

NZ Media Fund: Oct/Dec 2021 Funding Round

Information for Funding Applicants – Scripted, Factual, Content Development, Industry Development Fund



A. Purpose

This information is for producers intending to make a funding application to the Scripted or Factual streams of the NZ Media Fund or Industry Development Fund for the December round. In an environment where there are more applications than available funding, we structure funding rounds so that wherever possible like content can be considered at the same time. This enhances the contestability of ideas across the applications considered in each round.

B. Introduction

NZ On Air's funding strategy is founded on core public media principles. These include enriching the New Zealand cultural experience, improving diversity of media content in many forms, ensuring content is accessible, strengthening community life, and promoting informed debate. Our publicly funded content may entertain, and it will add cultural value.

For more detail on the strategy underpinning the NZ Media Fund please read the [Funding Strategy](#).

The information and expectations document which we provide to assist commissioning platforms can be read [here](#). Here are the [funding round deadlines](#) for financial year 2022/23.

C. Timeline

9 September 2021

Funding round opens.

All applications must be made through [NZ On Air's online application system](#).

Applications not submitted through this system will not be accepted. You must submit a request to register with our online system well in advance of the application deadline day.¹

7 October 2021, 4pm

Application deadline. Round closes.

Late applications will not be considered. In very exceptional circumstances, for time-sensitive projects agreed prior by the Head of Funding, we may consider an out of time application. But we will not be generous.

1 December 2021

Decisions confirmed, applicants notified the following day. This date may be extended at NZ On Air's sole discretion.

¹ See here for [general guidelines for funding applicants](#)

D. December funding round priorities

December is the third round of the financial year with a focus on projects intended for general audiences. Factual, Scripted and Development applications will be accepted as follows, but available funding is constrained:

- **Factual** – applications for the Premier stories, Many perspectives and Fresh Opportunities streams of the [Factual Roadmap](#) will be considered.
 - Approximately \$4m has been allocated for content intended for general audiences.

Please note that current affairs projects that previously came to this round should be submitted to the [third round](#) of the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF).

- **Scripted** – applications for the Premier, Sustainable and Newer Storytellers streams of our [Scripted Roadmap](#) will be considered. Approximately \$12.5m has been allocated for content intended for general audiences. This round is open to Drama, Scripted and Unscripted (e.g. comedy/panel show), content genres.
- **Development** – both **Content** (applications that have co-investment from a supporting platform and Diverse Development) and **Industry** development applications will be considered. Please see the [Development Roadmap](#).
 - Diverse Development applications will be considered in this round, but it is likely that **only up to two** applications can be funded out of the remaining annual budget.
 - Factual development applications will only be accepted for projects that require significant research. There is limited pūtea remaining in the factual development budget and we encourage applications to have co-funding attached from a supporting platform.
 - Further information on Industry Development and Cultural Sector Capability Funding can be seen in paragraphs E and F.

E. Development Applications

Industry Development Fund: To this round we are accepting applications to all three strands of our Industry Development Fund: Professional Development, National Conferences and National Awards. If you have a new IDF initiative, please discuss this with glenn@nzonair.govt.nz before applying. Please see our [Development Roadmap](#) for more information.

F. Cultural Sector Capability Funding – \$200k

NZ On Air has been allocated \$2m over two years for Cultural Sector Capability Funding. The high-level objective of this Capability Funding is to strengthen the employment opportunities for established and emerging screen talent in the post COVID-19 environment.

This funding is specifically for industry capability development outcomes rather than content development.

With this fund we are inviting applications that demonstrate sector collaboration and industry initiatives that will aim to boost the technical and business capability of the screen sector.

We expect to see applications with a focus on pressures facing the sector which have been further impacted by COVID-19 and we will expect applications to apply a representation lens as outlined in NZ On Air's [2020 Diversity Report](#) to address equity issues across our sector.

Any potential initiatives will need to be designed as discrete schemes given this funding is not additional baseline funding. If you have an idea for a suitable initiative, please discuss this with amie@nzonair.govt.nz before applying.

G. Platform Contributions

The COVID-19 relief package provided by Government to subsidise 80% of platforms usual

production contribution expired on the 30 June 2021. We have not yet formally adopted the revised Platform Contributions Policy that was circulated in February this year (see [Shorts Newsletter](#)). In the interim, we expect applications will continue to have the usual level of platform contribution. Where these are not provided, the proposal should provide a rationale for this. Projects with appropriate co-investment will be assessed as having a stronger business case than those without.

H. COVID-19 Relief

Please see information on the available COVID-19 relief funding [here](#).

I. General Guidelines

Information on NZ Media Fund general guidelines and how to make a funding application are [here](#).