FAP will be delivered in the form of direct payment to third party suppliers (max. of two) who are providing approved services or materials to the filmmaker for the film selected for FAP assistance. Your application must specify what technical services are required, when these services will be required, and the names of the suppliers that will be used.
- Successful applicants will be notified by June 28, 2024 and will be required to have supplier invoices submitted to and accepted by the NFB before February 28, 2025.
- Eligible costs under the FAP agreement include the following production and post-production expenses:
 - Equipment rental
 - Film stock or other production perishables
 - Post-production facilities rental
 - Post-production services
- Ineligible costs include (but are not limited to) the following: equipment purchase or off-setting of capital costs, self rentals, rights clearance costs, travel, hospitality, labour expenses (including, but not limited to, payments for services rendered on the production by the filmmaker, editor, cinematographer, and other personnel), or costs incurred before the application deadline.
- FAP projects remain the property of the independent filmmaker, however, the filmmaker accepts that in exchange for the NFB investment, the filmmaker shall grant a non-exclusive license allowing the NFB, at its discretion, to communicate worldwide the Production through any NFB-owned websites in perpetuity (please see FAP Agreement for further details regarding this item).
- A Letter of Agreement, detailing the terms and conditions of the assistance, must be signed by the filmmaker prior to receiving any assistance from FAP.
- When the project is completed, a link to the completed film must be forwarded to the NFB FAP program at o.info@nfb.ca. If necessary, a DVD copy will still be accepted.



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HOW TO APPLY

- Please submit your project through the [online submission form](#).
- Submissions are accepted at the production or post-production stage.
- Submissions must include all relevant materials:
 - ✓ Synopsis
 - ✓ Proposal/script
 - ✓ Schedule highlighting when the specified technical services will be required and for how long
 - ✓ Production Budget identifying the (max two) budget items which will access the FAP award. Please indicate preferred suppliers, if any
 - ✓ Financing Structure identifying confirmed and unconfirmed sources of financing (note that the total budget amount and the total financing amount should be the same)
 - ✓ Director's resume
- All applications must be accompanied by a cutting copy of the film; in cases where a cutting copy is not available, please include a director's demo reel.
- Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee of NFB Ontario Studio production staff once a year. **The deadline for submission is April 1st each year.**
- The announcement of FAP recipients will be by written notification by June 28, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: Jury deliberations are confidential. There will be no disclosure of jury proceedings or comments made during adjudication.

For more information, including issues with the link or submission process, please email o.info@nfb.ca.



PREVIEW

Filmmaker Assistance Program

2024 Submission Form

Please Note: This is not the official application form. Please use the [online submission form](#) to apply.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Are you a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident?
2. Are you a resident of Ontario
3. How many films (of any length) have you directed?
Not counting projects made for school.

Note: We only accept submissions from directors who are Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents; Ontario residents; and that have directed three films or fewer.

First Page – Basic Information

4. Director Name
5. Project Title
6. Project Synopsis
(max. 1600 characters)
7. Amount Requestion
(\$5000 max.)
8. How will FAP assistance be used?
Description of Services
9. Total Project Budget
10. Have you ever received assistance from the FAP program before?
Yes / No

Second Page – Project Information

11. Genre *(pick one)*
 - Feature Documentary
 - Short Documentary
 - Animation
 - Short Drama
 - Experimental
12. Primary Subject
 - Indigenous Peoples
 - Arts, Culture, and Recreation
 - Cultural Diversity and Multiculturalism
 - Economics, Industry, and Work



- Environment and Nature
- Health and Medicine
- Identities, Values, Lifestyles
- International Issues
- Politics and History
- Science and Technology
- War, Conflict, and Peace

13. Shooting Format
14. Delivery Format
15. Final Length
16. Anticipated Completion Date

Third Page – Contact Information

17. E-Mail Address
18. Phone Number
19. Address

Fourth Page – Link to Cutting Copy

All applications must be accompanied by a cutting copy of the film; in cases where a cutting copy is not available, please include a director's demo reel.

20. Link to Cutting Copy / Demo
21. Password to link
(if applicable)

Fifth Page – Supporting Materials

22. Please upload the following documents in PDF Format following these naming conventions:

- Proposal or Script (Title of Film_Proposal / Script)
- Director's CV (Title of Film_CV_Name)
- Budget (Title of Film_Budget_Date)
- Financing Structure (Title of Film_Financing_Date)
- Schedule (Title of Film_Schedule)

Please Note:

- Each FAP Submission must include a budget that identifies the two budget items which will access the FAP award. Please indicate preferred suppliers, if any.
- Schedules should highlight when the specified technical services will be required and for how long