

Equity + Emerging Development Program FAQs

When are applications due?

Applications are due **Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 4:00pm PT.**

Incomplete applications or applications received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Is there an application fee?

To keep the process as accessible as possible, no application fee is required to apply.

What phase of a project / types of activity can I apply for?

This program is specific to **development phase funding** and activities commonly associated with that, such as research, interviews, script writing (all phases), the creation of a demo, storyboards or animatics, workshopping, pre-production packaging, finance packaging and/or casting, business affairs and legal services associated with the above activities.

This program is not designed to support travel to festivals or to supplement the costs of attending workshops/labs.

How do you define an emerging filmmaker?

To apply as an emerging filmmaker, you cannot have more than one professional credit in the key role you are applying as - director, writer and/or producer.

Some examples:

- You do not need any previous experience in the industry to apply.
- You could have some experience in the industry, working in other roles, but want to make the transition to lead a project.
- You could also have multiple credits, as a producer, but be applying to develop your first project as a director or a writer.
- Or, you could have had success with a first project, and be looking at getting your second project off the ground.

What do you mean by a professional credit?

We are trying to connect with individuals who have mostly not participated in the mainstream funding landscape to date.

For the purposes of this program, a professional credit means a writer, director, or producer credit on a project that:

- Is completed outside of film school or an industry training opportunity;
- Was financed using mainstream funding sources (such as Telefilm Canada, the CMF, broadcaster, or online subscription services licensing etc.); and
- Subsequently either played on a broadcaster or online subscription service, was released theatrically, or toured extensively through major film festivals.

Projects that were primarily self-financed (credit, loans, crowdfunding sources etc.) do not need to be counted as a professional credit.

I'm an emerging filmmaker with no professional credits, how should I complete the Key Creatives Filmography template?

To apply as an emerging filmmaker, you cannot have more than one professional credit in the Key Roles you are applying for as: director, writer and/or producer.

Therefore, it's fine if you have no professional credits. We still need this document completed as it helps us understand applicant eligibility. If you/anyone in a key role has no professional credits, please note that on this template.

Should I include my short films/student films/self-financed film credits on the Key Creatives Filmography document?

No. While that experience is valuable, please do not list those credits here.

For the purposes of this program, a professional credit means a writer, director or producer credit on a longer form released project that:

- Was completed outside of film school or an industry training opportunity; or
- Was financed using mainstream funding sources (such as Telefilm Canada, the Canada Media Fund, broadcaster or online video on demand subscription services licensing etc.); and
- Subsequently either played on a broadcaster or online subscription service, was released theatrically, or toured extensively through major film festivals.

Short films (under a broadcast ½ hour), web series and projects that were primarily self-financed (credit, loans, crowdfunding sources etc.) do not need to be counted as a professional credit.

How do you define an individual from an under-represented or equity group?

Creative BC recognizes that a number of different groups in Canada have faced historical barriers to media funding access, and their voices and stories are critical to a vibrant and dynamic industry. For the purposes of this program, we will be targeting key groups for equity support:

- Indigenous;
- Black;
- People of Colour;
- 2SLGBTQIA+;
- Women;
- Non-binary; or
- People with disabilities

Applicants from within these groups can be emerging or experienced.

How do you determine if someone qualifies as an emerging or equity applicant?

Applicants will be required to declare their status during the application process.

To apply as an **emerging** applicant, you must declare that you do not have more than one professional credit according to our guidelines.

To apply as an **equity** applicant, you must self-declare within one or more of our key equity groups (Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+, Women, Non-binary or people with disabilities).

I qualify as both emerging and from an equity group. What do I do?

That is great - you are eligible to apply for either application "stream." You can therefore choose which group you want to be considered against. At the outset of the application process, choose either the emerging application form, or the equity application form and self-declare if you are eligible in both streams. This will determine which group you will be adjudicated in.

Which stream has a better statistical rate of success?

In terms of odds, it all depends on how many applicants apply for each stream, so it all depends on the intake. At this point we would advise you to focus on making your application as competitive as possible as opposed to the statistical odds, as strong projects will rise to the top no matter which stream they are applying under.

One consideration is that the equity category will include applications from experienced filmmakers, so you will be evaluated against them if you choose this stream. Historically, we have received more applications in the equity category.

Do I need to have an incorporated company to apply?

No, you do not need to be a company. Individuals are welcome to apply on their own.

I am a writer and/or a director. Do I need to have a producer attached to apply?

No, a producer is not required to apply. You can apply as an individual writer or director to fund the development of your project.

In this case if you were successful, you would take the role of producer in terms of this stage of development and working with us through contracting and delivery.

Do I need to have other financing attached to apply?

No other financing sources or market triggers are required to apply.

However, if you are a successful applicant proposing a budget that is more than \$10,000, you will need to demonstrate other committed funding or secure the additional funding to meet your proposed budget, before finalizing our contract and commencing development activities.

I have a project with a co-producer from another province or country attached. Am I eligible to apply?

Interprovincial or international co-productions are eligible to apply, provided they meet minimum thresholds of ownership and creative control.

In the case of an interprovincial co-production, that is a minimum of 51% ownership/control by the BC co-producer. In the case of an international co-production, that is the minimum ownership/control determined by the governing treaty between the two countries. If you are unsure, contact us to discuss your situation.

Some of the Key Creative team is not based in BC. Are we still able to apply?

Yes!

I qualify according to one of the two needs groups identified, but not everyone involved in key positions (writer/director/producer) do. Am I eligible to apply?

As the intent of the program is to support work from emerging and underrepresented groups, in the case of a project with multiple people attached in any of 3 key creative roles (writer, director and/or producer), at least 67% of the key creative team must be considered emerging or underrepresented according to the stream they apply in. Further, a successful recipient must maintain this 67% threshold through the development phase they receive funding for.

I have multiple projects I would like to submit. Can I submit more than one application?

A wealth of new ideas – excellent! But you will have to make the tough choice of which project you want to submit for consideration. Each applicant may only submit one application to this program. An applicant should also not be attached to multiple applications in different key roles.

I have already received development funding from Creative BC for my project. Can I still apply?

If your project has received funding via the equity and emerging development program, you are not able to apply for subsequent rounds of funding via this same program.

However, if your project has received development funding via another program, you are able to apply to this program provided that the previous phase of development is complete, you are applying for new development activities/phase, and you are still in good standing with Creative BC.

I have applied for another development program at Creative BC but have not received a response yet. Can I still apply?

If you are currently awaiting a response from a different development program at Creative BC, and are eligible, yes you can apply here. However, should you be successful in that other program, you will need to withdraw this application.

You cannot receive funding for the same development activities/phase from more than one Creative BC development program.

I have applied for another development program from another funding agency. Can I still apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply so long as you meet our other eligibility requirements. You can include these potential additional funding sources as either confirmed or unconfirmed on the budget and finance plan template.

Do I need to include a budget? Do you have a template for that?

Yes, we need an overview of how you intend to spend the requested funding; an intended cash budget with line items. Please use the budget template provided alongside our application guidelines and forms. Your cash budget should match the financing plan you indicate in your application form. (So, if you indicate \$20,000 in expenses, you need to include \$20,000 of intending funding sources).

I'm applying for early-stage development, why do I need to complete an Audience, Marketing and Distribution Plan?

We understand this is development funding, but it's important to be thinking about the pathway to audience even in the early development stages.

This Audience, Marketing and Distribution plan should outline the pathway to audience/market should the project be produced. The best way to think about it is to understand first where the project would ultimately land for people to watch. Some questions you could ask are: Where is it intended to be viewed (e.g. broadcast network, streaming service)? Who will the project appeal to? How will you reach them? What are similar comparable projects and how did they fare? Be concise and specific to your project.

It's also worth noting this document forms 10% of the total score in the assessment criteria. So having it clear in your application will make your application more competitive.

Do you have a sample Audience, Marketing and Distribution Plan?

No. Creative BC does not share sample documents for any of the required materials.

Do I have to submit the optional materials?

No, the optional materials will give the selection team and peer review process more context on your background and project but are not required to make a decision. Only supply them if you have them and wish to provide additional support to your application. Applicants will not be penalized in the decision process for not having them.

May I submit my project for review to Creative BC prior to applying?

No, Creative BC is unable to provide feedback on your project in advance of applying. However, we are happy to answer any questions you might have about the application process and eligibility.

I need accessibility assistance to submit my application. What support is available?

If you require accommodation such as access to paper applications or additional support in the application process, we are here to help. Creative BC can assist with facilitating application submission such as technical assistance and submitting materials created by applicants. Please be aware that any assistance is not the work a grant coach provides. We cannot assist with application improvement or project development. Please contact the team as early as possible and no later than **November 12, 2025**, to best support your needs.

I still have questions, who can I talk to?

Please email:

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Katie Czenczek, Creative Industries Coordinator kczenczek@creativebc.com