

ACTF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In addition to reading the below, we recommend reading the [ACTF Development Funding Guidelines](#).

If you have any further questions having read the guidelines and frequently asked questions, please email the ACTF Content Team at applications@actf.com.au.

Is my project eligible for ACTF Development Funding?

Projects must be intended for a child audience, be intended for broadcast on a platform with a local child audience, and where the platform pays a license fee towards the production of the series.

Can I apply for ACTF Development Funding for YouTube?

Currently, the ACTF does not fund the development or production of programs intended for a direct YouTube release.

Does the ACTF fund educational content for the school market?

ACTF Funding is available for programs intended to find a home on a broadcaster that may be Free-To-Air Television, Pay TV, or VOD platform.

How do I submit my project?

Projects can be submitted via the [ACTF Development Funding portal](#) on our website.

How much funding can I apply for?

Development funding amounts vary depending on the stage of the development being undertaken and how a project is being developed. It is best to discuss your proposed development budget with the ACTF Content Team ahead of applying.

What type of projects does the ACTF fund?

We fund the development of drama and factual children's programs and feature films that fit with what a broadcaster might commission for the child audience. The projects may be live-action or animation.

What can I use ACTF Development Funding for?

ACTF Development Funding is intended to fund the out-of-pocket expenses for a producer or creator in developing a children's concept, such as writer's fees, script editors, and workshop participants. Each project's requirements vary. It is worth discussing your proposed development plan and budget with the ACTF Content Team ahead of applying, to get more specific information on your circumstances.

Do I need to have broadcaster interest to apply for ACTF funding?

It is not a requirement to have broadcaster interest to apply for development funding. But it can be useful to your development to have some market feedback on your idea before developing a project. It may also depend on the stage of development you are proposing to undertake whether the ACTF considers broadcast interest relevant to the application.

Do I need to have matched funding to apply for ACTF funding?

You do not need to have matched funding from a broadcaster or state agency to apply for development funding. Projects that do have matched funding are attractive however, and a broadcaster providing matched funding is a good indication of your project's future potential in the marketplace.

Do I need to have a Producer attached to my project?

It is preferred that projects have an experienced Producer attached when applying for development funding, but it is not a requirement. ACTF will fund projects from experienced Writer(s) where they have a track record and can demonstrate that they have a pathway to production companies.

Feature film applications are strongest when submitted with an experienced team, which might include a Producer, Writer, and Director.

Can ACTF recommend/introduce me to a Producer?

ACTF don't recommend specific production companies for development or production. We work with a wide variety of Producers across Australia on all different types of projects. Producers don't have to be experienced in children's television specifically, but it is helpful if they are experienced in the genre you are looking to develop.

If you are not sure about which production companies to approach, try the below:

- Watch local Children's series and see who made them.
- Watch local prime time drama series with a similar sensibility (for example, comedy) and see who made those
- Check your state film agency website or database
- Check the Screen Australia database

Can I apply for funding for a project with an International Broadcaster attached?

Projects must be first and foremost for an Australian child audience. You can have an international broadcaster attached, if in the opinion of the ACTF the project has the potential to appeal to an Australian broadcaster as well, once developed.

Why do I have to speak to an ACTF Content Team member before applying?

Speaking to an ACTF Content Team member before applying helps a project move quickly through the assessment process once submitted. Questions can be answered before applying, and it ensures that we have all we need to assess a project for funding.

How many projects can I apply for at once?

You can only submit one project at a time for development funding.

When do applications have to be submitted? Is there a deadline?

ACTF accepts development funding applications at any time via the ACTF Funding Portal.

Turnaround time for assessment and decisions will vary depending on volume of applications received, and whether ACTF requires further documentation or information once your application has been submitted.

How do I find out if my application has been approved?

Once the assessment process has been completed, you will be contacted by a member of the ACTF Content Team to advise you of the outcome of your application.

Do I have to include everything on the materials checklist before I submit my application?

Yes, you need to submit everything listed on the ACTF checklist at the time of submitting your application. This will ensure that a project can be considered for development funding. If relevant documents or materials are missing when an application is received, this will delay the assessment process and the ACTF's consideration of a project.

How does the ACTF assess applications?

Criteria for assessing applications can be found in the [ACTF Guidelines](#).

Will the ACTF provide feedback on my project if it is not approved for funding?

ACTF will provide the reason when a project is not approved for funding. We do not provide a script service and do not have the capacity to provide detailed notes or detailed feedback on your material.

What is the Acquittal that is mentioned in the guidelines?

The project acquittal includes a cost report, contributor report and survey that successful applicants must complete at the end of their development stage. The completion and acceptance of the acquittal triggers final payment of development funds.

The cost report details all funds spent on development compared to the contracted development budget. It requires the funding recipient to provide copies of invoices that correspond with the cost report.

Templates for the acquittal documents are provided in the Development agreement and will also be made available online once your application is approved for funding.

What is Chain of Title and why is it important?

Chain of Title refers to the documents that show the ownership of the intellectual property in a project. This is important because the ACTF needs to be satisfied that the applicant holds the necessary rights in the intellectual property to develop the project. Chain of Title will differ for every project, depending on the underlying work that the project is based on.

In some cases, the project will be based on an original concept created by the applicant themselves which they have ownership over. Please note that if the owner of the original concept is an individual and the applicant is their company, then there will need to be an assignment in place to show the creator has assigned the necessary rights to the applicant company.

In other instances, the project may be based on existing work, for example a book, play or short story, therefore the applicant will be required to obtain the necessary rights from the owner of the existing work (which may be the author or publisher) to be able to enter into a development agreement with the ACTF.

The ACTF will contract with the party/parties who hold the necessary rights in the intellectual property in a project.

Chain of Title is important to clarify and have properly documented before applying for development funding, so there is no confusion as to who holds the rights in the intellectual property of the project.